



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

SB7 Heard Before House Health and Human Services Committee

Senate Bill 7 was introduced in the Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs committee on Wednesday. SB7 reforms the eligibility for food stamps by strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and establishes the Granite Workforce pilot program.

Sponsors of the bill say that the food stamp program has outpaced job growth, and over the last few years, it has grown exponentially. This bill is to reform the abuse that takes place, including the millions of dollars in back child support that is owed to families. Individuals receiving food stamps, who have failed to pay their child support, will work with the state to ensure they're supporting their children before receiving benefits. It also includes an asset test in order to identify those who don't need state assistance.

SB7 will also require able-bodied adults to seek employment to raise them out of poverty, raise incomes, and ensure SNAP benefits are being used to assist those who truly need it. By repurposing funds from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) some common barriers to employment would be eliminated. TANF dollars would go towards providing job training, child care, and transportation in order to assist healthy adults return to work and help families transition off welfare.

SB7 also includes important safety valves in the bill. At any time if the Department of Health and Human Services see that any of the provisions in this bill are adversely impacting NH citizens, they are able to petition the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee to go with a higher gross income standard.

This is meant to be a short term program to get child care, job training, and placement. This bill does two things that is promoted in our Republican agenda: reforms entitlement programs and promotes individual responsibility.

2016 Overdose Death Certifications Still Rising

According to a report released by the Chief Medical Examiner, deaths resulting from drug overdoses in 2016 now tally 470. There are still 9 cases from 2016 that are "pending toxicology".

OPIOIDS	# DEATHS
Fentanyl (no other drugs)	198
Fentanyl and Other Drugs (excluding heroin)	123
Heroin (no other drugs)	3
Heroin and Other Drugs (excluding fentanyl)	21
Heroin and Fentanyl	5
Other Opiates/Opioids	64
Total Deaths Caused By Opiates/Opioids	414
Other drugs	56
Total Drug Deaths	470

Assuming the 9 pending cases are certified, the total number of people who died in New Hampshire from a drug overdose would equal 479. This would be a 9% increase from the 439 deaths certified in 2015.

So far in 2017, there have been 38 deaths as a result of drug overdoses. There are 86 cases from 2017 that are "pending toxicology".

In case you missed it:

WMUR: "When the Senate Finance Committee opened its deliberations on the budget Monday afternoon, House Finance Committee leaders, led by Chairman Neal Kurk, R-Weare, presented a detailed outline of their plan to the Senate panel."



CAUCUS NOTICE:

There will be a Republican caucus on **Wednesday, April 19th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.
 There will be Republican caucus on **Thursday, April 20th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.

SESSION NOTICE:

The next House session will be on **Thursday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.

General Funds, Federal Funds, Total Funds, Etc.

We heard a lot about General funds, Federal Funds, and Total Funds over the course of the House budget debate. A fund is a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts, which are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations. The state budget includes eight separate sources of funds; general, highway, turnpike, liquor, fish and game, sweepstakes funds, federal, and other (includes education trust fund). The chart below lays out what each of these funding sources was prescribed to spend under the Finance Committee amendment to HB1 (which failed in the House last week).

SOURCE (HB1 Amendment)	FY18	FY19	FY18-FY19	% OF TOTAL FUNDS
FEDERAL FUNDS	1,781,394,311	1,796,990,541	3,578,384,852	30.19%
GENERAL FUND	1,528,662,777	1,558,399,649	3,087,062,426	26.04%
LIQUOR FUND	66,187,412	72,277,809	138,465,221	1.17%
HIGHWAY FUNDS	227,720,991	230,698,197	458,419,188	3.87%
TURNPIKE FUNDS	147,335,702	141,131,320	288,467,022	2.43%
SWEEPSTAKES FUNDS	10,248,180	10,315,892	20,564,072	0.17%
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	13,907,558	14,322,090	28,229,648	0.24%
OTHER FUNDS	2,123,970,908	2,130,526,456	4,254,497,364	35.89%
TOTAL FUNDS	5,899,427,839	5,954,661,954	11,854,089,793	

General Funds of the state refer to revenues that the state accrues through taxes, interest earnings, fees, and other funding sources that are used for the operation of the state government. General Fund monies are unrestricted revenues and are used to support programs and agencies designated by the legislature. **General Fund spending comprised only 26% of all spending in the proposed budget.**

Next time you hear the statement, "General Fund spending is up 10%," just remember the General Fund is only roughly ¼ of the entire budget pie.

As you may expect, Federal funds are monies received directly from the Federal government. If you pay Federal taxes, you may be contributing to the money that comes back to New Hampshire to fund programs that are paid for by Federal funds. **As proposed in HB1, Federal funds would have comprised 30% of overall spending - more than General fund spending.**

Other Funds include a number of different sources. Adequate education grants to school districts and chartered public schools comprise a majority of the "other funds" category. Additional categories included in other funds are the state's many dedicated funds, agency revenue, and transfers.

Highway Funds are revenues (mainly road toll and motor vehicle fees), less costs of collection and administration, are credited to this fund, which is to be used exclusively for the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of public highways within this state, including the supervision of traffic.

All tolls collected by the Turnpike System must remain with the Turnpike System and cannot be diverted for any other use. The Turnpike System constructs, maintains, and operates toll transaction facilities and issues revenue bonds, which are repaid from tolls and other revenues.

The operations of the State Fish and Game Department are financed through the **Fish and Game Fund**. Principal revenues of this fund include fees from fish and game licenses, the marine gas tax, penalties, and recoveries, and federal grants-in-aid related to fish and game management, all of which are appropriated annually by the Legislature for the use of the Fish and Game Department.

2017 Lombardi Trophy Comes to the State House

On Thursday the 2017 New England Patriots Super Bowl 51 Championship Lombardi Trophy came to the State House along with Pat the Patriot and members of the New England Patriots cheerleading team for a granite state showcase!

The House Majority office stopped by to grab a photo with the trophy as it was being showcased in the Executive Council Chambers.

As many of you remember the Patriots came back from a 25 point deficit in the third quarter to win Super Bowl 51 in overtime against the Atlanta Falcons. Super Bowl 51 was the first Super Bowl ever to be decided in overtime launching the Patriots into their 5th Super Bowl victory.



Majority Office Staff Elliot Gault, Aaron Goulette, and Meg Stone pose with the 2017 Lombardi Trophy.

Additional Budget Glossary Items:

Footnote: Notes in the budget that apply to a revenue source, an expenditure class line, or an entire accounting unit. Footnotes are commonly used to grant authority, provide restriction, or otherwise

Lapse: Most appropriations are made for a specific period of time and not open-ended. At the end of the period funds appropriated for any unexpended or unencumbered balance shall lapse, unless designated as “non-lapsing” in law.



Historical Happenings

This week’s “Historical Happenings” comes to us courtesy of House Fish & Game Committee Vice-Chair, Rep. Bob L’Heureux (R-Merrimack). The photos on the left were taken at the end of 1996 session and feature representatives who sat in the last row of division 2, affectionately known as the “Back Benchers”. The reps included in the photo are Anne Coughlin (2-93), Paul McGuirk (2-94), Sid Lovett (2-95), and Bob L’Heureux (2-96).

On the day this photo was taken the “Back Benchers” decided that they would sport their new shirts under their jackets in order to unveil them at some point during session. When the time was right the “Back Benchers” all removed their jackets to show off their back row spirit, much to the alarm of Speaker Harold Burns who sent Sgt. at Arms Warren Learey to investigate thinking there was a protest.

Thanks to Rep. Bob L’Heureux for sharing this great piece of NH House history as well as the story of the Back Benchers with us!