



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

House Majority Leader Praises Strengthening NH's Rape Shield Law

House Majority Leader Richard Hinch (R-Merrimack) offered the following statement in response to the passage of SB9, relative to the admissibility of proffered evidence in sexual assault cases. The bill passed the House by a 328-30 vote.

House Majority Leader Richard Hinch (R-Merrimack):

"This is an important piece of legislation that protects the privacy of sexual assault victims, their families, and strengthens New Hampshire's rape shield law. This will ensure that a victim's sexual history will remain sealed from the jury, public, and press while not infringing upon a defendant's rights or jeopardizing due process."

"Although in line with practices in New Hampshire, SB9 is a critical clarification in the law that will not leave victims of sexual assault forced to choose between their right to privacy and their right for justice. I commend the House for passing SB9, and I look forward to it being signed into law."

House Majority Pleased With House Approval for Infrastructure Aid Package

SB 38, making an appropriation for local highway aid and municipal bridge aid, passed the House today on a voice vote. House Majority Leader Richard Hinch (R-Merrimack) released the following statement in response to the passage of SB38.

House Majority Leader Richard Hinch (R-Merrimack) issued the following statement:

"This bill will send \$30 million back to municipalities for the purpose of constructing, reconstructing, and maintaining roads and \$6.8 million in bridge aid. This aid package comes in addition to the dollars that flow back to communities through existing formulas. This session we've made it a priority to send money back to cities and towns. We are proud we can make local needs a priority. The passage of this bill further strengthens our commitment to improving our state's infrastructure. The health of our roads and bridges are important investment for our communities and local economies."

Majority Leader Applauds Passage of Drug Interdiction Efforts

Today, the House passed SB131, which establishes a cross border drug interdiction program. The bill will add five state troopers to work with Massachusetts officials to target drugs and dealers along the border, and adds \$2.4 million to the Granite Hammer program, which will allow more communities to take advantage of drug interdiction efforts. The bill passed the House by a 252-108 vote.

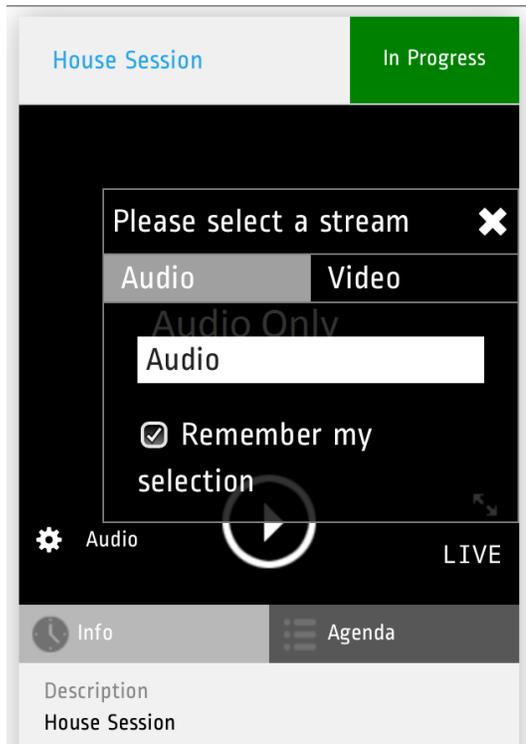
House Majority Leader Richard Hinch (R-Merrimack) released the following statement in response to the House's passage of SB131:

"New Hampshire is in the midst dealing with a significant drug and opioid crisis, and the passage of this bill is a vital component of combatting that crisis. SB131 will enable law enforcement to continue targeting drug dealers and work to cut off the supply of drugs coming into this state, including heroin, fentanyl, and the latest addition of the fatal drug carfentanyl. By adding five additional troopers to work directly with Massachusetts police and officials, critical resources and information will be shared in order to stem the flow of drugs crossing our borders."

"We are facing an unprecedented crisis in New Hampshire that is claiming lives on a daily basis. The law enforcement community has demonstrated an urgent and compelling need for this program continue, and this bill will continue operations that take drugs off the streets and put dealers and traffickers behind bars. We realize this crisis in our state requires a three legged stool: prevention, treatment, and recovery, however we must provide law enforcement the necessary tools to perform their duties effectively."

"Combatting the drug and opioid crisis is and has been a top priority of the New Hampshire House, and I am pleased that with the passage of SB 131 we can continue taking important steps in removing drugs and dealers from our streets."

Take the House (or Senate) on the Road



Many of our readers utilize the streaming services available on the General court website. The stream works well in desktop/laptop browsers and tablets, but its ability to work well on a mobile device was limited.

Thankfully, our Information System staff was able to work with the streaming service vendor to create an audio-only stream. This feature is accessible by going to the stream page, clicking on the “gear wheel” icon on the left of the stream window, and choosing “audio”, as shown in the picture to the left.

This feature will allow users to listen to the stream without having to keep the screen unlocked. It will also reduce the burden on the streaming service since audio uses less bandwidth than the traditional video feed.

You can even utilize the audio stream on your mobile device to listen to the General Court feed in your vehicle or while out on a walk.

Live and archived streams can be accessed by visiting <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/media/default.htm>

Infrastructure Aid Bill: How Will Aid be Determined?

