



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

Majority Leader Hinch Urges Support of SB3 in House Election Law Committee

CONCORD- Tuesday, the House Election Law Committee heard testimony regarding SB 3, relative to domicile for voting purposes.

This legislation clarifies the definition of domicile for voting purposes while modifying the requirements for documenting the domicile of an individual registering to vote. SB3 will prohibit individuals who are only in the state on a temporary basis, and who maintain a voting domicile in another state, from voting here.

House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Hinch (R-Merrimack) issued the following statement after today's hearing:

"New Hampshire plays an important national role in elections due to our First in the Nation status and as a battleground swing state. We have numerous elections for state representative each cycle being decided by only a few votes, and statewide elections being decided by less than a 1% margin. In order to maintain confidence in the electoral process it is extremely important that every vote is cast by a duly qualified voter.

SB3 seeks to eliminate drive-by voting by clearly defining domicile. It will treat every voter equally and ensures everyone who shows up to the polls has an opportunity to vote if they are qualified.

I look forward to this legislation coming out of committee with an Ought to Pass recommendation so the House can act on this bill and swiftly send it to the Governor's desk."

Rep. MacKay joins GOP Second member to change party affiliation from Democrat to Republican this year

The House Republican Office is excited to welcome our newest caucus member, Rep. Mariellen MacKay.

Rep. MacKay has lived in Nashua for 33 years and works as an advocate for individuals with disabilities and their families at The Moore Center, the state's largest area agency. She is serving her second term, and is currently on the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee.

When you see Rep. MacKay, please take time to welcome her to the Republican Team!

In case you missed it:

[WMUR Reported on Sunday](#) that House Republican Rep. Francis Gauthier assisted Claremont police in an armed robbery investigation and arrest. His home surveillance system caught the crime on video.

"If you do crime on Trinity Street, you're gonna do some time for it," he said.



**The next House session will be Thursday, May 4, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.
There will NOT be a Republican caucus next week.**

The House Majority Office is available to answer your questions.
Call: 603-271-3665 or Email: houserepublicans@leg.state.nh.us

House and Senate Vote On Bill to Allow Towns to Ratify Rescheduled Elections Results

During session on Thursday the House voted to suspend House Rule 49 in order to form a Committee of Conference so that an amendment to HB329 could be taken up in order to solve the issues revolving around towns that postponed their town elections during the March 14th snowstorm.

HB329 allows towns that held their elections after the political calendar town election date of March 14th the ability to have their election ratified by the towns governing body or district school board following the notice of a public meeting.

HB329 also includes language in it condemning the advice of the New Hampshire Municipal Association for advocating that towns reschedule their elections as it was directly contrary to both the political calendar and the election procedure manual.

The Committee of Conferences' unanimous report was adopted and HB329 was voted on and passed by both the House and the Senate and is expected to be signed by the Governor soon.

House Passes Legislation to Explore Solutions to Lower Energy Costs

CONCORD- Today, the House passed SB 125, establishing a committee to study transmission, distribution, generation, and other costs in the state's electricity system.

House Majority Leader Rep. Richard "Dick" Hinch (R-Merrimack) and Member of House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee Rep. Herbert Vadney (R-Meredith) issued the following statements following today's vote:

"New Hampshire's electricity rates are among the highest in the nation with many factors contributing to those prices. This study will identify and evaluate ways to lower our rates and will consider grid modernization. Making our electricity cheaper will lower manufacturing costs and spur our economy." said Rep. Vadney

"Part of the Republican legislative agenda is to find ways to lower energy costs here in New Hampshire. The committee established in the bill will look at ways to make our state more attractive to new businesses and cut costs to everyday consumers." said House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Hinch. "The passing of Senate Bill 125 today is just one piece of the puzzle in our legislative approach to solving this problem."

Governor Signs HB103

Concord, NH - Governor Chris Sununu issued the following statement after signing HB 103, relative to school district policies regarding objectionable course material:

"This bipartisan legislation is consistent with my longtime support for measures that further empower parents' involvement in their child's education. New Hampshire is now joining with 22 other states and the District of Columbia in ensuring school districts allow parental involvement when sensitive topics and materials are discussed in the classroom. It is important to let parents know what students are learning and this bill encourages clear and open lines of communication regarding curriculum content in this important area."



