

HOUSE RECORD

First Year of the 164th General Court Calendar and Journal of the 2015 Session

Vol. 37 Concord, N. H.

Friday, June 19, 2015

No. 43

Contains: House Deadlines, Governor's Veto Message for HB 603, Legislative Ethics Committee Advisory Opinion 2015-1, Committee of Conference Statements, Committee of Conference Bills Not Signed Off, Bills Laid on Table, Meetings and Notices

HOUSE CALENDAR

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

The next House session will be **Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.** As the deadline for acting on committee of conference reports is Thursday, June 25th, please be prepared to meet on that day as well if we do not finish our business on Wednesday.

I would like to thank all House conferees for their efforts and timely completion of the many committees of conference that were formed this session. My fellow conferees on HB 1 and HB 2 spent numerous hours working on a budget compromise, and I applaud their commitment and fortitude from beginning to end. Additionally, the Legislative Budget Assistant and his staff have been working tirelessly for several months as each body progressed separately through the budget process and then together in the committee of conference. Their expertise, reliability, and endless patience were invaluable for the duration of the proceedings. The Office of Legislative Services and all other staff who worked around the clock so that HB 1 and HB 2 could be finalized deserve our sincere gratitude as well.

The blurbs for HB 1 and HB 2 will be printed in an addendum which will be online Friday, June 19th.

Committee of conference reports will be printed separately, and the packets will be placed in your seat pockets for next Wednesday's session.

For the remainder of the month of June, reimbursement for travel to the State House will be limited to Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, except for those members of statutory committees meeting on Monday or Friday. Also, please remember that there will be no legislative activity or mileage reimbursement for the month of July, except for statutory committees with meeting requirements set in law.

If any members are still not receiving calendars in a timely manner, please bring those envelopes to the Speaker's Office so we can track the problem.

State offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2015, in observance of Independence Day.
Shawn N. Jasper, Speaker

NOTICE

There will not be a meeting of chairs and vice chairs next week.
Shawn N. Jasper, Speaker

NOTICE

There will be a Republican caucus on **Wednesday, June 24th** at 9:00 a.m. in Representatives Hall.
Rep. Jack Flanagan

NOTICE

There will be a Democratic caucus on **Wednesday, June 24th** at 9:00 a.m. in LOB 305-307.
Rep. Stephen Shurtleff

NOTICE

The **2013 House Permanent Journals** have arrived. **House Members** who ordered a Journal may pick it up in the Clerk's office. Thank you.

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

NOTICE

The **Manual of the General Court 2015-2016** or "Black Book," is available for **House Members** to pick up in the House Clerk's Office. Additional copies are available for purchase in the Sergeant-at-Arms' office.

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

NOTICE

The **2015 Manual for the General Court** (Red Book) will be available on June 24, 2015. **House Members** are entitled to three (3) copies. One copy may be picked up at the Secretary of State's Office on June 24th. The two additional copies may be picked up at the member's convenience this summer in the Secretary of State's Office.

William M. Gardner, Secretary of State

NOTICE

The House Calendar closes at **3:00 p.m.** on **Wednesdays** for **scheduling and notices**. It will close at **NOON** on **Thursdays** for **Committee Reports**. Please be sure to do your scheduling in order to meet that deadline.

CLOSES NOON on THURSDAY:
June 25

AVAILABLE FRIDAY:
June 26
Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

2015 HOUSE DEADLINES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Last day to act on Committee of Conference reports

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

First day to file LSRs for 2016

Friday, September 18, 2015

Last day to file LSRs (4:00 p.m.)

Friday, October 30, 2015

Last day to sign off LSRs (4:00 p.m.)

Thursday, November 12, 2015

Last day to report retained bills

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Last day to introduce House Legislation

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE REGARDING HOUSE BILL 603

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on June 12, 2015, I have vetoed House Bill 603, relative to student exemption from the statewide assessment.

House Bill 603 would create a student opt-out option from the statewide assessment process. This bill would conflict with current state educational accountability laws, undercut one of the tools that educators use to evaluate K-12 student progress, and jeopardize federal funding for New Hampshire schools.

If it became law, House Bill 603 could do real and lasting damage to New Hampshire's economic

competitiveness, suggesting that our state is not committed to ensuring that students are ready for college and/or careers in the 21st century's innovation economy. That is why the business leaders and educators joined together to oppose this legislation.

By state law – and as a result of Supreme Court decisions requiring a statewide education accountability system – New Hampshire schools are required to participate in the Statewide Educational Improvement and Assessment Program. If passed, House Bill 603 would discourage participation in the annual statewide assessment, violating the requirements of both federal and state law, as well as the requirements of the New Hampshire Supreme Court that New Hampshire have a broad assessment and accountability system.

A valid annual assessment is a critical component of accountability, which is why state statutes say that all students must take the statewide assessment. This year, New Hampshire started a new annual assessment, the Smarter Balanced Assessment, an improved test that helps inform educators about whether students are meeting higher standards and helps direct any resulting changes to instruction. These tests provide the only statewide snapshot as to how our public schools are performing, serving as an additional measure to inform us about how well students are being educated. But it is also important to note that New Hampshire does not over-rely on these tests as they are not a significant factor in teacher evaluation, they are not used to determine school funding and they are not required for a student to graduate.

New Hampshire also recognizes that standardized assessments alone do not provide the most well-rounded, individual student-driven results that effectively inform teacher instruction. That is why New Hampshire continues to build on our efforts that are leading the nation in developing assessment alternatives through the Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE) Pilot Program. PACE empowers our students and our teachers by reducing the amount of standardized testing in favor of more locally managed assessments that will be integrated into a student's day-to-day work, which improves the effectiveness of project-based 21st century learning. Allowing this bill to become law also poses significant fiscal risk by threatening tens of millions of dollars a year in federal funding to our schools. The federal government requires 95 percent of students to participate in a statewide assessment to receive Title I funding. Action in some New Hampshire school districts that provided an unofficial opt-out option this year led to decreased student participation – demonstrating that any state action to encourage opt-out would have the same, if not greater implications. House Bill 603 does not provide reporting of opt-outs to the Department of Education, so we would be unable to accurately determine how many students did not take the test and whether the State met the 95-percent student participation threshold.