The House approved SB38 this week, and it will be reviewed by the Finance committee. In the bill, there is an additional \$36.8 million in appropriations to cities and towns for roads and bridges. It states:

- \$30,000,000 shall be expended for additional “Apportionment A” distributions under RSA 235:23, I.
- \$6,800,000 shall be expended for state bridge aid for municipal bridges under RSA 234.

Both appropriations use existing aid formulas in state statute. We wanted to take a moment to explain “Apportionment A” and “Bridge Aid”.

Each year, towns and cities receive aid through “Apportionment A” and other programs. Relative to Apportionment A, [RSA235:23, I](#) states,

“In each fiscal year, the commissioner shall allocate an amount not less than 12 percent of the gross road toll revenue and motor vehicle fees collected in the preceding fiscal year to a local highway aid fund. This fund shall be distributed to each city, town, and unincorporated place on a formula in which 1/2 of the amount is based on the proportion which the mileage of regularly maintained class IV and class V highways in each municipality, as of January 1 of the previous year, bears to the total of such mileage in the state; and 1/2 of the amount is based on the proportion which the office of energy and planning population estimate of each municipality bears to the latest estimate of the total population of the state as of July 1 of the year of the estimate. The aid to be distributed under this paragraph shall be in addition to all other state and federal aid specifically authorized by statute.”

The \$30,000,000 appropriated in SB38 is in addition to any aid that towns or cities would receive pursuant to RSA235:23.

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How do we know that these dollars will be used for infrastructure? [RSA235:25](#) states that,

“These funds shall be used only for highway construction, reconstruction or maintenance purposes. Whenever any city, town or unincorporated place is unable to utilize the full amount of this apportionment for highway construction, reconstruction or maintenance purposes in any given municipal fiscal year, the unused balance may be carried over to the following municipal fiscal year and expended for highway construction, reconstruction or maintenance purposes.”

Similarly, [RSA234](#), which is too long to include in its entirety, prescribes how the Department of Transportation evaluates and distributes aid for bridges. An [informational document from DoT](#) states that:

“Bridge Aid Funds (RSA 234) consist of both State and Federal Highway Funds budgeted for construction or reconstruction of structures on Class IV and Class V highways as well as municipally-maintained bridges on Class II highways. Structures having a clear span of ten (10) feet or greater qualify for State Bridge Aid funds. Federal funds may be utilized for structures having a span of 20 feet or greater. The ratio for the aid is 80% Federal or State and 20% municipality. Construction of Class II bridges transfers the maintenance responsibility from the municipality to the State ...

All bridges (except covered bridges) rehabilitated with Bridge Aid Funds shall have a carrying capacity of at least 15 tons. Replacement bridges constructed with Bridge Aid Funds shall have a carrying capacity of at least the legal load as stipulated in RSA 266.”

The \$6,800,000 appropriated in SB38 is in addition to aid that would be available pursuant to [RSA234](#).

On Saturday April 29th, the NHGOP held a grassroots communication summit at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics. Participating in a panel on social media were Rep. Yvonne Dean-Bailey (R-Northwood) and Aaron Goulette, of the House Majority Office. There were several Republican House members in attendance.

Topics of the summit included social media best practices, and how to leverage traditional media in today’s social media environment. House members interested in learning more about how to effectively utilize social media in their public service are welcome to contact the House Majority Office for guidance. (Photo courtesy of @NHGOP)



During the House session on Thursday, House Chief of Staff Terry Pfaff was awarded the Caroline and Martin Gross Scholarship.

The fellowship was established in memory of the late House Majority Leader Caroline Gross and the late Concord mayor Martin Gross to honor dedication to public service. It is awarded annually by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The fellowship enables a New Hampshire public servant to attend the three-week Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. (Photo courtesy of @NHHOUSEOFREPS)

New Hampshire Still Remembers

Wednesday marked the 14th anniversary of the tragic collapse of our states greatest natural icon, the Old Man of the Mountain. The Old Man is believed to have fallen sometime between 12:00am-2:00am on the morning of May 3rd, 2003. He was only discovered to have fallen after a thick fog broke revealing the prolific face no longer standing.

The painting on the right of the Old Man of the Mountain overlooking Mirror Lake is located in the State House visitor center. It was painted by artist David Johnson who was a member of the famed Hudson River School art movement. The painting was donated to the state in 1890 in memory of Richard Taft who is regarded as one of the first people to start promoting Franconia Notch and the White Mountains as a tourist destination during the mid-19th. Mr. Taft was the proprietor of two famous North Country Grand Hotels; the Flume House and Profile House which served visitors through the early 1900's. Next time you're in the State House for business, be sure to stop by the visitor center to take a look at this magnificent painting.



New Hampshire Celebrates University of New Hampshire Day

Governor Sununu, Senate President Morse, and Speaker Jasper joined UNH President Mark Huddleston and students from the University at the State House to celebrate the officially proclaimed UNH Day. The festivities at the State House were kicked off with proclamations from the Governor as well as the House and Senate. Students were on hand showcasing some of the research they have done that helps benefit the state. UNH Conferences and Catering also provided a delicious BBQ spread.

UNH is celebrating their 150th Anniversary this year having been founded in 1866 as the New Hampshire College of Mechanical Arts and Agricultural Sciences.

Photos: Pres. Morse, Gov. Sununu, Speaker Jasper, UNH President Huddleston, and Majority Leader Hinch celebrate UNH Day.

