

State of New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

First Year of the 161st General Court
Calendar and Journal of the 2009 Session

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Friday, June 19, 2009

No. 46A

Contains: Additional Committee of Conference Statements

ADDENDUM TO HOUSE CALENDAR NO. 46

NOTICE

BUDGET BRIEFING

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Representatives Hall

11:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

STATEMENTS

HOUSE BILLS

HB 1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

The committee of conference produced a balanced and fiscally responsible budget under the most difficult circumstances the state has experienced in living memory. We met our constitutional responsibility to fully fund an adequate education and we tried to protect essential services that support our citizens who have no place else to turn. We are asking much of our hard-working state employees who will have to work without tools which could assist them in carrying out their responsibilities. Yet in the end we will likely prove to be one of the few states in the nation to finish FY 2009 in the black and have a balanced budget to carry us through the next biennium. One of the positive steps we took was to support the Department of Corrections' efforts to develop a community corrections program. We took advantage of the federal government's commitment to support state fiscal stability and to support our efforts to create jobs and generate economic activity.

Rep. Marjorie K. Smith

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

Known as the trailer bill, HB 2 contains legislative support for HB 1 and where necessary makes statutory revisions for the budget bill. If we maintained our current revenue sources and law, we would have to operate our state with 7.8% less revenue in each of FY10-11 than we did three years earlier. With the increasing responsibilities brought on by the recession, it would be impossible for the state to meet its obligations to our citizens. Rather than institute major new revenue sources, this budget proposal depends on a long series of painful cuts, departmental efficiencies, closing tax

loopholes that increase tax fairness, an increase in the rooms and meals tax to 9%, and one new tax on large pay-outs for gambling winnings. The fee increases were done in recognition of the costs associated with the activities for which the fee is charged. By far the most significant is the two-year increase in the vehicle registration fee used to make the highway fund whole after the gas tax and aggregation were ruled out. These fees are sunsetted so that the next budget writers can consider a long-term fix.

Rep. Marjorie K. Smith