House Bill 603 also sets a bad precedent for, and sends a bad message to, our students. Students who are told that they can opt out of this critical component to their education will believe that they can opt out of other of requirements as well, which could in turn affect participation in day-to-day activities and interfere with both student assessment and direct instruction.

New Hampshire's economic competitiveness depends on our ongoing commitment to ensuring that our students and workers have the skills needed to compete in the future. If passed, this bill would inhibit the ability to effectively measure student progress and inform teacher instruction, while sending a message to the business and education communities that New Hampshire does not value high standards in education, standards that will help prepare our future workforce for success in the innovation economy. Therefore, I have vetoed House Bill 603.

Respectfully submitted
Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor
Date: June 12, 2015

NOTICE

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Ethics Committee has voted to issue the following advisory opinion, which is printed below in its entirety.

Advisory Opinion 2015-1
Response to a Request for an Advisory Opinion
from Senator Dan Feltes and Senator Donna M. Soucy
(June 3, 2015)

Senator Dan Feltes and Senator Donna M. Soucy have sought an Advisory Opinion about

whether acceptance of payment for the costs of travel, lodging, and meals related to a proposed trip to Israel, sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), will qualify for exemption from the prohibition on "Gifts" under RSA 15-B:3, as "Expense Reimbursement" under RSA 15-B:5. According to a memorandum and an agenda submitted by AIEF, the purpose of the trip is to attend an educational seminar comprised of "meetings, briefings and site visits that highlight the vital importance of the US-Israel relationship." The educational seminar would be structured to showcase Israeli approaches to issues that are relevant to the State of New Hampshire, such as public health care, homeland and border security, law enforcement in a democratic society, protecting civil liberties, information-based economic development, comparative democracy, renewable energy, water conservation, comparative business-labor relations, the role of first responders, and the preservation of historical and natural landmarks.

Based on the information provided by Sen. Feltes and Sen. Soucy about the trip's purpose and activities, acceptance of the payment of expenses associated with the trip would qualify for the exemption. See Interpretive Ruling 2013-1.

The Senators must report their attendance in accordance with RSA 15-B:6.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

For the Committee,
Donna Sytek
Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

COMMITTEES OF CONFERENCE STATEMENTS

SENATE BILLS

SB 8-FN-L, relative to appropriations for nursing homes.

The issues raised in SB8 were addressed in the budget (HB2), making this bill unnecessary.

Rep. Richard Barry

SB 32, relative to state agency budgetary reporting requirements.

The bill expands the department of administrative services reporting to include an on-demand report available to all departments, delivered to the fiscal committee on September 30, December 31 and March 31, and available to the governor any time, especially when considering spending adjustments. The committee worked with a variety of state agencies to craft a report that would become useful without adding workload to existing staff. This report uses existing data, existing systems and can be written once and run multiple times with no additional effort. Therefore, no additional staff is needed nor will there be an impact on existing staff workload. The report has various levels of details from summary to budget line detail. The focus of the report is the state-generated funding expenditures (excludes federal funding and other non-state generated funding sources) of general funds, education funds, highway funds, turnpike funds, DOT funds, liquor funds, sweepstakes funds and lottery commission funds. It is intended to provide a picture of current expenditures and will be a tool to measure spending versus budgeted. The senate agreed to the house position on this bill.

Rep. Lynne Ober

SB 40-FN, including a fetus in the definition of "another" for the purpose of certain criminal offenses. The conferees were unable to reach a consensus on section 4 of SB 40, and as a result SB 40 fails.

Rep. John Tholl

SB 84, relative to the definition of "telemedicine."

This bill was amended by the house to further define telemedicine and delineate expectations of providers. We expanded the ability of providers to prescribe class II-IV drugs. The agreed upon bill restricts prescribing class II-IV drugs to providers treating patients at state-designated community mental health centers or SAMHSA-certified state opioid treatment programs. This bill is a good start for telemedicine, and aligns with SB 112 relative to Medicaid coverage for telehealth services.

Rep. John Fothergill

SB 97, authorizing municipalities to adopt ordinances to regulate stormwater to comply with federal permit requirements.

This bill authorized municipalities to allow governing bodies to adopt ordinances to regulate stormwater to comply with federal requirements. The house added that the governing body had to seek advice from the planning and zoning boards. The senate did not concur. As a result, the section dealing with ZBA advice was removed because any appeals filed as a result of a new ordinance would go to ZBA for a hearing. Since the committee of conference members agreed that cooperation between planning board and governing body would certainly permit the planning board to convey its desire to weigh in on the proposed ordinance, the participation of the planning board in the process was provisioned on a request by the governing body to request planning board participation with particular attention to compliance with the spirit of the master plan, similar to requirements as provided by RSA 674:54, government use of property.

Rep. Jim Belanger

SB 99, establishing a committee to study allowing the sampling of beer or wine at farmer's markets, establishing a committee to study powdered or crystalline alcohol, and relative to the definition of alcohol.

Once the senate understood the house amendment, they decided to accede to the house position.

Rep. John Hunt

SB 120-FN, relative to applicants for secondary game operator licenses.

Related to racing and charitable gaming, the house and senate both agreed that the issuing of a provisional license for secondary game operators while the proper background check was done on a potential employee as a requirement to issue a permanent license would help in the recruitment of employees. Where we differed is the house wanted this provisional license to be valid for 45 days while the senate wanted 90 days. The conferees compromised that a provisional license would be valid for 60 days.

Rep. Patrick Abrami

SB 135-FN, relative to lead poisoning in children.

