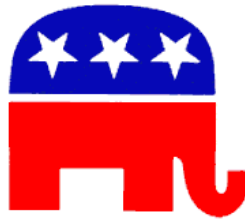


# Republican Report

*"It is best that laws should be so constructed as to leave as little as possible to the decision of those who judge."*

—Aristotle

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## *A message from the Republican Leader.....*

I'd like to thank our members who have expressed a concern about the Republican viewpoint not being visible in the media throughout this session. I am including an advance copy of an opinion piece that we sent out on Friday from our office. As you will read, it holds the governor accountable for what is a **\$150M** budget deficit problem and NOT the \$50M that he discussed in his state of the state address on Wednesday.

It has been difficult over the past many months in getting the exposure that is deserved by our caucus, but it certainly isn't for lack of trying. We have sent out dozens of press releases only to have them not appear; we have sent many op-eds and letters to the editor that have shown up. We took advantage of an excellent opportunity on Wednesday after the governor delivered his state of the state address. Along with myself, Representatives Chandler and Kurk went immediately into the hallway and were interviewed by WMUR, NECN and several major newspapers. We received what I think was very good coverage, hitting home on the facts that the governor certainly needs to realize his deficit projections are \$100 million off base, he needs to work with his own party in getting a constitutional amendment passed and that our party is unified in the message of no spending increases, no new fees or taxes. It is time to make the tough choices, a 17.5% budget increase was certainly not taking the harder path, and that will be a major reason the voters will look to us as the alternative in November.

Once again I would like to encourage you to write letters, make calls and inform your constituents about what is going on here in Concord. Rep. David Boutin wrote an excellent letter to the editor last week that was published in the Union Leader. If we can help you with the distribution of any letter or op-ed piece, please contact our office. Also, please get a copy of your article to us and we will be glad to share it with the rest of the caucus.

We have a short session this week with a few Republican positions, and I hope that we can stick together as much as possible. I know we won't always agree on specific pieces of legislation, but it is our theme of less regulations, lower spending, and making New Hampshire a better place to work and live that we must focus on and I believe that is something with which we can all agree. We will have another Republican Caucus this Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in Rooms 305-07 of the Legislative Office Building. I hope to see you all there. As always, please do not hesitate to call the Republican Office or touch base with me if I can be of assistance to you.

### **House Session Days**

" **January 30th**

" **February 6th**

*(all sessions-10:00 a.m.)*

**Republican Caucus**  
**9 a.m., Rms 305-07, LOB**

*Mike*

## **Governor Lynch Fails to Go Far Enough**

Governor Lynch managed to paint a rosy picture about the future of New Hampshire in his State of the State address before the legislature this week. And while we agree that New Hampshire is, "a strong state, with a solid foundation upon which to build," there is still much work to be done to prevent the financial crisis that Republicans have been warning about since last spring.

The governor needs to realize that Republicans are more than willing to reach across the aisle and work together with him to erase the growing state deficit, but first he must be willing to admit that the problem we are facing is much larger than the one he talked about in his address. By admitting to a **\$50M** deficit this week, Gov. Lynch took an important first step, but he did not nearly go far enough. The problem is more like a **\$150M** problem. In fact, even his own department heads, appearing before the House Ways & Means committee, predicted revenue shortfalls of anywhere between \$140M and \$195M for the biennium. As far back as last spring Rep. Norm Major, a veteran of the House Ways & Means Committee and former Chairman, was warning of a "Perfect Storm" should the Democrat-controlled House accept the inflated revenue projections in support of the state's first \$10 billion

—continued on page 2

—*Op-Ed* (cont. from page one)

budget—projections that he believed then were overly optimistic and unsustainable. To compound the problem, in June revenue estimates were artificially raised by close to \$40M, to give the *appearance* of a balanced budget. Rep. Major's warning fell on deaf ears, the inflated revenue figures were accepted, the General Fund expenditures were increased by 17.5%, and now the state is facing a real crisis.

The governor would have you believe that economic forecasters were not predicting the severity of the situation that the nation is currently facing at the time the state budget was being crafted. However, there were clearly a number of economic indicators that were identified last spring by Rep. Norm Major that supported the prediction that revenue streams would continue to falter, setting the state up for a financial crisis.

The governor would also have you believe that revenues for the first six months of the fiscal year are coming in close to their projected levels. What he failed to tell you was that his figures ignore **\$18M** in onetime money, **\$5M** in funds not dispersed, and **\$5.7M** due to the timing of January securities receipts. Projecting the current deficit out to the end of the biennium could result in a deficit as high as **\$165M**—despite these facts, he still holds to the belief that the budget shortfall is **\$50M**.

By recognizing that there is a deficit and by pledging to withhold support for any future spending bills, the governor has taken an important first step. We are ready to work with Governor Lynch to take the next step and make the necessary moves to eliminate the potential \$150M deficit and put the budget back into balance. It is time to face reality and deal with the larger deficit before the taxpayer of this State has to suffer further.

## 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 1296**—relative to health insurance coverage in the event of divorce or legal separation (**support**).

**HB 1514**—establishing the New Hampshire state health investment program corporation and continually appropriating a special fund. (**opposed**).

**HB 1571**—relative to inspection of construction or alteration of publicly accessible buildings for compliance with accessibility standards, and making an appropriation therefor. (**opposed**).

### Criminal Justice

**HB 1567**—permitting the possession of marijuana in certain quantities (**opposed**).

**HB 1559**—requiring home confinement for certain drug possession crimes (**opposed**).

**HB 1623**—relative to penalties for possession of marijuana (**opposed**).

### Education

**HB 1390**—relative to educational improvement and accountability (**opposed**).

**HB 1483**—requiring instruction in Internet safety (**support**).

**HB 1504**—directing New Hampshire to withdraw from the No Child Left Behind Act (**opposed**).

### Election Law

**HB 1616**—relative to financial aid for students losing aid due to registering to vote (**opposed**).

### Environment & Agriculture

**HB 503**—amendment # 2603H (**opposed**).

**HB 1143**—relative to penalties for failure to provide outdoor dogs with necessary shelter (**opposed**).

**HB 1314**—relative to animal cruelty (**opposed**).

### Executive Department & Administration

**HB 1462**—establishing the office of personal financial education in the treasury (**opposed**).

### Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs

**HB 1615**—relative to the rural health and primary care program administered by the department of health and human services and making an appropriation therefor (**opposed**).

### Judiciary

**HB 1624**—relative to a one day/one trial jury duty pilot program (**opposed**).

### Municipal and County Government

**HB 1269**—authorizing local governing bodies to place certain properties on a conservation priority list and requiring owners of land designated as conservation priority land to notify the municipality before offering the land for sale (**opposed**).

**HB 1472**—relative to workforce housing (**opposed**).

### Ways & Means

**HB 1334**—increasing the fee for a tobacco products retailer's license, establishing a tobacco use prevention and cessation program fund, and designating the increase to such fund (**opposed**).

**HB 1510**—redefining tobacco products and increasing the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes (**opposed**).

**HB 1547**—repealing a fee charged by the registry of deeds (**support**).

**HB 1574**—increasing the beer tax (**opposed**).