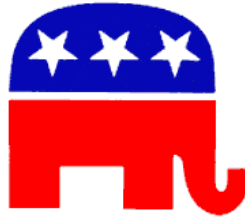


# Republican Report

“Government is not the solution to our problem. Government is the problem.”

—Ronald Reagan



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January 30, 2009

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

We face another busy week in the House and it's very important that we keep the lines of communication open at a time when so many bills are being heard in committee. The Tuesday caucuses have been well attended and will continue throughout the session. These meetings afford us an excellent opportunity for a discussion of the current issues as well as a healthy exchange of ideas.

I realize that some committees are still meeting on Tuesdays at 3 p.m., so to accommodate those hearings I have moved the starting time of the caucus back a half-hour, to 3:30 p.m. This should allow everyone a chance to finish up their committee work in time to join us for the caucus. It is very important to stay and finish up in your committee before joining us because the work that you do there is of primary importance. Hopefully by starting the caucus thirty minutes later than we have been it will allow for you to attend those committee hearings and still make it to part of our caucus in Representatives Hall. The Wednesday morning caucus, prior to the House Session will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Rooms 305-07 of the Legislative Office Building (LOB).

Thanks to Mother Nature we did not get the opportunity to vote on **HB 30** last week so it will appear once

again on this week's calendar. We encourage everyone in our caucus to support the Finance Committee's report (OTP/A, 25-0). While this is certainly not the answer to our deficit problems, it is a good first step. Although it does reduce the budget deficit by \$16.25M, Rep. Norm Major reminds us that it will still leave New Hampshire with a deficit of \$65M. There are still a lot of hard decisions to be made in the next few months and I look forward to what solutions Gov. Lynch will bring to us in his Budget Address on February 12.

The bill also requires a *reduction in spending* by both the legislative branch (\$700,000) and the judicial branch (\$441,000). You'll recall that it was *over spending* and *over inflated revenue figures* by the Democrats last session that got us into financial trouble to begin with and we will continue to support measures that cut spending. We also remained opposed to any increase in taxes or fees.

**HB 30** puts into state law a current federal rule concerning Medicaid reimbursement for outpatient hospital services. The purpose is to limit the ability of a hospital to add a hospital facilities fee on top of the basic service delivery fee for a service that could be delivered in an

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## **HB 30**

requiring operating budget reductions for fiscal year 2009, **OTP/A, 25-0.**

We support the Finance committee report of OTP/A because:

- While it does not go far enough in dealing with the deficit, it is a step in the right direction.
- It reduces our current deficit by \$16.5M.
- \$1.75M in General Fund monies that were transferred to the Highway Fund will be returned to the General Fund.
- The Judicial Branch will be required to *reduce spending* by \$441,000.
- The Legislative Branch will be required to *reduce spending* by \$700,000.
- The Finance committee was able to “sweep” \$6.6M in excess monies from several dedicated funds with no serious impact on services.



—Message

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outpatient setting. The Finance Committee also agreed to undertake an in-depth analysis of this issue and has asked the Department of Health and Human Services and the Hospital Association to provide data in which the principal parties agree on the cost and savings of the implementation of such a rule, the list of the specific hospitals affected by such a rule. This will give us a better idea of the impact on hospitals and the Medicaid program. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates the savings to the state for the remainder of the fiscal year '09 will be \$1M.

Recently, you may have begun hearing from your local hospitals about the Medicare/Medicaid issue under **HB 30**. We must stress once again that this bill received *unanimous* bi-partisan support in the Finance Committee and the cut that will be endured by some is emblematical of what the State of New Hampshire as a whole is facing, including Governor Lynch's statement on Thursday that the next budget will likely include layoffs. Specifically in regard to that portion of the bill, the provisions we are passing affect the current budget we are in, and Division III of House Finance will be looking at the issue in depth in the budget deliberations so that the issue may be addressed (if need be) in the FY 10-11 budget. We are asking you to support the recommendation of Ought-to-Pass with Amendment.

Leadership took a position on more the 40 bills in the last week (see pg. 3) and either signed in during the hearing or had someone testify on our behalf.

Among the bills that we opposed were **HB 180**, creating an exception from the registration requirement for certain nonviolent offenders; and **HB 110**, relative to annulments for certain sexual assault convictions. We oppose any attempts to weaken requirements to convict sexual offenders or those who abuse minors.

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with the media!

We are ready to assist you with:

- Press Releases specific to issues in your district.
- Op-Ed pieces.
- Local media contacts.



Republican Caucuses

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m.

—Representatives Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.

—Rooms, 305-307, LOB



We also opposed two bills that affect the local property taxpayer: **HB 298**, excluding the value of a view from determination of market value for property tax assessments; and **HB 448**, allowing municipalities to adopt a property tax credit to persons over 60 years of age in exchange for volunteer services. It is important that we oppose any legislation that “shifts the burden of taxes to other property owners.” Both of these bills will come to the floor later this month.

Finally, we will be voting on several amendments to House Rules, one of which (22c) is very important to the voting process on the floor. This rule change will include the House anteroom for the purpose of taking roll call votes: *Whenever a roll call vote is requested and properly seconded, members shall enter the chamber to take their seats and the question shall then be put to the House.* This will allow those members in the anteroom to be included in the Roll Call votes.