The house committee of conference conferees concurs with the senate conferees on SB 135 as amended (2015-2283s). The committee feels that this bill increases awareness of the dangers of lead paint for NH Children. This legislation provides yearly updates on the percentage of children 6 years and under being tested, and reports such findings to the appropriate committees. It adjusts the requirements of reporting to levels recommended by the CDC (6-9.9 to 5-9.9 micrograms).

Rep. Bill Nelson

SB 151-FN, requiring inclusion of home educated pupils in the definition of average daily membership in attendance. The senate receded from its position of non concurrence and agreed to the house amendment providing funds if available for home school student attendance in high school academic courses.

Rep. Rick Ladd

SB 169, relative to the use of electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards.

The house and senate conferees agreed to an amendment which restored language on SB 169 as amended by the senate. Accordingly, conferees voted to adopt the language and approve the changes.

Rep. Frank R. Kotowski

SB 170, requiring the public utilities commission to ensure ratepayer protections with electric power suppliers and extending the time for the site evaluation committee to adopt certain rules.

The senate had no issues with the house amendment to SB 170. However, they called a committee of conference to address a germane issue with the bill. They recommended additional wording to paragraph 3, VII. As originally worded, it was felt that pending applications at the time the new rules went into effect could cause delays, especially if a public hearing had occurred. New language was added that exempted cases where adjudicatory hearings had commenced. All other cases would be subject to the new rules and reasonable time given to submit any new information required. All parties, including the OEP, agreed to the new wording. We recommend the house concur with the conference report.

Rep. Doug Thomas

SB 235, relative to the condominium act and the land sales full disclosure act.

The senate acceded to the house's amended version of SB 235. The elimination of sections 3 and 6 from the senate version were removed by the house at the request of the attorney general. The attorney general also requested the inclusion of the ability to issue cease and desist orders.

Rep. Franklin Sterling

SB 254, establishing a committee to study the provision of services to the public by Uber and existing taxi services.

The amendment changes the reporting date to this year, which we all agreed made sense.

Rep. John Hunt

SB 266-FN, adopting the Uniform Securities Act.

The amendment makes technical corrections and puts back in law a section that was missing from the house and senate versions. In the spirit of the legislative intent to streamline the process to incorporate in NH, the new language was added to the corporate application, thereby having applicants file just one form rather than the current two forms. In either case, the applicant fee of \$100 does not change. Otherwise, the senate acceded to the house version, which did repeal a \$500 renewal fee.

Rep. John Hunt

HOUSE BILLS

HB 25-FN-A, making appropriations for capital improvements.

HB 25, also known as the capital budget, as agreed to by the conferees is made up of a number of projects which represent important items for the benefit of New Hampshire's citizens and will help promote jobs throughout New Hampshire. As in any of these budget negotiations, both sides feel they gave too much or didn't get enough; but the end result of HB 25 is a good, fair product. Highlights include funding to complete the women's prison; funding for the adjutant general's capital projects; numerous repair and renovation projects in state-owned buildings, including finishing the state house dome. CTE centers in Dover and Somersworth are slated to be completed; \$800,000 is included for the housing finance authority to be used as matching funds to construct affordable housing with 20% of the units designated for veterans. A number of state park improvements are included as well as an addition to the veteran's home. A new Merrimack County courthouse will be built, as well as completing the lakes region community colleges auto technician project. This budget allows the department of transportation \$5 million for the purchase of equipment. Only equipment with a minimum of a 10-year life expectancy will be eligible for this expenditure. The DOT is woefully behind on equipment purchases and these funds coupled with funds in the operating budget will start the process of catching up on necessary equipment to maintain our highways, especially in winter. The bottom line of general fund obligation is \$125,858,414 – over \$4 million less than the amount the treasurer indicated we could safely bond.

Rep. Gene Chandler

HB 115, relative to reports on gross appropriations from the highway fund in the tentative state budget and defining autocycle and making provisions for the operation and inspection of autocycles. The committee of conference agreed to change the effective date of the entire bill to July 1, 2015, and agreed to create an ad-hoc study committee to look at possible changes to legislation regarding the operation and inspections of so-called autocycles. This agreement allows the industry to proceed with selling and using this new to the market product, and the ad-hoc committee will be in place to sponsor legislation should any be necessary.

Rep. Gene Chandler

HB 142, relative to student social media policies by educational institutions and nonpublic sessions under the right-to-know law, and establishing a commission to study social impact bond funding for early childhood education for at-risk students.

Conferees agreed with two of three senate amendments placed on HB 142, a bill regarding access to a student's social media account. The first amendment strengthens the bill by providing permissible language allowing the educational institution to request a student to voluntarily share a printed copy of relevant information in the student's social media account relevant to an investigation. Secondly, conferees approved language from SB 149 that enables school boards to enter into closed session to discuss contract or agreement language dealing with student tuition. School boards do not currently have this enabling language as previously communicated. Lastly, conferees in support of the house position deleted the senate amendment addressing SB 69 establishing a commission to study social impact bonding from the bill.

Rep. Jack Balcom

HB 219-FN, relative to the use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards.

The house and senate conferees agreed to change the wording of the bill as amended by the house. The wording change returns the bill to the original house language.

Rep. Charles McMahon

HB 305, relative to assessment of and discharge planning for minors in the juvenile court system. This bill ensures that minors waiving counsel in delinquency hearings are aware of the consequences of waiving counsel. The senate amended the bill so as to ensure that the minor was adequately counseled as to those consequences and to provide counsel to indigent minors, and required that the judge make written findings that criteria to waive counsel had been met to a standard of clear and convincing evidence. The house believed that the standard of clear and convincing evidence would inspire litigation as to what the standard is and whether it had been met. The senate agreed to remove the reference to clear and convincing evidence, allowing the judge discretion as to the level of detail required but ensuring all the criteria are considered. The senate amendment also made technical changes to the increasing of the juvenile age from under 17 to under 18; to which the house acceded without objection.

