



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

The Budget: What They're Saying

Another successful legislative season has concluded for the summer and Republicans have once again passed a responsible conservative budget that helps the state live within its means while taking care of our states top priorities. Papers across the state have offered praise on the recent budget and we wanted to share some of the highlights with you:

Union Leader: "Republicans have made the most of their first time in control of the New Hampshire State House in 14 years...Republicans produced a responsible, balanced two-year budget for New Hampshire. The GOP should be proud." [Click here to read the Union Leaders Editorial on the Budget.](#)

Seacoast Online: "Overall, it appears to be a reasonable spending plan built on conservative revenue estimates that will allow the state to improve essential services, increase its Rainy Day Fund to \$100 million, further reduce business taxes while not increasing existing taxes or creating any new taxes or fees...If we look past the political rhetoric, the budget does increase spending for the protection of children and families in crisis, mental health services, addiction prevention, treatment and recovery, and services for the developmentally disabled and the elderly." [Click here to read Seacoast Online's Editorial on the Budget.](#)

Governor Sununu Op-Ed: "This fiscally responsible budget lives within our means, while addressing the most critical priorities of the state. It creates jobs and increases wages through tax cuts, reforms the Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF,) and funds our broken mental health system. Our budget is a bold step in the right direction — a step toward restoring the New Hampshire Advantage, and reaffirming our place as the economic engine of New England. New Hampshire is on a pathway to prosperity, and Republicans are leading the way." [Click here to read Gov. Sununu's Op-Ed on the Budget.](#)

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Governor Signs Grandparent Guardianship Bill

On Tuesday during a ceremony in the Executive Council Chambers, Governor Chris Sununu (R-Newfields) signed HB 629 into law as members of the public and legislators, including prime sponsor Rep. Mariellen MacKay (R-Nashua), looked on. The bill establishes that grandparents have priority for guardianship in cases where the child was taken from their parents because of an opioid addiction. New Hampshire becomes the first state in the nation to give grandparents priority in guardianship cases.

[Click here to read the Concord Monitor's coverage of the signing.](#)

[Click here to read the Union Leader's Coverage of the signing.](#)

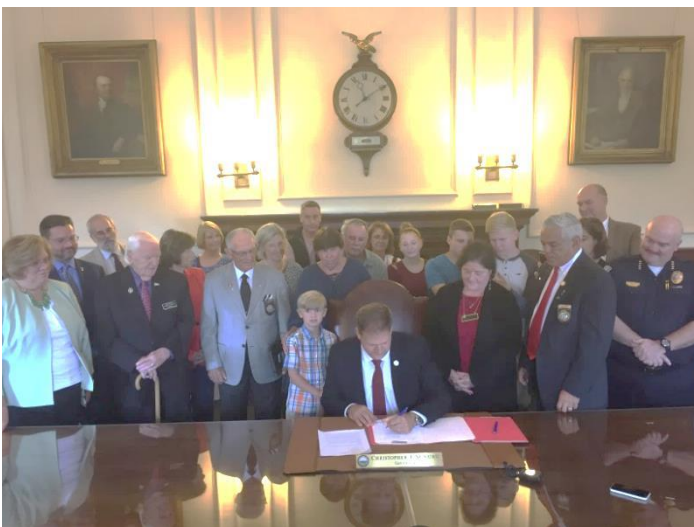


Photo: Sen. Carson, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. J. MacKay, Rep. LeBrun, Rep. M. MacKay, Rep. Baldasaro, and members of the public look on as Governor Sununu signs HB 629.

State offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day.
The House Majority Office will be closed on July 3rd.



Rep. Baldasaro visits the Whitehouse for Bill Signing

On Friday, State Representative Al Baldasaro (R-Londonderry), who serves as Vice-Chair of State and Federal Relations Committee, was in attendance at the Whitehouse for the signing of The Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act. The bipartisan Act signed by President Trump passed through the U.S. Senate on a voice vote and received 368-55 in the U.S. House. The bill has been labeled as crucial step forward in reforming the Veterans Administration as it allows the VA Secretary to more quickly fire non-performing employees and rescind bonuses of those convicted of a felony.

[Click here to learn more about the Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act.](#)

Photo: Rep. Baldasaro with Presidential Advisor Kellyanne Conway at the Whitehouse.