[Check out Deputy Majority Leader John Graham \(R-Bedford\) this weekend on NH1 Newsmakers!](#)

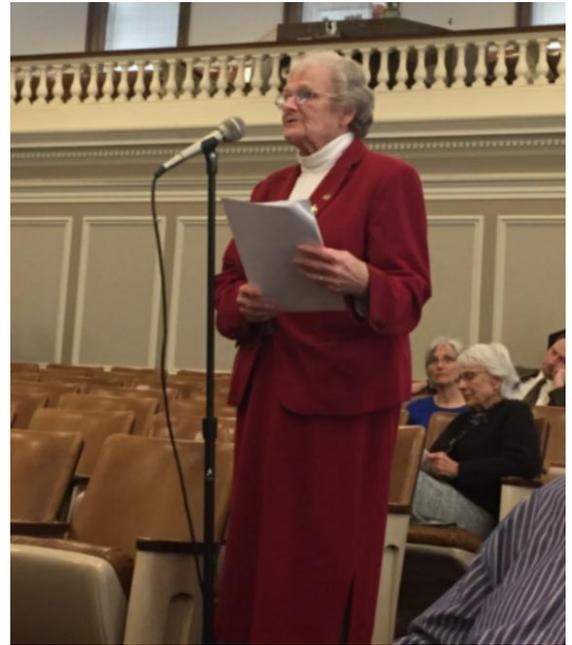
SB3 Election Law Reform Introduced to the House

On Tuesday Sen. Regina Birdsell appeared before the House Election Law Committee, in a packed Representatives Hall, to introduce SB3 to the House. SB3 seeks to add clarification to the term domicile in relation to voting. This bill is a preemptive measure that will continue to enhance public confidence in our elections. During testimony, Senator Birdsell said that SB3 is “trust but verify” legislation. Secretary of State Bill Gardner testified in support of SB3 stating “I’ve never come to the committee to speak on a bill that I didn’t think would help voter participation.”

Below is a list of some of the major points in SB3:

- No one is denied the right to vote. Every duly eligible voter who shows up to the polls will vote
- Same day registrants must present proof of residency on Election Day or between 10-30 days following the election
- If a voter can’t be verified the supervisor of the checklist will report them to the Secretary of State and Attorney General
- Students enrolled in NH schools are still able to vote: *For the purposes of voter registration, acts demonstrating an intent to make a place an individual's domicile shall include, but are not limited to: Residency at an institution of higher learning (II section D)*
- The amended voter registration form is still only 1 page (front and back) in length.
- Prohibits individuals who are only in NH on a temporary basis from voting
- Supervisors of the Checklist can verify people who fail to provide evidence of residence by:
 - Examining public records to see if they contain domicile info
 - Or the supervisor of the checklist, state election officials, or their agents stop by the domicile

WalletHub.com recently ranked New Hampshire 13th overall in its “[2017’s Best & Worst States for Millennials](#)” report. Among the factors included in its calculation were “Affordability”, where NH ranked 42nd, “Education & Health, where NH ranked 10th, “Quality of Life, where we ranked 15th, “Economic Health, where NH was 6th, and “Civic Engagement” where NH ranked 13th.



House Majority Whip Rep. Kathy Hoelzel (R-Raymond) testifying in support of SB3.

2017 HB Statistics

With Cross-over behind us, we wanted to give you a snapshot of the actions taken on House bills:

Bills filed in the House:

609

Passed/Adopted:

103

Passed/Adopted w/ Amend:

120

Tabled:

39

Inexpedient to Legislate:

243

Retained:

99

Indefinitely Postponed:

1

Continuing Education

The House Majority Office received a number of inquiries during and after the budget discussion on how state education aid is calculated, what stabilization grants are, etc. **The following information is from a document developed by the Dept. of Education Division of Program Support, Bureau of Data Management.**

FY2018 Adequate Education Aid

Two changes to statute will impact Adequacy Aid for FY2018. The 2016 bill SB 227 added the condition that if a municipality has no students or receives a state education property tax assessment that is more than the cost of an opportunity for an adequate education (RSA 198:40-a), that municipality will no longer receive a stabilization grant. The second change is the scheduled repeal of the cap that limited a grant to 160% of the prior year's grant.

