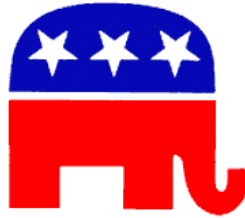


Republican Report

“The nine 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 taxes and fees being passed on the floor of the House just keep on coming! Last session Democrats in the legislature passed along 23 fee and tax increases to the taxpayers of this state. After receiving a mandate from the voters in November to continue controlling both chambers, it appears that the majority party feels that the open season to “tax and spend” can continue for two more years. We hope the voters are paying attention.

House Democrats have already voted to pass no less than eight bills this session, that included increases in taxes and fees. They have targeted everything from boating fees (**HB 205**) to fees for attraction signs (**HB 671**), from establishing a recreational saltwater fishing license fee (**HB 481**) to increasing the gasoline tax (**HB 644**)—at a time when the federal government is also looking to increase the gas tax.

Last week the “tax onslaught” continued when no less than 11 (tax) amendments were introduced to **HB 638**, the bill to increase the tobacco tax. It is clear that,

if it moves (and even if it doesn’t) state Democrats, led by Gov. Lynch, are trying to tax it. Their targets include charitable gambling winnings; the meals and rooms tax (increase); several filing fees, as well as fees for health facilities and community living facilities; a fee for a driveway permit review and inspection; subdivision fees and environmental services’ subsurface systems programs; and an increase in the motor vehicle inspection fee.

It is clear that the Democrats in the legislature are trying to balance the budget on the backs of our citizens through an increase in taxes and fees when instead they should be looking at cutting spending in the state. It is, and always has been, a spending problem and not a tax problem. Republican Leadership will continue to oppose any increase in taxes and fees. Given the current economic environment, this is not time to be increasing the tax burden on our constituents.

We will be having a number of exec sessions this week and it is very important that all Republican members make every attempt to attend these sessions. We have an opportunity to win some battles at the committee level if we have a strong attendance at these sessions.

We will not have a House Session this week, however the following week will be extremely busy. With more than 300 bills to deal with before crossover, the speaker is planning sessions on April 24th (10 AM), April 25th (9:30 AM), and April 26th (9:30 AM). I am currently planning to hold a Republican Caucus on all three days, however, should that change, we will let everyone know. We will not have a session on April 1, however, the speaker is planning session

Important Dates

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Thurs., Mar. 19 | Last day to report all House bills not in a second committee, except budgets. |
| Tues, Mar. 24 | Republican Caucus —8:45 a.m.
(LOB-305-07)
House Session —10:00 a.m. |
| Wed., Mar. 25 | Republican Caucus —8:30 a.m.
Houe Session—9:30 a.m. |
| Thurs., Mar. 26 | Republican Caucus —8:30 a.m.
(LOB-305-07)
House Session —9:30 a.m.
Last day to act on all House bills not in a second committee, except budgets |

—continued on page 2



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:

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB 569—requiring insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. **(OPPOSED)**

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB 648—relative to the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. **(OPPOSED)**

Ways and Means

- HB 638 (Amendment 0562)**—relative to subdivision fees and environmental services’ subsurface systems program. **(OPPOSED)**
- (Amendment 0563)**—establishes the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund and increasing the motor vehicle inspection fee. **(OPPOSED)**
- (Amendment 0564)**—relative to administrative costs of the state water pollution control and drinking water revolving loan funds. **(OPPOSED)**
- (Amendment 0565h)**—relative to funding and operating of liquor stores by the liquor commission. **(OPPOSED).**
- (Amendment 0566h)**—increase the rate of the rooms and meals tax. **(OPPOSED)**
- (Amendment 0568h)**—establishing a tax on gambling winnings **(OPPOSED)**
- (Amendment 0570h)**—increases the filing fee for complaints about unfair labor practices.**(OPPOSED)**
- (Amendment 0572h)**—establishes a driveway permit review and inspection fee. **(OPPOSED)**
- (Amendment 0573h)**—amends the department of transportation’s oversize and overweight permit fee schedule. **(OPPOSED)**
- (Amendment 0575h)**—increases fees for health facilities and community living facilities. **(OPPOSED)**
- (Amendment 0577h)**—relative to fees for certain food and beverage licenses. **(OPPOSED)**

session days on April 8th and 9th.

The House Finance/Ways and Means “Road Show” will also hold their final public hearing on Monday, March 16 (6 PM) at the White Mountains Regional High School. Democrats have been pretty successful so far in getting their money-seeking constituents to these hearings. If you are able to attend this last hearing it would be helpful.

For those of you who did not get the opportunity to attend the briefing on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, conducted recently in Representatives Hall by Assistant Attorney General Bud Fitch, we have posted a link to his presentation on our website (www.NHHOUSEGOP.com). According to General Fitch, it is too soon to tell exactly how this federal money will be distributed, since the first New Hampshire projects

did not go out to bid until February 19th.

Our office has been in contact with Senator Gregg’s office and we have also participated in numerous conference calls with NCSL but there is nothing of substance to report at this time. As soon as we receive any additional information, we will pass along to our caucus so that you may share it with your constituents.

As you exec bills from your committee, please “red flag” any bill that is of concern to you and let our leadership team be aware of this legislation so that we may plan our strategy for when it comes to the floor.

Thank you all again for all your hard work.

Spencer Packard