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Special Election Round-Up

Up Next:

Merrimack District 18 (Concord W 9)
Election Day: July 25, 2017
Republican Nominee: Michael Feeley

Grafton District 9 (Alexandria, Ashland, Bridgewater, Bristol, Grafton)
Primary: July 18, 2017
Election Day: September 5
Republicans Filing: Paul H. Simard, Vincent Paul Migliore, Timothy F. Sweetsir, Burton W. Williams

Belknap District 9 (Laconia, Belmont)
Primary: None. (Only 1 candidate filed in each party)
Election Day: September 12, 2017.
Republican Nominee: Steven R. Whalley

Rockingham District 4 (Auburn, Chester, Sandown)
Primary: August 8, 2017
Election Day: September 26, 2017
Republicans Filing: James E. Devine, James F. Headd, Anthony S. Rossignol

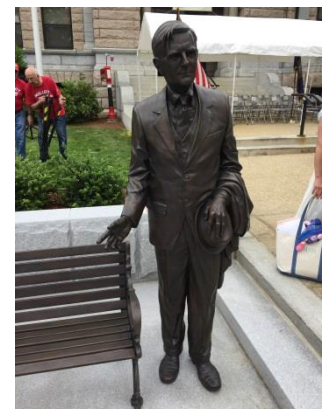
Hillsborough District 15 (Manchester W-8)
Primary: September 19, 2017
Election Day: November 7, 2017
Filing Period: June 26-30, 2017
Republican Filing: Andy Parent

Sen. Chuck Morse Op-Ed: “During the legislative session that recently came to a close, we looked to our “Live free or die” New Hampshire sensibilities of freedom teamed with practicality in all that we did, supporting a healthy balance of fiscal conservatism, need to grow our economy, yet we also provided our communities with the resources they need for a strong future.

Providing steadfast leadership in conjunction with our ability to work together with members of the House, Senate and with our governor, we have produced a number of major accomplishments on behalf of our state.

[Click here to read Sen. Morse's Op-Ed on the Budget.](#)

Governor John Gilbert Winant Statue Unveiled



[John Gilbert Winant: The Most Important NH Man You Never Knew](#)

2017 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fiscally Responsible State Budget

- Passed a 2-year spending plan that meets the needs of our state with no new or increased taxes or fees, and no downshifting.
- Growth in spending over the 2-year budget period is limited to no more than the rate of inflation plus growth in population, ensuring responsible and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.
- General Funds spending levels for FY2019 will be \$85 million less than the Democrat spending plan for FY 2009, passed 10 years ago.
- Increased the Rainy Day Fund from \$93 million to \$100 million to protect New Hampshire's bond rating and strengthens our financial position (HB144)
- Based on conservative revenue estimates, to ensure the state will never be in jeopardy of spending more than we can reasonably expect to receive in revenue. (HB144 & HB517)

Making New Hampshire More Business Friendly

- Passed reductions in the rate of the Business Profits Tax (from 7.9% to 7.5%) and Business Enterprise Tax (from .675 to .5%) to continue our efforts to reduce the cost of doing business in New Hampshire, making our state more competitive to attract and retain jobs and grow our economy. (HB517)
- Increased the amount of the expense deduction under the business profits tax from \$100,000 to \$500,000 so businesses can invest in their business and create more jobs (HB517)
- Statewide property tax exemptions for commercial and industrial construction (HB316)
- Permitted employers to pay wages to employees weekly or biweekly. (HB194)
- Clarified definition of employee to ensure locally owned small businesses franchisees retain oversight of local employees (SB89)
- Revised the New Hampshire trust code, continuing New Hampshire's firm commitment to being one of the best legal environments for trusts, trust companies, and fiduciary services (SB225)

Protecting Constitutional Rights

- Repealed antiquated permit requirement to carry firearms (SB12)

Election Integrity

- Passed voter domicile reform and clarified voter residency parameters for NH elections (SB3)
- Allowed the Secretary of State to follow up on returned voter identification letters (HB552)
- Balanced the needs of towns to quickly ratify election results and giving voters a voice through a public meeting (SB248)
- Required that information on the use of out-of-state driver's' licenses ID cards be recorded in the statewide centralized voter registration database. (HB430)

Aid to Cities and Towns

- Increased Meals and Rooms revenue distribution by \$5 million (HB517)
- Provided \$36 million in road and bridge aid, in addition to what is included in the budget, to boost municipalities' ability to address infrastructure needs (SB38)
- Provided approximately \$45 million to school districts over the biennium in special education aid (formerly catastrophic aid) (HB144)

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Education

- Increased charter school funding by \$250 per student in FY18 and \$375 per student in FY19 (HB144)
- Established the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment program that ensures all NH 11th and 12th grade students have the opportunity to enroll in and receive college credit in STEM courses while they are still enrolled in a high school or career technical education center. (HB144, HB517)
- Allowed towns to receive grant funding for full day kindergarten funded through Keno revenue, including an option for half day kindergarten. (SB191)
- Allowed towns without a public school to contract with neighboring private nonsectarian schools (SB8)
- Established the Governor's Scholarship Program, designed to keep graduating high school students in the state. (HB144, HB517)
- Established a new Robotics Education Development Program and provided \$375,000 in grants to school districts to establish a robotics team and participate in competitive events. (HB517?)
- Prohibited the state from requiring a school district implement common core standards (SB44)
- Eliminated the requirement of students to submit a non-academic survey or questionnaire without written consent from a parent or guardian (SB43)
- Required school districts to provide advance notice to parents and legal guardians of course material involving discussion of human sexuality or human sexual education (HB103)
- Required the development and implementation of a pre-engineering and technology curriculum for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12 (HB412)

