



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

SB3 Receives Positive Recommendation in Election Law Committee

Republicans Unanimously Support Key Election Integrity Bill

On Tuesday the House Election Law Committee voted 11-9 on an Ought to Pass as Amended motion to Senate Bill 3 relative to domicile for voting purposes. Major points included within SB3 include:

- Eliminates a loop hole that currently allows persons to register and vote on election day by merely claiming, not proving, they are domiciled - or live - in a community
- Requires persons registering to vote to prove they are domiciled by either producing documentary evidence that they are domiciled where they claim at the time of registering, or to produce it within a certain time frame after an election
- Creates a presumption that if you are in the state for 30 days or fewer prior to an election you are not eligible to vote, while still allowing you to produce documents to establish that is not the case
- Establishes a clear process for communities allowing them to follow up in cases where the information verifying a registrant's domicile is not produced. It also allows investigation by the SOS office when information does not corroborate the claimed address and allows referral for further investigation as to election fraud by the AG's office.

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House Education Committee Approves SB8

Tuesday, the House Education committee approved SB8, known as the "Croydon Bill," relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools. SB8 will allow school boards to enter into contracts with non-sectarian private schools.

Under current law, towns that do not have public schools for certain grade levels are able to contract with and send their students to surrounding public school districts. This issue came to the state's attention a few years ago when the town of Croydon had their tuition contract with Sunapee expire. The Croydon school board opted to send their students to a local Montessori school. This became an issue with the state because taxpayer dollars were going to a private school. SB8 seeks to remedy this situation and give school boards, and parents, more choices to send their students to the best possible school.

Under this bill, parents will not be on the hook to pay any tuition to any private school their child goes to, if their school board is contracted with that school. The bill simply guarantees all students have the chance to receive an adequate education. SB8 will come to the floor on June 1st, and we applaud Chairman Ladd and the committee's work to come up with the best possible solution.

In case you missed it, check out today's editorial in the Union Leader- [The Croydon solution: House amendment should work](#)

Special Elections in Hillsborough District 44 and Carroll District 6 will be held TUESDAY May 23rd.

[Click here to learn how you can help keep these seats Republican](#)

State offices will be closed on Monday, May 29th, in observance of Memorial Day.

The next House session will be Thursday, June 1, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

House Majority Leader Statement on Approval of HHS Emergency Funding

The House approved the Senate version to HB 629 by a vote of 283-32. An amendment approved by the Senate last week used this bill as the vehicle to provide \$33.2 million in emergency funding for the Department of Health and Human Services. Representative Dick Hinch (R-Merrimack) issued the following statement:

“This is an unfortunate but necessary use of the surplus funds. For a number of reasons, including missed projections for reductions in standard Medicaid caseloads, and lack of information on provider rates, this budget gap appeared, and we had to act. The legislature never likes to be the position of having to rescue agencies or programs, but it’s our responsibility to make sure the operation of government and services like Medicaid are able to continue without significant disruption.”

MacKay Praises House Concurrence on Bipartisan Bill on Grandparent Guardianship

The underlying bill in HB629 is a bipartisan act establishing a preference for the appointment of a child's grandparent as guardian of the minor in certain cases, whose prime sponsor is Representative Mariellen MacKay (R-Nashua). The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to make benefit eligibility information available on the department's website as well as to grandparents seeking guardianship over their grandchild. HB 629 also places the burden of proof on the petitioner to demonstrate that guardianship is in the best interest of the child in situations where guardianship was brought on due to the parent's substance abuse. This bill also establishes a preference for grandparents to be appointed as guardians in cases where it is sought as a result of a parent's substance abuse. Representative Mariellen MacKay (R-Nashua) issued the following statement:

“I am pleased that the House overwhelmingly approved HB 629. With this legislation New Hampshire is leading the way in giving grandparents a voice when it comes to the guardianship process in cases dealing with substance abuse. This important legislation will keep children out of the foster care system and allow them to stay with their families. HB 629 is about love, passion, family, and just doing the right thing, and I couldn't be more proud to see this bill overwhelmingly pass the legislature.”

HHS Budget / HB629 Background:

The Senate amended the House-passed portion of the bill to deal with an anticipated deficit of \$66.5 million almost entirely in the Medicaid managed care program at the Department of Health and Human Services. To deal with this, the department is reducing its expenditures and finding additional drug rebate revenue in the amount of \$34.2 million. The Senate amendment adds an appropriation of \$33.2 million to the Department. Together, this should cover the total HHS anticipated deficit. The additional appropriation will come from the 2017 surplus, with the "rainy day fund" expected to remain at \$100 million.

This is not a new or unexpected problem. It has been known for at least 18 months. House Finance recognized it and included \$36.5 million in its recent budget proposal to deal with the issue. The shortfall arose in the spring of 2015 when the legislature was dealing with the Medicaid managed care portion of the current FY 16/17 budget. Two budget assumptions proved incorrect:

With an expanding economy, the budget assumed the Medicaid managed care caseload would drop 2% in both FY 16 and FY 17. In fact, it didn't drop in FY 16 but dropped 3% in FY 17 (to date). As a result, HHS lacked sufficient appropriations to cover the additional cost.

The "per member per month" cost for each person on Medicaid managed care is determined annually by actuaries. For FY 16, there was some confusion on when the actuary's estimate was available, and the number that went into the budget was lower than the actuary's final number. For FY 17, only a legislative estimate is possible, and ours, based as it was on the too-low FY 16 estimate, was again too low.

