

MAJORITY REPORT

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

The committees of conference have finally concluded their work and it's time now for the members of the House to vote to agree or disagree with their conference reports. It is also a time when we, as Republicans, must stick together on a number of bills that deal with many of our core Republican issues. House Republicans on the committees of conference remained steadfast in their support of the House position on many issues—often compromising while remaining protective of our Republican values. I ask you to listen closely on Wednesday and then please vote to support the conference committee reports.

Unfortunately, there were a number of bills that were killed in conference because attempts were made to attach **non-germane** amendments to the legislation. "Politics is the art of compromise," to be sure, but the House is also guided by a set of rules when it comes to a committee of conference. **HCR 11**, establishing joint rules for committees of conference for the 2005 and 2006 sessions of the New Hampshire general court, is very specific when it comes to adding amendments.

According to HCR 11, "*a committee of conference may neither change the title of any bill submitted nor add amendments which are **not** germane to the subject matter of the bill as originally submitted to the committee of conference. For the purpose of this rule, a **non-germane** amendment is any subject matter not contained in either the House or the Senate version of the bill.*" In cases where a member of the committee insisted on adding an amendment that violated House rules, the legislation failed.

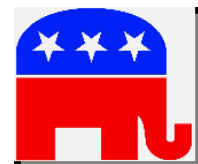
There are three bills coming out of committee of conference that the Majority Office is whipping for the House Session on Wednesday. We urge

you to take a close look at our talking points in this Majority Report and then support the conference committee reports.

I would like to personally thank those of you who represented the House on a committee of conference and who worked hard to reach compromise with our counterparts in the Senate. As we approach the close of another session, I want all of you to know that it has been a pleasure to work with members of the Republican caucus as your Majority Leader. Please feel free to call upon the Majority Office this summer for assistance in gathering information for your re-election campaigns. It is very important that we maintain and grow the Republican Majority in the House. Have a great safe summer. Thanks again for all of your hard work!

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HB 1331

Relative to the New Hampshire Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs

The Majority Office **SUPPORTS** the Committee of Conference report because:

- NH must meet a 50% level in order to move TANF recipients to the work place or the state will experience a significant loss in Federal funds. This bill will bring NH into federal compliance.
- This bill gives people financial incentives (including transportation and childcare programs) to get back to work before their five year TANF benefit period ends.
- This bill also establishes a committee to work with HHS in establishing the new welfare-to-work program and gives HHS the authority to provide oversight of TANF.
- “Encouraging economic growth while giving our citizens the best opportunities to excel in NH jobs” falls within the 2006 Republican Legislative priorities.

HB 1752

Requiring notice with regard to the classifications of employee and independent contractor.

The Majority Office **SUPPORTS** the Committee of Conference report because:

- The bill solidifies definitions of independent contractors in New Hampshire statutes.
- The bill fixes several technical problems, including setting fines for employers who encourage employees to commit workers compensation fraud.
- The added form that an independent contractor may sign will be used as another tool by the Department of Labor when investigating a complaint regarding independent contractor status.
- The bill adds a requirement that filings for workers compensation by independent contractors remain confidential. This will protect any independent contractor from having his/her private information used for political or other reasons by any outside party.
- This bill was requested by the Department of Labor and the amendment of the conference committee has the department’s support.

SB 403

Relative to verification of identity when a person registers or attempts to vote.

The Majority Office **SUPPORTS** the Committee of Conference report because:

- This bill requires an identification to vote in general elections in NH. Without an ID, a person may still sign the affidavit with a valid address.
- It provides the Secretary of State with the authority to send out a letter to verify the address that has been given by the voter.
- If the letter, sent by the Secretary of State, is returned or proven to be incorrect, it is then turned over to the Attorney General’s office for further investigation.
- The bill was requested by the Secretary of State’s office.