Reorganize, Reform, and Modernize Government

- Divided the functions and responsibilities of the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) between 2 agencies to better meet the needs of the state: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and Department of Business and Economic Affairs. (HB517)
- Established a committee to review and suggest improvements and reforms to the organizational structure of the Department of Education, and gives the commissioner the ability to reorganize certain aspects of the Department to ensure resources and personnel have the greatest impact. (HB356)
- Required the department of health and human services to develop a comprehensive 10-year plan for the mental health system, provided additional resources for mental health care, and reformed DCYF to ensure NH laws prioritize child safety (HB400)
- Repealed the provisions of RSA 77-B, the commuters income tax, which had been found unconstitutional decades ago, and was not enforced, but remained on the books. (HB104)
- Repealed various dedicated funds that had no activity in the last fiscal year (HB332)
- Directed the Department of Admin Services and Department of Information Technology to identify and eliminate double counting of agency transfers to DoIT for FY2018, to more provide more transparent budgeting (HB144)
- Created a division of taxpayer services within the Department of Revenue Administration (HB517)
- Allowed the lottery commission to extend their products to the internet and mobile devices to expand and modernize the lottery market (HB144, HB517)
- Established regulatory framework to allow fantasy sports contests for money (HB580)

Health and Human Services

- Health and Human Services receives more funding in FY2018-2019 than in any prior one: \$4.8 billion, up 7.0% from the \$4.4 billion in the current budget.
- Increased funding for the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery from 1.7% to 3.4% of the prior year's gross Liquor profits.
- Appropriated \$56.8 million to the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, a \$23 million increase over the previous biennium (HB144)
- \$22.6 million in total funds over the biennium for the provision of mental health services, including:
 - a Medicaid wraparound benefit for children with severe emotional disturbances
 - 20 designated receiving facility beds

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- 20 transitional step-down beds in FY 2018 and 40 such beds in FY 2019
- a mobile crisis team and related apartments. (HB144)
- Provided funding for 20 additional child protective services workers, implementing recommendations made by the independent assessor's DCYF report issued in December 2016. (HB517)
- Created an Office of the Child Advocate providing independent oversight of the DHHS Division for Children, Youth, and Families to assure that the best interests of children are being protected. (HB517)
- Required the DHHS Commissioner to establish and utilize a competitive bid process for family planning Services. (HB517)
- Prohibited state funds awarded to reproductive health care facilities to be used for abortion services. (HB517)
- Requested approval for a work requirement for Medicaid Expansion to protect taxpayers and provide a incentives for childless, able-bodied citizens to participate in the workforce if they are to be enrolled in the program. (HB517)
- Appropriated \$250.1 million in FY 2018 and \$260.9 million in FY 2019 for developmental services, an increase of \$57 million over FY 2016 actual expenditures and FY 2017 adjusted authorized amounts. (HB144)
- Established a study of the seacoast cancer cluster investigation (HB484)
- Accelerated the process by which a person licensed as mental health practitioner in another state are able to practice in this state, and qualified alcohol and drug counselors from other states are able to practice in this state, helping to address shortage in providers. (HB468, SB54)
- Made an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct an independent review of the division for children, youth and families (HB517)
- Creates a new youth drug treatment center in Manchester at the Sununu Youth Services Center (HB517)

Energy

- Established a committee to research and propose solutions to lower energy costs (SB125)
- Repealed the Electricity Consumption Tax to reduce electricity costs for ratepayers, including businesses and homeowners (HB517)

Public Safety

- Allowed the state of NH to bring criminal charges where there was a death of an unborn child, providing necessary justice for women and their families should their choice to carry a pregnancy to term be taken away (SB66)
- Established a cross border drug interdiction program to assist law enforcement efforts in apprehending drug dealers and traffickers (SB131)
- Strengthened NH's rape shield law, protecting victims' and families' privacy (SB9)
- Established stronger security screening procedures at state correctional facilities to prevent drugs and contraband from entering prisons (SB133, HB517)
- Required registered sex offenders to report online identifiers, including social media account names. (SB69)

Expanding Personal Liberty

- Legalized the sale of firecrackers (SB23)
- Allowed the playing of home poker games (HB164)

Judicial System Reform

- Enabled the circuit and superior courts to establish a veterans' track to provide the flexibility needed to deal with problems exacerbated by military service (PTSD, substance abuse, etc.) which led to criminal behavior (HB652)
- Established a preference for the appointment of a child's grandparent as guardian of the minor in cases where the minor was taken from their parents due to an opioid addiction (HB629)
- Required appointment of counsel for an indigent defendant in cases involving nonpayment of an assessment or nonperformance of community service (HB200)
- Established a commission to study processes to resolve right-to-know complaints (HB178)