

State of New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

First Year of the 160th General Court

Calendar and Journal of the 2007 Session

Vol. 29 Concord N.H. Friday, June 22, 2007 No. 49A
Contains: Committee of Conference Statements for HB 1, HB 2 and HB 927

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE STATEMENTS ON HOUSE BILLS

HB 1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

The committee of conference produced a balanced and fiscally responsible budget investing in the priorities of the people of New Hampshire without new taxes. Much of the increase in this budget is driven by non-discretionary costs. It was not until two days ago that we knew the final terms of the state employee contracts and we made the necessary accommodations to honor the contracts. We put \$20,000,000 in the rainy day (revenue stabilization) account even though we had to transfer funds from the general fund to the highway fund in order to meet expenditures. The budget balances the fish and game fund without layoffs and without using general fund dollars, provides health insurance for children, increases the number of state troopers, provides funding to address the problem of high school drop outs, and provides funds for LCHIP, one of the most popular programs in the state. The budget provides better care for mentally ill citizens of this state. We increased the tobacco tax to the level requested by the governor. We took a major step in resolving a series of complex problems involving the relationships between the counties and the state in the delivery of care to children and adults. We could not solve every problem or meet every need, but this is a solid balanced budget and we ask for your support.

Rep. Marjorie K. Smith

HB 2-FN-A, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

This is known as the trailer bill. It contains support for HB I and where necessary it makes statutory revisions for the budget bill. It is the way the legislature confirms its decisions on how the state is to conduct business during the period of time covered by the budget. It lays out the division of responsibility between the counties and the state in delivering nursing and HCBC services and many other services to the elderly and to juveniles. It includes the pay raises for employees, establishes commissions dealing with the retirement system, legal services and court security. It provides support for existing state chartered schools. It permits reorganization at the Department of Transportation. The committee of conference asks for your support.

Rep. Marjorie K. Smith

HB 927-FN, relative to the specific criteria and substantive educational program that define an adequate education.

The House and Senate conferees reached consensus on HB 927 defining an adequate education. The compromise bill maintains the House definition focusing on the minimum standards for school approval as they pertain to nine areas of instruction, including kindergarten.

The bill includes a commitment by the General Court to address the varying educational challenges that exist among the schools of the state. The bill includes a costing committee made up of five House members and five Senators. The committee is charged to cost adequacy, to develop and propose criteria for identifying schools with enhanced needs, and to identify and propose any resources these schools may need, with a reporting date of February 1, 2008.

Rep. Emma L. Rous