It was expected that HB 629 would be taken up at the June 1st House session. However, the Department last week informed the Speaker that such timing would not allow it to make its June 1st payment of \$45 million to managed care organizations in a timely manner and asked that the matter be acted upon sooner. After confirming the Department's financial situation, the Speaker agreed and scheduled Thursday's House session

Proposed Fall Deadlines

Amendment to House Rule 65

Wednesday, September 6, 2017	First day to file LSRs for 2018
Friday, September 22, 2017	Last day to file LSRs (4:00pm)
Friday, October 27, 2017	Last day to sign off LSRs (4:00pm)
Thursday, November 16, 2017	Last day to report retained bills
Thursday, January 4, 2018	Last day to introduce House legislation

The House will vote to adopt these deadlines at the upcoming session.

Current NH House Membership Statistics

Republicans: 220	279 Men	7 Vacancies (open seats)
Democrats: 170	113 Women	Members Currently qualified: 392
Libertarians: 2		Not Yet Sworn-In: 1

House Transportation Committee Chair featured in WMUR Report on Driverless Cars



From the report:

"What we're going to come up with is a regulatory package that keeps the public safe and allows them to test here, because we have it all," Rep. Steve Smith (R-Charlestown) said. "We have gridded cities that are fairly stable; we have rural districts where you have to use dirt roads and a variety of weather."

Smith's committee will study the issue over the coming months, but he said he's hopeful that the future will arrive in the Granite State sooner rather than later. [Click here to see the entire video.](#)

Congrats to Rep. Patrick Abrami, the University of Buffalo Alumni Assoc.

Volunteer of the Year for 2017



Chandler & Richardson Honored by NHTOA

Rep. Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) and Rep. Herb Richardson (R-Lancaster) were honored recently by the New Hampshire Timber Owners Association. Rep. Richardson was recognized for his work as the Vice Chair of the House Science, Technology and Energy Committee. Rep. Chandler was recognized with the NHTOA Presidents award for his years of dedication and work advocating for New Hampshire's timber industry in Concord. Congratulations to Reps. Chandler and Richardson!



Senate Finance Adopts Amendment Allowing Consideration of HB2 Amendment Language

The Senate Finance committee adopted amendment 1836s to their budget bill on Friday providing authority for the work of the House Finance committee amendment to HB2 to be considered during the Committee of Conference. When the House failed to pass a budget in April, concerns arose that the House had no policy position adopted to negotiate as the budget to process moved forward.

The Senate had previously stated publically that the work of the House would be considered as they formulate their proposal. With the adoption of this amendment, they affirm their commitment to fairness and extend an important courtesy to the House in these unprecedented times. The full Senate must approve the budget with this amendment in order to take effect.

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It is important to have SB3 in place prior to the 2018 state and federal elections. *Democrats on the Election Law Committee have stated in committee session* this bill will end up in Court. By enacting the law in 2017, the State will have time to adjudicate potential legal challenges prior to the 2018 elections.

Maintaining integrity in our elections is part of the NHGOP platform; "We believe that we the people are strongest when we stand together, that it is our responsibility to hold government accountable and that it is through the integrity of the ballot box that we do so." And "Prosecute violations of election law and ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only; to prevent voter fraud we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registering and voting".

SB3 will be voted on in the House during our next June 1st session. If anyone has any questions on the bill please reach out to Election Law Committee Chair Barbara Griffin or stop by the Majority Office.

2017 HOUSE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

The Chairmen of the policy committees will receive bills amended by the Senate and should check with their committees to determine whether to recommend that the House concur, non-concur, or non-concur and request a Committee of Conference. When a committee requests that the bill be sent to a Committee of Conference, the Chairman will recommend members for appointment. If the bill has gone to more than one committee, the members may come from the different committees as determined by the Speaker. Chairmen should recommend only those members from their policy committees. The Speaker shall make the final decision of Conference committee members, and the committee choices are generally limited to those who support the House position. The first named House member shall serve as Chairman of the House Conferees. For House bills in Committee of Conference, the House Conferee Chairman shall set the time and place of the first meeting with the Clerk's Office and shall chair each meeting of the Committee of Conference. The first meeting shall be posted in the Clerk's Office and outside the committee room at least 24 hours in advance. If a Committee of Conference meeting recesses, the reconvening time shall be posted in the Clerk's office and outside the committee room with at least 12 hours' notice. [House Rule 49 (c)]. The House and Senate Conferees on a bill shall meet jointly but vote separately while in conference. The Committee of Conference may not change the title of the bill. The Committee also may not add amendments that are not germane to the subject matter of the bill or contain subject matter that has been indefinitely postponed.

A non-germane amendment is one in which the subject matter is not contained in either the House or Senate version of the bill. [House Rule 49 (g)] The sponsor of a bill that is in Committee of Conference shall, upon request, be provided an opportunity to be heard. A unanimous vote of both the House and Senate Conferees, voting separately, is necessary for an agreed upon report to be sent to the House and Senate. Reports of all Committees of Conference must be filed with the Office of Legislative Services by the June 15, 2017 deadline adopted by the House. All Committee of Conference members must sign their reports in the Office of Legislative Services by June 15, 2017 by 4:00 p.m. The first-named House member on all bills in Committee of Conference must prepare an analysis of the report. This "blurb" should contain a complete explanation of all changes made to the bill since it was passed by the House and must be submitted to the House Clerk for printing in the calendar. Representative Dick Hinch will be the liaison between the Speaker's Office, Clerk's Office and the Committee of Conference Chairs. All Committee of Conference reports shall be distributed in seat pockets to be acted on some subsequent day. [House Rule 49 (f)]. *See House Rule 49 for more information