



MAJORITY REPORT

Volume 1 Issue 3

February 4, 2005

From the desk of the Majority Leader.....

On January 26th, the House of Representatives defeated an amendment to House Rule 45(c). This rule would permit a motion from the floor substituting an alternative to the committee recommendation. There has been a motion for reconsideration of this amendment and it is likely that this issue may come up again on February 9th. We urge you to vote NO on reconsideration of this amendment.



**VOTE NO
on HR45(c)**

The Majority Office strongly believes the present system is a more orderly process. Every member has an opportunity to be heard when the majority report is considered first. You also have an opportunity to offer an amendment to improve the bill if the majority report does not prevail.

The Majority Office also believes in the strength of the committee system and the work that they do in holding public hearings, researching the subject material, offering amendments if necessary, voting and presenting their final report. It is important that we maintain a strong committee system.

We believe in this process and in maintaining the strength of the committee. We believe the committee's recommendation should be voted on prior to taking up any other motion. The vote on January 26th to defeat the amendment was by the slimmest of

Upcoming Events.....



- Chairmen and Vice Chairmen meet on **Tues., Feb. 8th** at 9 am in Rooms 201-203.
- There will be Republican caucuses on **Wed., Feb. 9th** at 8:45 am, to discuss Wed/Thur session days and 12:15 pm to discuss legislation.
- The House will meet on **Wed., Feb. 9th** at 1:00 pm.
- The House will meet in Joint Session with the Senate on **Tues., Feb. 15th** at 10 am to hear the budget message from Gov. Lynch.
- The Majority Office will hold its first social of the session **Wed., Feb. 23rd** at 4 pm at the State Library.



Check out the Majority Office website at: **www.nhousegop.com**

The calendar of events is updated on a daily basis on the website...You will also be able to check out current weather in Concord, road conditions and the latest Majority Report.

margins (162-161), and therefore your attendance and vote on February 9th is crucial.

We encourage you to attend this session and help the Majority Office sustain its position. If you have any questions between now and February 9th, please contact Majority Leader Mike O'Neil or Majority Whip Pam Price at the Majority Office at 271-3378 or 271-3356.



The Majority Office **SUPPORTS** the Committee Reports on the following bills:

HB 49

The bill would establish an independent legislative redistricting commission for both the House and Senate, which would then be considered by the legislature. The Election Law committee voted 12-4 ITL. We **support** the Majority Report because:

- It is the responsibility of the legislature to develop and propose redistricting plans.
- It would add another layer to the already complicated process of redistricting.
- It would be inappropriate to bind future legislatures.

CACR 3

Under this constitutional amendment, any income tax revenue would go to education. The Ways & Means committee voted ITL, 17-2. We **support** the committee report because:

- The U.S. Constitution should not be used as a referendum for an income tax.
- This is an attempt to make an income tax more palatable to the public.
- Future legislatures should not be hamstrung by the Constitution to use any tax for a particular purpose.

HB 67

This bill would prohibit excessive overpricing of essential commodities during a declared emergency. The Commerce committee voted 18-2 ITL, but it could be pulled from the consent calendar. We **support** the committee report because:

- The Attorney General’s office has not received any complaints of price gouging.
- Only two states of emergency have been declared in NH in limited areas since 1998.

CACR 4

This would provide that a 3/5 vote is required to pass or increase any tax. The Ways & Means committee voted ITL, 16-3. We **support** the committee report because:

- The “one man-one vote” rule should apply to the taxation policies of the State.
- No evidence has been presented showing that the legislature has been reckless in setting tax rates. NH has the lowest per capita taxes of any state.

HB 210 FN

This bill would reduce the number of years of absence from service from 7 years to 2 years before retirement contributions are returned. The ED&A committee voted 12-6 OTP, with an amendment. We **support** the committee report because:

- Two years is sufficient for maternity leave and/or education purposes.
- Accumulated contributions would be returned after a 2 year period of absence rather than 7 years.
- The amendment merely changes the implementation date to 6/30/06.

CACR 9

This would provide that a 2/3 vote is required to pass a new tax or to increase a tax and that the maximum increase in any budget shall be limited by the rates of inflation and population growth. The Ways & Means committee voted ITL, 17-2. We **support** the committee report because:

- A large increase in inflation would justify a corresponding increase in spending.
- It would require a 2/3 vote of “those elected” and with a number of representatives absent on a day a vote was taken it would force greater than a 2/3 vote of those attending.

HB 238 FN

Establish procedures for the use of medical marijuana under a physician’s supervision. The HHS&EA committee voted 14-5 ITL. It could be pulled from the consent calendar. We **support** the committee report because:

- The FDA has approved the use of a component of marijuana (T.H.C), which is available as Marinol.
- NH law enforcement officials believe that it would promote illegal drug use.



Please vote to **SUPPORT** the committee reports!