Rep. Daniel Itse

HB 323, relative to the administration of the statewide assessment program.

Each year an annual statewide assessment is administered in all school districts in the state in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Conferees believe that students are over-tested and that testing costs do not justify the outcome; however, conferees could not agree on an assessment process that provides more local option or control while remaining in compliance with statutory language. Statewide assessments will remain in place for grades 3-8 and grade 11; however, house and senate conferees did agree to amend HB 323 to include only language that enables the department to use college board SAT or ACT college readiness assessments to satisfy the high school assessment requirement.

Rep. Rick Ladd

HB 364, relative to renewal fees administered by the office of professional licensing, the salt applicator certification program, and pesticide product registration requirements.

As adopted by the house, HB 364 changed the term of licenses for a number of professions from one year to two years. The senate amended the underlying bill by retaining the current one-year term for embalmer apprentices and allowed the fee for embalmer apprentice licenses to be set by the board. In addition, the senate added a section permitting the department of environmental services to establish and collect fees for the voluntary certification of commercial salt applicators. This certification is important for the I-93 construction project, which requires a plan to address runoff to several watersheds. Finally, the senate added provisions relative to the annual registration fee for pesticide products and the amount of revenue from the fee that is deposited into the existing integrated pest management fund. This provision is vital to the funding for the department of agriculture and was included in the house version of HB 2. The house conferees agreed with the senate changes and added language ensuring that no general fund revenue would be used to support the salt applicator certification program.

Rep. Andrew Christie

HB 407, establishing a committee to study the classifications of military vehicles and equipment that may be purchased by the state and its political subdivisions and establishing a committee to study honorary legislation.

The senate amendment to the bill was a minor change in wording that did not change the mission of the study committee and was accepted by the committee. A second, nongermane amendment establishing a second study committee on honorary legislation was not acceptable to the house conferees. It was felt this should stand on its own as a separate piece of legislation with the benefit of hearings in both the house and senate; not just the senate. The end result was that the senate receded from the inclusion of the nongermane amendment. That amendment was removed from the bill and the conference committee accepted the original bill with the minor senate wording amendment.

Rep. James Belanger

HB 421, authorizing the university of New Hampshire to grow industrial hemp for research purposes and proclaiming September 25 as Ataxia Awareness Day.

The senate amended HB 421 by adding an Ataxia Awareness Day to it. The house position was that Ataxia must be removed. The senate acceded to the house position.

Rep. Bob Haefner

HB 460, establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for electric-powered and hybrid vehicles for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges.

This bill establishes a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll as it relates to electric-powered and hybrid vehicles. The proposal adopted by the committee of conference changes the makeup of house members to three from the public works committee and one from ways and means. Additionally, we changed the reporting date of the commission from November 1, 2016 to November 1, 2015.

Rep. Gene Chandler

HB 468-FN, requiring a warrant to obtain electronic device location information and relative to appropriations for nursing homes.

The committee of conference removed that portion of the senate amendment dealing with nursing home appropriations. That issue had been resolved by the budget committee of conference which contained the identical amendment. The remainder of the senate amendment clarified exactly against whom action could be taken. It also provided a more detailed description in the penalty section. Both senate changes were acceptable to the sponsor and to the house members of the committee of conference.

Rep. John Sytek

HB 483, relative to the commission on primary care workforce issues.

Consensus to concur with the senate amendment was agreed upon. The senate added one additional member, (a pharmacist) to the commission. In addition, an agreement was reached whereby the commission will sunset on November 1, 2019.

Rep. Frank R. Kotowski

HB 508, relative to the dissolution of the New Hampshire medical malpractice joint underwriting association and relative to cost-sharing parity for oral anti-cancer therapies.

The senate amended the bill by placing a retained bill related to oral chemotherapy, SB 137. The amendment addresses the house's concerns related to the mandates of SB 137 and did set a sunset in 4 years. The underlying bill relates to the JUA and also was amended to address various concerns from health providers, and does set up a fund to aid healthcare providers who service medically underserved populations.

Rep. John Hunt

HB 550-FN, relative to administration of the tobacco tax and relative to the sale or exchange of an interest in a business organization under the business profits tax.

The house and senate conferees agreed to a new amendment which replaced the senate amendment. This amendment changes the treatment of the step up in basis of the assets from a narrow group of business entities to include all business entities. The amendment also allows a business organization to elect to make an irrevocable election on a timely filed return.

Rep. Norman L. Major

HB 572-FN-L, relative to taking land by eminent domain for high pressure gas pipelines and relative to the siting of high pressure gas pipelines.

The committee of conference met on HB 572, which deals with taking land by eminent domain for high-pressure gas pipelines and requiring payment of the land use change tax when land is taken by eminent domain to build energy infrastructure and addressed concerns from both the house and senate conferees. The bill, as amended by the senate, completely eliminated mention of eminent domain and current use change tax. After discussion pointing out that the original house bill was actually filed under the wrong statute, and that the provisions included in it would likely meet with preemption by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the reason the senate eliminated that wording became justified. The senate version addressed many siting concerns by setting standards at the state evaluation committee level, which is supported by federal direction. The senate wording had two areas of concern which were addressed. The first was about fire protection funding for small departments along the pipeline and that was covered in other areas of the existing statutes. The second was the ability to require bonding for unforeseen events and wording to that effect was composed and added as an amendment. Eminent domain issues and dealing with current use penalties and qualifications should be addressed in a separate bill filing regardless of their association with gas pipelines. The entire committee agreed.

Rep. James Belanger

HB 577-FN-A-L, establishing a children's savings account program, and relative to the bonding authority of the city of Dover.