How the Cost of an Opportunity for an Adequate Education is Determined

RSA 198:38 through 198:42 specify how aid is calculated and distributed.

Students:

Adequacy Aid is calculated using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the students who reside within a municipality. A full-time student enrolled in school for the entire year has an ADM of 1.00. If a student moves mid-year, he is counted as a fractional ADM in each municipality. For FY2018 Adequacy Aid, school year 2016-2017 ADM will be used.

The total ADM for a municipality consists of:

- Students who attended a school operated by their resident district.
- Students tuitioned by the resident district to a district-operated school in NH or another state.
- Students tuitioned by the resident district to a non-public school, such as a special education program.
- Kindergarten students are counted as no more than .50 ADM (half-day program).
- Home school students enrolled in high school academic courses at the rate of 0.15 ADM per course. These students will be counted only if the appropriation has excess funds available.
- Preschool students are not included.
- Charter schools students are not included, except as provided for in RSA 194-B:11.
- In the first year a student receives an education tax scholarship to attend a private school or is home schooled, the resident school district will be notified that, for the purpose of Adequacy Aid only, this student will be removed from the prior year's ADM.

Cost of Adequacy:

Every two years the base per pupil cost and additional costs for certain students are adjusted for inflation and used for both years of the State's biennium. RSA 198:40-d specifies that the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, Northeast Region, and special aggregate index of "services less medical care services" will be used to make the adjustments. For the biennium starting July 1, 2017, this inflation adjustment is an increase of 1.021%.

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For FY2018 and FY2019, the base per pupil rate is \$3,636.06 per ADM. Adequacy includes an additional rate for certain students as follows:

- \$1,818.02 for a free or reduced-price meal eligible student. This determination is based on household income, not participation in a lunch program. Students from households receiving TANF or SNAP are automatically eligible. Others are certified if parents/guardians provide income information.
- \$1,956.09 for a special education student who has an individualized educational plan (IEP).
- \$711.40 for an English Language Learner receiving English Language instruction. Students who have advanced to the monitoring stage are not included.
- \$711.40 for each 3rd grade pupil whose achievement score on the state assessment for reading was below the proficient level, provided the student is not already counted in any of the above three categories. Students who did not take the test are not counted.

For each municipality, the cost of an opportunity for an adequate education is calculated by applying the base rate and applicable additional rates to the ADM of each student.

How Adequacy Grants are Determined

Statewide Education Property Tax Assessment:

Each December, the Department of Revenue Administration determines the minimum tax rate needed to raise at least \$363 million from the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) for the following school year. The tax rate, rounded to the nearest one-half cent, is applied to equalized valuations without utilities. (RSA 76:3 and RSA 76:8.) Municipalities collect the SWEPT and send the total assessment amount directly to its school district(s). Within cooperative districts the assessment amount is credited to the individual towns. While municipalities are responsible for collecting and distributing this tax revenue, SWEPT is a state tax, not a local tax. For FY2018, a tax rate of \$2.260 per thousand will be applied to April 1, 2015 equalized values.

Preliminary Grant:

When the SWEPT assessment is subtracted from the cost of adequacy the balance is the preliminary grant. If SWEPT is more than the cost of adequacy then the preliminary grant is zero.

Stabilization Grant:

When a new funding formula was enacted for FY2012, to ease the impact on municipalities facing a decrease in aid, the Legislature utilized a stabilization grant to cover the decreases. Not all municipalities received a stabilization grant in 2012. For FY2018, the stabilization grant will be 92% of the 2012 amount. This grant is being phased out over 25 years by reducing the rate by 4% each year.

Inclusion of Home-Schooled Course Credit:

Prior to the final payment of adequacy grants in April, the Department of Education will determine if the appropriation for adequacy aid is sufficient to allow for inclusion of an ADM credit of 0.15 for each enrollment is an academic course by a home-schooled student.

Total Grant:

A municipality's total grant is the sum of its preliminary and stabilization grants. For the final calculation in the spring of 2018, the total grant will be no less than 95% of the November 15, 2016 estimate, and will include home-schooled course credit funding if applicable.