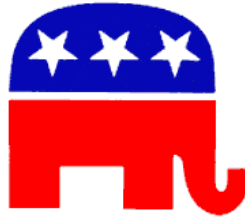


Republican Report

“Republicans were put on the Earth for one purpose: to cut taxes.”

—Robert Novak



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February 8, 2008

A message from the Republican Leader.....

I would like to welcome the newest member to our Republican caucus, Chris Nevins of Hampton, who was victorious this week in the special election held in Rockingham, District 15. I would also like to thank those of you who took the time to help Chris in his successful election bid. He will be sworn in before the Governor and Executive Council on Wednesday, February 13 at 10:00 a.m and will then join us in the House for session.

Last Wednesday, Democrats in the House once again attempted to pass a regressive sales tax on to the citizens of New Hampshire. Last year it was a tax on milk; this time around it's a tax on bottles (**HB 503**) through an amendment on a bill to establish a solid waste management fund. Fortunately the bill was killed, but we must continue to hold their feet to the fire when it comes to new taxes and additional spending.

CACR24, a constitutional amendment that would “prohibit a new tax, levied *directly or indirectly*, upon a person's income, from whatever source it is derived,” will be coming to the floor of the House this week. As it is written, it would also include such taxes as Capital Gains and the Interest and Dividends Tax. If the committee report of ITL is defeated, we ask you to carefully study an amendment that will be offered by Rep. Bettencourt which will bring more clarity to this legislation. Under his amendment, “no new tax shall be levied, directly or indirectly upon a person's personal income.” This would prohibit the State from adopting an income tax at anytime in the future.

Democrats are also attempting to pass a new tax on cigars through **HB 1309**. The bill came out of the Ways & Means committee in a partisan vote of OTP, 11-6. This legislation clearly represents a **new tax** and would adversely affect sales at stores along the New Hampshire border, the very same stores which have already been hurt by two huge cigarette tax increases in the past

two bienniums. Since so few of these so-called mini-cigars are sold, the benefit to the State would be less than \$1M. We ask you to oppose the committee report and **support** the minority report of **ITL** when the bill comes to the floor on Wednesday.

On Tuesday the 12th the Education committee will hear **HB 1330**, which will remove the ability of a school district to not renew a teacher's contract. The bill could have a far-reaching and devastating impact on local control. We are concerned about this bill and we hope that you take a close look at it.

On Thursday, February 14, the Judiciary committee will hold a public hearing on **HB 1495**, relative to parental notification. This bill, based on the constitutional *Casey Decision*, would restore the parental notification law and add a medical emergency exception to that law. It would also afford the pregnant minor 24-hour access to a judge for waiver of notification. We ask that you take a moment to attend the public hearing and sign-in (Rm. 208, 11:00 a.m.), in support of parental notification.

Also on Thursday, the Ways & Means committee will hold a public hearing on Governor Lynch's North

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Important Dates

Wed., Feb. 13—Republican Caucus-9AM,
Rooms 305-07, LOB
House Session-10AM

Mon., Feb. 18—Presidents' Day-State House
and LOB, closed.

Wed., Feb. 20—Republican Caucus-9AM,
Rooms 305-07, LOB
House Session-10AM

—Message

Country tax credit which would offer employers in Coos County a \$1,000 credit for the creation of any job that pays twice the state's minimum wage for up to five years. It is interesting that the governor, in his State of the State address, pledged to oppose any new state spending, while at the same time proposing a new subsidy for the North Country—a move that clearly breaks his own vow. While we realize the need to help our citizens in the north, we must be mindful of the financial crises that we are currently facing. Any subsidy that will potentially take money from the state's General Fund must be studied very carefully.

If you have legislation that you would like leadership to support, or you would like fellow Republicans to sign-in

on, either in support or opposition, please let us know. Each week in the Republican Report we have taken the time to list those bills that we have taken a position on during the public hearings and we will continue this process through the session.

I hope to see a good turnout at our next caucus on Wednesday.



Legislative Update

During the past week, leadership has signed-in, testified and taken a position on a number of bills being heard in committee. Here is a complete list of those bills:

Commerce

HB 1195—relative to health care provider reimbursement for services to patients without health insurance. (**oppose**)

HB 1602—relative to dependent health insurance coverage. (**support**)

HB 1608—requiring insurance coverage for colorectal screening for adults in New Hampshire. (**oppose**)

Education

CACR 29—relating to education. Providing that the recognition of local control of education in the New Hampshire constitution is reestablished. (**support**)

HB 1281—prohibiting public schools from requiring health insurance as a condition of enrollment. (**support**)

Executive Department & Administration

HB 1643—relative to medical benefits payment by the retirement system for eligible group I teachers and political subdivision employees in the retirement system. (**support**)

Finance

HB 924—relative to the deconstruction of buildings. (**oppose**)

Judiciary

HB 1252—limiting civil liability of liquified petroleum gas providers under certain circumstances. (**support**)

Labor

HB 1364—relative to public employee collective bargaining negotiations under the public employee labor relations act. (**oppose**)

HB 1436—relative to requiring inclusion of an automatic continuation clause in collectively bargained agreements with public employees. (**oppose**)

HB 1469—relative to public employee terms of employment, bargaining units, and dispute resolution. (**oppose**)

Municipal & County

HB 1205—relative to the recall of selectmen. (**oppose**)

Science, Technology & Energy

HB 1460—requiring the public utilities commission provide cost recovery for construction of generation assets by Public Service Company of New Hampshire. (**support**)

Ways & Means

HB 1512—relative to disposition of motor vehicle fines. (**oppose**)