The children's savings account program incentivizes students to take advantage of opportunities for college and career success; however, house conferees agreed with the senate position that no state funds shall be used to seed the program. The pilot program shall be funded through gifts, grants, or

donations from local or private philanthropic foundations. Conferees further agreed to require the commission to submit an annual report to house and senate leadership. Secondly, the commission will be required to submit a report regarding program policies before program implementation in pilot locations, Coos County and the City of Manchester. The bill was also amended to include language pursuant to RSA 195-1:3 and RSA 193-E:5, protecting privacy rights of participating students. Lastly, house conferees agreed to an amendment providing the City of Dover authority with respect to issuing bonds or notes, commonly known as general obligation bonds. As with several other cities in NH currently are authorized to issue such bonds, these bonds are unique in that they are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing municipality, and not the state.

Rep. Rick Ladd

HB 599, relative to the economic revitalization zone tax credit program.

The house and senate versions of this bill were identical and agreed to with the exception of allowing part-time employees count proportionally to the tax credit basis. The house version called for the use of full-time equivalents and the senate version simply full-time employees as defined as anyone working at least 35 hours a week. The department of resources and economic development testified that it is rare that businesses bring up part-time employees in their applications. With this, the house acceded to the senate position.

Rep. Patrick Abrami

HB 614-FN, implementing goals of the state 10-year energy strategy, modifying uses of the site evaluation committee fund, establishing fees for energy facility evaluation, and relative to public information sessions on proposed energy siting.

The senate added provisions to HB 614 that establish application fees to be paid by developers that come before the site evaluation committee (SEC) for permission to build energy facilities such as electric transmission lines, natural gas pipelines and power plants, including wind farms. The fees are the same as those proposed by the SEC in a permanent funding plan submitted last December to the governor and the legislature. The SEC developed the proposed plan through a stakeholder process of business and environmental interests and is a consensus proposal. The plan's development was required by SB 245, which was passed last year. SB 245 revamped the SEC statute in numerous ways to make it more responsive to public concerns about proposed projects, including adding two members of the public to the SEC. However, SB 245 did not provide for a permanent method of funding the work of the SEC. That was left as a matter to be settled in this legislative session. The fee provisions added by the senate to HB 614 were in the original version of HB 2, but the house did not have adequate time to fully review them and so they were pulled from HB2 with the thought that they might have a separate public hearing and further review in another venue. The senate energy and natural resources committee subsequently agreed to hold a public hearing on the provisions as a possible amendment to HB 614. Testimony provided at the hearing supported establishing the fees to help fund the important work of the SEC. No opposition was expressed. Thereafter, the senate agreed to add the provisions to the bill. The house conferees feel that it is appropriate for developers to help pay for the costs associated with the SEC's review of their applications, many of which involve lengthy proceedings. This will reduce the burden placed upon ratepayers and public funding sources to pay for these proceedings. The conferees, therefore, agreed to the senate's position on the bill, though with a clarifying amendment that limits any future fee increase or decrease to no more than 20 % per year, with the approval of the fiscal committee. The conferees also do not object to the changes made by the senate to the bill's underlying provisions having to do with implementing the 10-year energy strategy. The senate eliminated the paragraph on decoupling because that matter is being addressed in SB 60, and extending from September 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016 the deadline for the public utilities commission to establish an electricity peak-time reduction goal.

Rep. Herbert Richardson

HB 662-FN-L, relative to property taxes paid by chartered public schools leasing property.

The committee of conference felt that the senate version of the bill allowed more local options and would better stand up to any court challenge if one were to be filed, and unanimously agreed to adopt the senate version.

Rep. Jim Belanger

HB 681-FN-A, establishing a fine for persons convicted of domestic violence and increasing the marriage license fee.

This bill establishes a \$50 fine for persons convicted of domestic violence and increases the marriage license fee by \$5. The house committee of conference members were concerned that indigent or folks

having financial difficulty would possibly be imprisoned for contempt of court for failure to pay the \$50 fine. A joint amendment of both the senate and house keeps the \$50 fine and allows a judge the ability to defer the fine totally or allow for a periodic payment plan to be set up by the court. The house committee of conference conferees concurs with the amendment, as it addresses all concerns brought forward by the house.

Rep. Joe Lachance

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE REPORTS NOT SIGNED OFF

SB 57, relative to the membership and governance of condominium unit owners' associations.

The senate decided to not go forward since they have retained the house version, HB 353, and they would rather wait until they have finished their work on it before passing anything.

Rep. John Hunt

SB 108-FN, relative to health care associated infections.

The house and senate conferees were unable to agree. The senate could not accept the changes made by the house. And, the house members could not accept the wording changes proposed by the senate. Therefore, the conferees were unable to come to an agreement.

Rep. Charles McMahon

SB 255, establishing a committee to study low-wage workers and their effect on the New Hampshire economy.

The senate bill would form a commission on low-wage workers and their effect on the State of New Hampshire. The house was willing to offer a study committee made up of house and senate members with the same charge as was outlined in the original senate bill. The senate would not agree.

Rep. William Infantine

HB 208-FN, relative to allowance sales under the New Hampshire regional greenhouse gas initiative program.

The committee of conference was unable to reach agreement on any compromise language on HB 208. This bill sought to reduce electric rates by increasing the current rebate to ratepayers of RGGI auction proceeds from 80% - 100% (minus administrative costs). The senate amendment actually decreased the rebate amount to 66% while allocating more of it to commercial and industrial users. The senate proposed a compromise that added back in a small rebate to residential customers. The senate proposal used the other 33% of RGGI proceeds for municipal/county/school energy projects and low-income weatherization projects. House conferees have philosophical issues with RGGI, which led to an impasse. House members preferred the current status quo to the senate version. When the senate conferees declined to adopt the house version of the bill, the collective conferees decided to agree to disagree.

Rep. Michael Vose

HB 450, establishing a commission to study and make recommendations for a common definition of employee.

The house position on the bill was to implement a change in the current law. The senate position was to amend the bill to a study committee. The wording of the bill came from an informal study group made up of two department commissioners and many stakeholders. The house was not agreeable to continue studying the issue believing the bill was ready for implementation.

