



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

CAUCUS/ SESSION NOTICE

The next House session will be **Wednesday, April 5th, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.**

Please reserve **Thursday, April 6th, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** as a possible session date

There will be a Republican Caucus on **Tuesday, April 4th, at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall

There will be a Republican Caucus on **Wednesday, April 5th, at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall

HOUSE BUDGET PROPOSAL:

The House Finance committee has completed work on HB1 and HB2, relative to the state budget. At the executive session today, the committee voted 16-9 in support of the *Ought to Pass as Amended* recommendation. The 14 Republicans on the committee unanimously supported the recommendation.

How much does this budget propose to spend?

As amended, the proposed House budget spends \$5,899,427,839 in FY18 and \$5,954,661,954 in FY19 in total funds for a total of \$11,854,089,793 over the two year biennium.

- *"Total Funds" represents all sources of funds including Federal funds, General funds, Liquor funds, Highway funds, Turnpike funds, Sweepstakes funds, Fish and Game funds and Other funds.*

How does this compare to previous budgets?

As amended, this represents a 1.87% increase in the first year of the proposed budget (compared to FY17 adjusted authorized), and a 0.94% increase in the second year of the budget (total funds).

As amended, this budget spends just 2.64% more than the budget passed in 2009, 8 years ago.

- *The current Consumer Price Index 12-month percent change for the Northeast Region is 2.6%*

Is there tax relief in the proposed in the budget?

Yes. The House Finance committee proposed a property tax relief package in the form of \$25 million per year appropriation that will go back to towns and cities. In addition, there will be an infrastructure aid package of approximately \$45 million. In short, this represents nearly \$95 million in new aid to municipalities, which we hope will offset costs, and be applied towards property tax relief.

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QUOTES IN THE NEWS:

"There are no increased taxes. There are no new taxes. There are no new fees. There are no increased fees in this budget. We live within our means." ~ House Finance Chair Neal Kurk, Union Leader 3/28/2017

"We have done a very good job in taking care of the state's needs without increasing taxes and there is some tax relief built into this budget." ~ House Finance Chair Neal Kurk, NHPR 3/28/2017

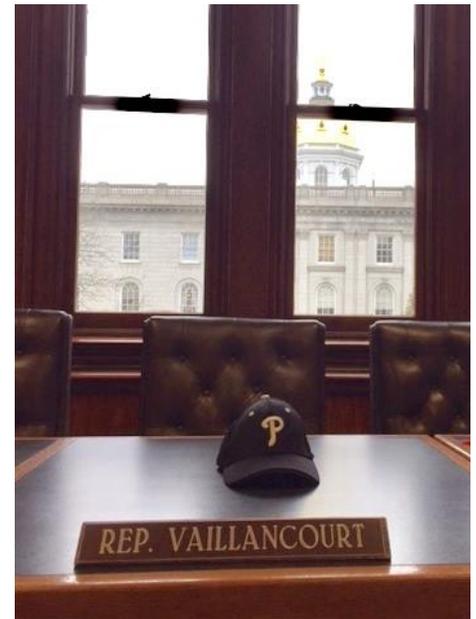
**BUDGET BRIEFING: Monday, April 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Representatives Hall
by House Finance Committee and Legislative Budget Assistant**

IN MEMORIAM

The following statement was released by Speaker Shawn Jasper upon learning of the passing of Rep. Steve Vaillancourt of Manchester.

“It is with great sadness that we learned this morning of the sudden passing of Rep. Steve Vaillancourt of Manchester. We will remember Steve as an outstanding orator and a man who was certainly dedicated to his principles. He was serving 10th term in the NH House, representing the voters of Ward 8 in Manchester. Rep. Vaillancourt was a valuable member of the House Finance committee where he served as a strong advocate for the taxpayers of our State. The news comes as a shock to us all. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his brother, Norman. I will pass along any details of any funeral arrangements as they become available.”

At his request there was to be no memorial services. He has been cremated and his ashes are being transported to Vermont where he will be buried next to his father.



The House Finance Committee memorialized Rep. Vaillancourt by placing a Plymouth State College cap at his seat during the committee vote on HB1 & HB2.

The House Retained 99 Bills. What Happens Next?

