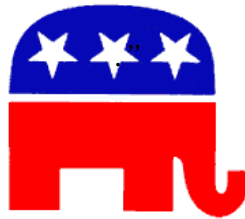


Republican Report

“The most terrifying words in the English language are: I’m from the government and I’m here to help.”
Ronald Reagan



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A message from the Republican Leader.....

The Democrats in the New Hampshire House just don’t get it—or at least the vast majority of them don’t. Even when we hand them opportunities to correct their mistakes of the past three years on a silver platter, they choose to ignore them.

On Wednesday we gave Democrats a chance to do the right thing for a change and return meals and rooms revenues to our cities and towns through the passage of **HB 1128**. I am proud to say that all 164 House Republicans who were present did the right thing and voted to return the money to our municipalities and, by doing so, avoid renegeing on a promise that we made to voters. I welcome the 25 Democrats who “saw the light” and joined us in our attempt to alleve at least a small portion of the \$131 Million in downshifting they created in the last budget. Now it is up to our colleagues in the Senate to carry the fight in that chamber to return meals and rooms tax revenues to NH cities and towns.

Later in the day, we attempted to restore \$25M in revenue sharing to the taxpayers of this state through **HB 1274**. Unfortunately only nine Democrats joined 163 Republicans in an attempt to overturn the ITL and send that bill over to the Senate.

These were two golden opportunities for the majority party to correct their wrongs—and they failed miserably. It is up to us to remind the voters during the fall campaign of how the Democrats turned their backs on them, not once, but twice on the issue of downshifting.

Common Courtesy

We continue to witness examples of the lack of respect for members of the House. Refusing to sit a replacement for a committee member unless they have been ill for at least five days; forcing a member to write a blurb before they are allowed to leave the committee room or disallowing a blurb altogether for no apparent good reason; not giving a member the courtesy of being able to divide a bill on the floor; or overlooking a request for a roll call vote are all examples of the lack of decorum that has taken place in the House this session. These types of transgressions will not be tolerated when we return to the majority in November.

End Run by Education Chair

Here’s another example that we can put under the title of “Transparency in Government.” The chair of the Education Committee chose to ignore the “will of the House” following a substantial vote (324-34) to kill legislation that would have required a parent who is providing a home education program to include, as part of the notification process, a written statement affirming that the home education program would contain instruction in certain subjects as defined in law.

While the House sought fit to leave the home schooling issue alone, the chair of education sent a letter, on committee letterhead, to the Chairman of the NH State Board of Education, John Lyons, claiming that “many members have grown concerned about the level of accountability for home education



Go Figure

25

Percent increase in General Fund spending by the Democrats since they took control.

131

Millions dollars were **DOWNSHIFTED** by the Democrats to the cities and towns.

50

or more taxes and fees have been either raised or created by the Democrats.

200

million dollars in one-time money used by the Dems to balance the budget.

45-50

more House seats we need to win in November to begin cleaning up their mess!
LET US KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO RUN AGAIN!

—continued on page 2



—Message

continued from page one

programs.” It was totally inappropriate for the education chair to attempt to represent the entire committee and a majority of the House by suggesting changes to the rules procedure. I have since written a letter to Chairman Lyons reminding him that the letter sent by Rep. Rous, and eight other members of the Education committee, ignored a long-standing policy that administrative rules are not changed without legislative guidance issued by a vote of the entire House, not just a minority of one committee.

Special Election

With former Rep. John Tholl’s primary win in Coos District 2, we are a step closer to taking another seat in the House and keeping our winning streak alive at the same time. Marilinda Garcia, Lynne Blankenbeker, Ken Weyler, and Steve Cunningham all won their special elections thanks to your support. The special election in Coos will take place on March 9. If you would like to help in any way, contact B.J. Perry at party headquarters (bj@nhgop.org).

The special election for Senate District 16 will be held on February 16. Given the amount of money that the Democrats are pouring into this campaign, Rep Boutin can still use any assistance that you can give between

now and election day.

He would also like to invite fellow Republicans to an “Election Night Gathering” at Theo’s Pizza Restaurant & Lounge, 102 Elm St., Manchester after the polls have closed. With your help, it will be a victory party!

Loss of a friend and colleague

It was with great sadness this week that we learned of the passing of our colleague and friend, George Katsakiores of Derry, who was serving his 14th term in the House. He was a true gentleman-legislator who transcended politics when it came to dealing with fellow law-makers and he will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Phyllis and their family.

Moving Forward

If you have a bill that you intend on debating on the floor and would like leadership support or help, please let us know in advance. Due to the heavy load of bills in the next few weeks, we can’t afford to wait until the last minute to organize a debate.

Our next caucus will be held on Wednesday, February 10 at 8:45 a.m. in Rooms 305-07 of the LOB. I hope to see you all there.

Legislative Update

Commerce

HB 1309-FN—requiring insurance coverage for infertility treatments. (Oppose)

Election Law

HB 1319—relative to single member representative districts. (Oppose)

HB 1608—relative to general election candidates for offices that elect more than one person. (Oppose)

HB 1528—relative to observing voter check-in. (Oppose)

Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs

HB 1438—relative to a patient’s right to know regarding charges for health care. (Support)

HB 1550-FN-L—requiring substance abuse treatment drugs to be available to emergency medical providers when responding to emergencies in all emergency medical vehicles. (Oppose)

State-Federal Relations & Veterans’ Affairs

HB 1568-FN-L—relative to the definition of wars and conflicts for the purpose of determining eligibility for public assistance payments for burial expenses of veterans. (Support)

HB 1625—relative to eligibility for the New Hampshire veterans home. (Support)

Ways & Means

HB 1291-FN—relative to the fuel oil importation fee. (Oppose)