Rep. William Infantine

HB 473, requiring the board of managers of the veterans' home to adopt a policy relative to therapeutic use of cannabis by residents of the home.

The house and senate conferees were unable to reach agreement on this bill. The senate amendment deleted the house version in its entirety and substituted a completely new and unrelated bill (allowing the therapeutic use of cannabis at the home). While the house conferees were willing to accede to the senate addition, the senate would not agree to restore the house provisions of the bill.

Rep. John Sytek

HB 547, requiring the assessing standards board to make recommendations on the valuation of telecommunications poles and conduits and the assessment of utility property.

The house and senate conferees met in good faith to discuss the senate position requiring the assessing standards board to make recommendations on the valuation of telecommunication poles and conduits, and the assignment of utility property. Upon discussing several options to resolve our

differences, including potential modifications to the house position, no compromise could be reached. With that, neither the house nor senate would recede from their respective position.

Rep. Patrick Abrami

BILLS LAID ON TABLE

HB 112, relative to domicile for voting purposes. (Pending question: Ought To Pass)

HB 191, relative to projects which are privately financed in energy efficiency and clean energy districts. (Pending question: Ought To Pass)

HB 241-FN, prohibiting driving while holding an animal in the driver's seat. (Pending question: Ought To Pass)

HB 263, prohibiting residency restrictions on sex offenders. (Pending question: Ought To Pass)

HB 303, relative to statewide assessment standards and relative to parental consent for psychological services to students. (Pending question: Ought To Pass)

HB 349, relative to state buffers for projects requiring wetland permits. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 379, establishing a commission to study the effects of ocean acidification on commercially harvested species. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 446, relative to access to investigational drugs, biological products, and devices. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 457-FN-A, establishing a nurse practitioner position at the veterans' home and making an appropriation therefore. (No pending question)

HB 459, establishing a committee to study medical services provided to residents of the New Hampshire veterans' home. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 461, prohibiting the use or application of foreign laws in the state court. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 496, prohibiting public employers from using criminal history in employment decisions. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 516, relative to the determination of parental rights based on the best interest of the child and relative to grounds for modification of an order regarding parental rights and responsibilities. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 543, repealing the electric renewable portfolio standard. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 551, relative to preventing diversion of business income to tax havens. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 595, relative to banning abortion after viability. (Pending question: Adopt committee amendment 2015-0748h)

HB 646, allowing public bodies or agencies to charge for the costs of retrieval of public records under the right-to-know law. (Pending question: Adopt committee amendment 2015-0753h)

HB 647, exempting convictions for simple assault from an extended term of imprisonment and relative to annulments of certain criminal convictions. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 655, establishing a credit against business profits taxes for motion picture production expenditures in New Hampshire. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HB 676-FN-A, establishing a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics scholars program. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HCR 3, applying to Congress to call a convention of states under the United States Constitution. (Pending question: Adopt committee amendment 2015-0423h)

HR 6, recognizing February 26, 2015, as the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy in Azerbaijan. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate)

HR 12, affirming revenue estimates for fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017. (Pending question: Third reading)

SB 181, relative to registration fees for hunter education programs of the fish and game department. (Pending question: Ought To Pass with Amendment)

SB 240, relative to protecting certified public accountants from prosecution or penalty for providing services to alternative treatment centers. (Pending question: Ought to Pass)

SCR 2, urging Congress to discontinue foreign aid to Argentina until financial disputes are resolved. (Pending question: Ought to Pass)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2), Rooms 305-307, LOB

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION TO STUDY PATHWAYS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 317-A:21-f), Room 102, LOB

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD (RSA 125-O:5-a), PUC Offices, 21 S. Fruit Street, Concord

9:00 a.m. Regular board meeting.

NH-CANADIAN TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-A:2-g), Upham Walker House

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM BOARD (RSA 490-C:1), Room 101, LOB

11:00 a.m. Nonpublic session of the complaint review committee.

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, JUNE 22

COMMISSION TO STUDY SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (RSA 189:69), Room 101, LOB

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION ON DEAFNESS AND HEARING LOSS (RSA 125-Q), Rooms 205, LOB

1:30 p.m. Regular meeting.

OIL FUND DISBURSEMENT BOARD (RSA 146-D:4), Room 305, LOB

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206 LOB

10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on retained bill **HB 249**, relative to the award of alimony and the enforcement of orders under RSA 458.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB

10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on retained bill **SB 155-FN-A**, relative to establishing a recovery fund for victims of the Financial Resources Mortgage (FRM) fraud and continually appropriating a special fund.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

11:00 a.m. Full committee work session on retained bills.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on retained bill **HB 334**, relative to the sale of personally identifiable information by Internet service providers.

11:00 a.m. Full committee work session on retained bill **HB 297**, protecting individual customer data from disclosure by a public utility.

1:00 p.m. Full committee work session on retained bill **HB 626-FN-A**, authorizing energy infrastructure development and designating energy infrastructure corridors.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

COMMISSION ON PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES (RSA 126-T:1), NH Medical Society, 7 North State Street, Concord

2:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2), Rooms 305-307, LOB

9:00 a.m. Continued meeting.

ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a), NH Department of Revenue Administration, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord

9:30 a.m. Regular board meeting.

COMMISSION TO STUDY MENTAL HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 135-C:63-b), Room 205, LOB

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

FISCAL COMMITTEE (RSA 14:30-a), Rooms 210-211, LOB

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY (RSA 12-J:1), Rooms 301-303, LOB

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (RSA 238-A:2), Room 204, LOB

9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

COMMITTEE TO STUDY EXOTIC AQUATIC WEEDS AND SPECIES (RSA 487:30), Room 307, LOB

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 303, LOB

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on retained bill **HB 499**, permitting New Hampshire farmers to sell certain farm-raised animals directly to the public.