Finally, I would like to pass along my deepest sympathy to the family of one of our former colleagues, Rep. Bob Johnson, who passed away on Jan. 21. Bob exemplified what it means to be a devoted public servant, having served 30 consecutive two-year terms as the Town Moderator of Northwood. He also served the community as a Trustee of Coe-Brown Northwood Academy beginning in 1947 and for the next 36 years, chairing the Board from 1969-1983. In 1941 Bob began the first of what would be 33 years representing Northwood (and also Candia, Deerfield and Nottingham from 2003-2007) in the Legislature, serving in the NH House from 1941-50 and 1984-2007. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife of nearly 45 years, Jeanne, and her family.

I look forward to seeing you all at caucus.



## *Legislative Update*

During the past few days, 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:

### **Children and Family Law**

**HB 180**—creating an exception from the registration requirement for certain nonviolent offenders.(OPPOSE)

### **Commerce**

**HB 31-FN**—requiring insurance coverage for certain preventative testing.(OPPOSE)

### **Criminal Justice**

**HB 110**—relative to annulments for certain sexual assault convictions.(OPPOSE)

**HB 111**—exempting tier I offenders from inclusion in the department of safety’s public list of registered offenders.(OPPOSE)

**HB 138**—revising certain provisions of the sexually violent predators statute. (SUPPORT)

**HB 160**—relative to physical force in defense of a person.(SUPPORT)

### **Education**

**HB 327-FN-L**—eliminating median family income as a factor in calculating fiscal capacity disparity aid.(OPPOSE)

### **Election Law**

**HB 258**—relative to undeclared voters at primary elections. (OPPOSE)

**HB 265**—relative to proving qualifications to vote. (OPPOSE)

**HB 276-FN**—relative to challenges of voters.(OPPOSE)

**HB 323**—changing the name of the ballot law commission to the elections and ballot law commission, increasing the membership of the commission, and requiring the commission to propose redistricting plans.(OPPOSE).

### **Executive Departments and Administration**

**HB 248-FN**—relative to establishing a single liquor commissioner.(OPPOSE)

**HB 282-FN-A**—relative to compensation for the medical/vision advisory board and making an appropriation therefor.(OPPOSE)

### **Finance**

**HB 433-FN-A**—making an appropriation to fund the reporting of hospital infections by the department of health and human services.(OPPOSE appropriation)

**HB 440**—repealing the state’s authority to bond school building aid costs.(SUPPORT)

### **Fish & Game**

**HB 466-FN-A**—establishing a safari fee on owners of big game hunting preserves.(OPPOSE)

**HB 407-FN**—establishing a lobster and crab landing license, and increasing the fee for the nonresident commercial salt water license.(OPPOSE)

### **Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs**

**HB 81**—prohibiting smoking within 25 feet of playgrounds.(OPPOSED)

**HB 126-FN**—relative to the voluntary certification of health officers by a health officer credentialing board.(OPPOSED)

**HB 208-FN**—directing the university of New Hampshire to study the health needs of certain counties.(OPPOSED)



### **Judiciary**

- HB 163**—allowing firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and other public safety officers to recover damages or benefits for negligently-caused injuries.(OPPOSE)  
**HB 177**—relative to loss of consortium.(OPPOSE)  
**HB 291-FN**—relative to a one day/one trial jury duty pilot program.(OPPOSE)  
**HB 310-FN**—relative to reimbursement of mileage for judges and marital masters.(SUPPORT)  
**HB 344-FN**—establishing the number of associate justices of the superior court.(OPPOSE)

### **Labor**

- HB 108**—establishing an employers' private right of action to enforce the payment of workers' compensation coverage.(OPPOSE)  
**HB 216-FN**—relative to fees for legal services rendered to workers' compensation claimants. (OPPOSE)

### **Local and Regulated Revenues**

- HB 159**—relative to the county tax payment by the town of Milan.(OPPOSE)  
**HB 298**—excluding the value of a view from determination of market value for property tax assessments.(OPPOSE)  
**HB 351**—relative to the interest rate on late and delinquent property tax payments and subsequent payments.(OPPOSE)  
**HB 427-FN-A-L**—relative to equine licenses.(OPPOSE)  
**HB 448**—allowing municipalities to adopt a property tax credit to persons over 60 years of age in exchange for volunteer services.(OPPOSE)

### **Municipal and County Government**

- HB 321**—delaying the effective date of 2008 SB 342-FN-LOCAL, relative to workforce housing.(SUPPORT)  
**HB 388**—relative to permitting village district commissioners to apply for certain bridge aid. (OPPOSE)

### **Resources, Recreation and Development**

- HB 222**—relative to fill and dredge permits in wetlands.(OPPOSE)

### **Science and Technology**

- HB 213-FN**—requiring the bureau of emergency communications to develop and maintain a statewide emergency notification system.(OPPOSE)

### **Transportation**

- HB 259-FN**—relative to motor vehicle inspections.(OPPOSE)

### **Ways and Means**

- HB-51**—reestablishing the initial monthly gross charge exemption to the communications services tax.(SUPPORT)  
**HB 193-FN**—establishing a fee for certification of reduced ignition propensity cigarettes.(OPPOSE)  
**HB 194-FN**—relative to the adoption of fees for inspections and plan review services by the division of fire safety.(OPPOSE)