In the first-year session a committee may decide to hold onto a bill if they are not happy with the way the bill was presented to them and they would like to take time to work on and edit the bill before voting it out of committee. Retaining a bill allows the committee time to edit the bill in either a full committee work session or a specialized subcommittee work session after which it will then be presented back to the committee for an OTP or ITL vote. All bills retained in committee for action must be acted on during the second-year session.

Senate Passes Key Election Law Reform Legislation

CONCORD- House Majority Leader Richard “Dick” Hinch (R-Merrimack) issued the following statement regarding the Senate's passage of SB3 relative to domicile for voting purposes.

“I applaud our Republican colleagues in the Senate today on the passage of Senate Bill 3. SB3 is an important piece of legislation that will continue to preserve New Hampshire’s electoral integrity by making sure that the right to vote is protected for all of the eligible voters of our state while cracking down on those that look to take advantage of the voting process.

In a state where numerous elections have been decided by just a handful of votes, it is important to make sure that every ballot cast by an eligible voter is counted. I look forward to SB3’s introduction to the House and working to get it passed so we can get this important piece of legislation to the Governor's desk.”



Rep. Danielson Receives Award from NH Citizens for the Arts

Assistant Majority Leader Representative David Danielson of Bedford was honored as a 2017 Art Advocate of the Year by the New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts. Rep. Danielson was presented with the award on Wednesday along with Senator Martha Fuller-Clark (D-Portsmouth) at a reception held at the NH Historical Society in Concord.

MORE BUDGET DETAIL

The Legislative Budget Assistant's Office has posted the House Finance Committee Budget Briefing Document. You can view the document online at:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/LBA/Budget/operating_budgets/2018_2019/House%20Finance%20Budget%20Briefing%204-3-17%20Compressed.pdf

This document outlines budget specifics throughout state government, and will accompany the full briefing on Monday, but is available for your review prior to the briefing session.

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Is there business tax relief during Fiscal Years 2018 or 2019?

Yes. In 2015, HB2 and SB9 became law, and prescribe a second rate drop for the Business Enterprise Tax and Business Profits Tax that will take effect on 1/1/2018. This rate reduction is not included in the budget bills before the House because it is currently in law. In addition, an R&D tax credit increase will go into effect on July 1, 2017.

Did the House Finance Committee reduce spending levels from the governor's proposal?

Yes. Due to a decrease in the amount of expected state revenue for the next biennium, the Finance Committee had to make a number of decisions to reduce spending as compared to the governor's budget. According to the comparison report from the Legislative Budget Assistant Office, the House budget, as proposed, spends roughly \$325 million less than the governor's proposed budget (total funds).

Is the House voting on the Governor's budget?

No. The budget process always begins with the governor's budget being introduced as HB1 and HB2. The House Finance Committee then makes numerous changes to the bills, making technical corrections, and affecting funding levels and policy changes. Those changes will be incorporated into a committee amendment that will come before the House next week, with HB1 and HB2 having Ought to Pass as Amended recommendations.

Where can I learn more about the detail in the proposed House budget?

The Finance Committee will hold budget briefings on HB1 and HB2, **in Representatives Hall on Monday, April 3rd from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. It will be streamed online on the General Court website.**

Who are the Republicans on the Finance Committee who have lead the effort to craft a Republican budget?

Rep. Neal Kurk, Chairman - 16th term in the House. Rep. Lynne Ober, Vice Chair - 7th term in the House. Rep. Karen Umberger - 5th term in the House. Rep. Frank Byron - 3rd term in the House. Rep. Tracy Emerick - 3rd term in the House. Rep. Ken Weyler - 15th term in the House. Rep. Betsy McKinney - 17th term in the House. Rep. Mary Allen - 8th term in the House. Rep. Timothy Twombly - 3rd term in the House. Rep. Dave Danielson - 3rd term in the House. Rep. Peter Spanos - 2nd term in the House. Rep. David Bates - 4th term in the House. Rep. Erin Hennessey - 2nd term in the House. Rep. Steve Vaillancourt - 10th term in the House. Rep. Gerald Griffin - 1st term in the House.

Collectively, these Republicans have been elected to serve 99 terms, or 198 years of service. Many of these members have served on Finance for multiple terms. These folks have been working nearly every day since the receiving the budget bills in February to produce the best possible Republican budget possible given the current circumstances. They deserve our thanks and appreciation.

Timeline & Guide to the Budget Process