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES, Room 307, LOB

10:15 a.m. Full committee work session on retained bills **HB 518**, relative to the authority to establish fees for licenses issued by the fish and game department, **HB 500**, repealing the prohibition on the use of silencing devices for taking wildlife, and **HB 505**, relative to baiting for game birds and game animals by persons with a disability.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on retained bill **HB 143**, relative to electric renewable energy classes.

WELLNESS AND PRIMARY PREVENTION COUNCIL (RSA 126-M:3), Room 205, LOB

1:30 p.m. Regular meeting.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

BOARD OF MANUFACTURED HOUSING (RSA 205-A:25), Room 307, LOB

1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

STATE SUGGESTION AND EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM (RSA 99-E:1, I), Room 101, LOB

9:30 Regular meeting.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2), Rooms 305-307, LOB

9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

COMMISSION ON POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (RSA 115-D:1), Rooms 305-307, LOB

2:30 p.m. Regular meeting.

**LAND AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (RSA 227-M), Grasmere
Town Hall, 86 Center Street, Goffstown**
3:00 p.m. Board of directors regular meeting.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD (RSA 125-O:5-a), PUC
Offices, 21 S. Fruit Street, Concord**
9:00 a.m. Regular board meeting.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM BOARD (RSA 490-C:1), Room 101, LOB
1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 281-A:62), Room 307 LOB
9:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

COUNTY DELEGATION NOTICE

The **Hillsborough** County Delegation will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 22, at 10:00 a.m.** immediately followed by the Hillsborough County Executive Committee at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Rep. Jim Belanger, Clerk
Hillsborough County Executive Committee

COUNTY DELEGATION NOTICE

The **Hillsborough** County Delegation will be meeting on **Tuesday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m.** to approve the FY 2016 budget. At 5:00 p.m. there will be a barbeque.

Rep. Jim Belanger, Clerk
Hillsborough County Executive Committee

COUNTY DELEGATION NOTICE

The Chairman of the **Rockingham** County Convention will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Hilton Auditorium at the Rockingham County Nursing Home in Brentwood. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss Jail Union Contract Cost Items. An Executive Committee meeting will follow.

Rep. David A. Welch, Clerk
Rockingham County Delegation

COUNTY DELEGATION NOTICE

The **Rockingham** County delegation will meet on **Wednesday, June 24, 2015 during session lunch break or after House Session in Representative's Hall.**

Rep. David A. Welch, Clerk
Rockingham County Delegation

REVISED FISCAL NOTES

The following Bills have revised fiscal notes: HBs 25, 177, 197, 208, 215, 221, 267, 305, 354, 357, 364, 476, 477, 563, 577, 578, 596, 600, 606, 609, 614, 619, 622, 626, 628, 629, 630, 632, 634, 635, 638, 639, 642, 648, 649, 651, 654, 655, 656, 658, 661, 662, 663, 665, 667, 668, 669, 671, 672, 673, 674, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 684, 685, SBs 20, 29, 84, 93, 104, 112, 113, 116, 120, 133, 135, 151, 157, 186, 188, 190, 191, 195, 202, 211, 214, 227, 230, 259, 265

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

When the House Clerk's Office is aware of House Members who are hospitalized or homebound by serious illness, we will publish a list of names and addresses as requested.
Rep. Robbie Parsons, 221 Old Wakefield Road, Milton NH 03851-4919. Colleagues who so desire may send cards and greetings to the address listed above.

MEMBERS' NOTICES

The following notices are published in the House record as a courtesy to the member(s) requesting publication. These are not official public notices and will be limited to legislative policy or legislative social activities and political meetings or events. Publication should not be construed as support for either the events listed or the views espoused by the individual or organization sponsoring the event.

All interested members of the General Court are invited to the first meeting of the nonpartisan NextGen Caucus to discuss issues affecting the next generation of NH citizens and legislators. While geared toward the younger generation, participation is not based on age. The meeting will be informal and, weather permitting, members will have the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor setting. Murphy's Taproom, 494 Elm St., Manchester, **Saturday, June 20th at 2:00 p.m.**

Reps. Adam R. Schroadter, Elizabeth Edwards, Joshua Whitehouse, Travis Bennett, Yvonne Dean-Bailey

The Children's Caucus will have an organizational meeting on **Tuesday, June 23rd at noon** in Room 206, LOB. All interested representatives are invited to attend.

Rep. Skip Berrien

As the legislative session draws to a close, proposals to reduce business taxes remain at the forefront of public debates. On Tuesday, June 23, Michael Mazerov, Senior Fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and a nationally-recognized expert on state tax policy, will be in Concord to examine the relationship between taxes and economic growth, explore the impact business tax cuts have had in other states, and discuss the effect tax cuts can have on states' ability to invest in education, infrastructure, and other areas vital to a vibrant economy. This event will be held **Tuesday, June 23, from 12-1:30 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ordway Hall, located at 21 Centre Street, Concord, NH. A light lunch will be provided.** To reserve your seat, please RSVP by 5 pm on Friday, June 19 to events@nhfpi.org. This event is hosted by the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute. To learn more, call 603-856-8337.

Rep. Steve Shurtleff

The Antrim and Hillsborough Democratic Town Committees invite you to join us for our Blue BBQ on **Saturday, June 27th, from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** at Firemen's Field, Henniker Street, Hillsborough. Please come for a fun-filled afternoon of food, music, and politics! Harvard professor, Lawrence Lessing, founder of the NH Rebellion, is the featured speaker, and we may be visited by a presidential candidate or two! Tickets are \$15 each, \$8 for children under 12, with a \$40 maximum per family. For tickets please call 464-4289.

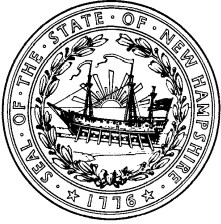
Reps. Gilman Shattuck, Richard McNamara, Marjorie Porter

Fellow Legislators: You have the opportunity to recommend a young person for the Legislative Youth Advisory Council. The council is a statutory committee with the mission of advising legislators about issues of concern to youth. The age to be a member is from 15 to 22. Higher education students need to be going to school in New Hampshire. Please contact Rep. Carolyn Gargas with your recommendations at carolyn.gargas@leg.state.nh.us or 465-7463.

Rep. Carolyn Gargas

The House Republican Alliance will meet **Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. in LOB 204** to discuss legislation.
All Republican Representatives are welcome.

Reps. Carol McGuire, Bill Ohm, Leon Rideout



HOUSE RECORD

First Year of the 164th General Court Calendar and Journal of the 2015 Session

Vol. 37 Concord, N.H.

Friday, June 19, 2015

No. 43A

Contains: Committee of Conference Statements for HB 1 & HB 2, Updated Meeting Notice

ADDENDUM TO HOUSE CALENDAR NO. 43 COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE STATEMENT

HB 1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

This bill is the state's budget for the next two fiscal years. The committee of conference believes it achieves two important objectives: it meets the state's responsibilities to provide important public services at responsible levels to its citizens, and it provides encouragement for businesses to start and grow here and offer the state's citizens an increasing number of good jobs. The budget is balanced using house-estimated revenues from current revenue sources: there are no new or increased taxes or fees in this budget. It appropriates \$11.352 billion in total funds for the next biennium, up 5% from the \$10.797 billion appropriated in the current biennium. Included in that total are \$2.843 billion in general (tax-generated) funds, up 7% from the \$2.657 billion appropriated in the current biennium. No dedicated funds were "raided" in the process. For the first time in nine years, the so-called "rainy day" fund is increased, more than doubling from its current \$9.3 million level to over \$24 million. This should reassure investors, help sustain the state's relatively high bond rating and keep its interest costs low. Some highlights of the budget: education stabilization grants will be provided in FY 17 at 96% of their current level, up from 90% in the House-passed budget. The limit, or "cap," on adequacy aid to growing school districts has been increased from its current 108% to 160% and the number of towns subject to it will decrease from 44 to 10. The cap is removed entirely in FY 18. Starting in FY 17, charter schools will receive an additional \$1,000 per pupil in state adequacy aid adjusted annually for inflation. The community college system is fully funded and should be able to freeze its tuition for the next biennium; the university system is level funded at \$81 million per year. Health and human services received higher funding in this budget than in any prior one - \$4.449 billion, up 8% from the \$4.106 billion in the current budget. Funding has been restored for elderly services, including meals on wheels, services for veterans, the developmentally disabled (including family support and early intervention), and the mentally ill, the latter at levels that meet the requirements of a legal settlement. The 40,000 people served by the expanded Medicaid program will continue to receive their 100%-federally-funded health coverage through December 31, 2016, as provided for in current law. No provisions were made in the budget for the program to continue beyond that termination date. Provisions were made for the Sununu Youth Services Center to reduce its excessively high per-child operating costs. Funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment has been increased by 49.5%, from \$28.3 million in the current biennium to \$42.3 million in the next, to help deal with the steady increase in the number of individuals affected. The increased funding will support a new substance abuse benefit that has been added to the traditional Medicaid program. A 5% rate increase was granted to providers of long-term care in the community, including personal care aides, home health aides, home nursing services and homemaker services. Transportation department services are funded at \$1.172 billion, up 8% from the \$1.089 billion in the current budget, more than sufficient to maintain and improve state roads and bridges and provide their winter maintenance without personnel reductions. Low-interest-rate funding from the federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act helped make this possible. Of the \$9 million made available for new equipment, \$5 million of long-lived items, such as graders and boom cranes, will be bonded. The department of safety saw a 9%

increase in its budget, largely through the substitution of general for highway funds. The department's budget is now in compliance with the statutory limit on the percentage of gas tax revenue that can be used to support it. The fish and game fund received a \$1.2 million infusion from the general fund. Municipalities will receive the larger highway block grants anticipated from the recent 4.2c increase in the gas tax as well as state aid grants. They will also receive larger amounts from a \$5 million increase in their rooms and meals tax distribution in FY 17 for a total of \$132.6 million over the biennium. Grants for clean water and landfill closure projects are preserved. The cap on county-paid long-term care services was raised by the usual percentage each year, while the 25% reduction in bed-tax payments to county and private nursing homes in the house budget was eliminated. Municipalities entitled to flood control payments will receive them from the state should they otherwise remain unpaid or partially paid. An additional superior court judge was authorized for the judicial branch. Travel and tourism promotion is level-funded for the next biennium. Solid support is provided for the Innovation Research Center, the Small Business Development Center and the Office of International Commerce. Thirty-five unfunded positions in the department of corrections were funded. There is no funding for the operation of the new women's prison, which is not expected to open before the end of the next biennium. The liquor commission is required to meet its revenue estimates or suffer a 5% decrease in its next year's appropriation. Retired state employees' health insurance premiums are not increased. Importantly, the budget reduces business taxes over the next five years. This affects companies that provide 95% of the private sector jobs in the state. The Business Profits Tax will drop from 8.5% to 7.9%, and the Business Enterprise Tax will drop from .75% to .675%. The anticipated revenue loss for the next biennium has been reflected in adjusted revenue estimates. A \$5 million increase in the research and development tax credit will begin in FY 18. Over time, these changes should make New Hampshire more business friendly and more competitive with the other New England states whose taxes are lower. No agreement was reached on the implementation of Keno, and it is not included in the budget, nor was funding for the state employees' labor contract. Despite that, over half of the state's employees will receive roughly 4% step increases during the next biennium under the continuing "evergreen" provisions of the current contract.

Rep. Neal Kurk

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

This bill, known as the "trailer bill," contains the statutory provisions necessary to implement the provisions of the state budget (HB 1-A).

Rep. Neal Kurk

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015

FISCAL COMMITTEE (RSA 14:30-a), Rooms 210-211, LOB

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

10:30 a.m. AUDITS: Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation, Cannon Mountain, Financial Audit Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014