

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE CHANGES TO SENATE PASSED BUDGET

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue

- **General and Education Trust Fund (GF/ETF)** – Committee of Conference GF/ETF revenue estimates are approximately \$2.26 billion in FY 2015, and increase of approximately \$15.5 million over Senate estimates. Committee of Conference estimates are approximately \$4.63 billion for the FY 2016-2017 biennium, which are similar to the Senate estimates.
- **Highway Fund** – Committee of Conference Highway Fund revenue estimates are approximately \$256.4 million in FY 2015, and approximately \$473.9 million for the FY 2016-2017 biennium. These estimates are identical to the Senate estimates.
- **Fish and Game Fund** – Committee of Conference Fish and Game Fund revenue estimates are approximately \$10.3 million in FY 2015, and approximately \$20.6 million for the FY 2016-2017 biennium. These estimates are identical to the Senate estimates.

Appropriations

- The Committee of Conference budget for FY 2016-2017 appropriates approximately \$11.35 billion over the biennium, of which \$2.8 billion are general funds. Total appropriations represent an increase of \$27 million over Senate levels, and general fund appropriations represent an increase of approximately \$11 million over House levels.

Revenue Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund)

- The Committee of Conference’s proposed FY 2016-2017 budget plan increases the Rainy Day Fund balance from \$9.3 million to \$23.8 million at the end of FY 2015, and to \$24.1 million at the end of the FY 2016-2017 biennium.

CATEGORY 1 – GENERAL GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

HB1 Changes

- Technical change to remove the phrase “notwithstanding any other provision of law” from footnotes.

HB2 Changes

- Removes requirement for Branch to transfer \$1 million to the general fund for the biennium ending June 30, 2017.

GOVERNOR’S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

HB 2 Changes

- Adds provisions allowing the Commission to establish rules, including rules to adopt fees, for waiver applications submitted to the Architectural Barrier-Free Design Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

HB 2 Changes

- Removes the Department's authority to transfer funds with prior approval of the Fiscal Committee.
- Allows the incumbents in three classified positions slated for abolishment to retain only their sick leave and longevity payments in the event they are selected to fill open unclassified positions. The Senate-passed version of this provision would have allowed the incumbents to retain *all* leave balances (annual, compensatory, etc).

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

HB 1 Changes

- Converts a part-time recycling coordinator position to full-time.

HB2 Changes

- Removes the Statehouse Weekend Operations Program.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

HB 1 Changes

- Removes a footnote authorizing the Office to transfer funds with fiscal committee approval. This language was added to HB 2.

CATEGORY 2 – ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

ADJUTANT GENERAL

HB1 Changes

- Technical change to remove the phrase "notwithstanding any other provision of law" from a footnote and add the language to HB2.

HB2 Changes

- Added language allowing the Adjutant General to accept up to \$3 million without needing fiscal committee approval. Governor and council approval would still be required.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

HB1 Changes

- Increases appropriation by \$101,405 in FY 2016 and \$106,326 in FY 2017 to correct a budget error for the chief financial examiner and health reform coordinator positions.

LIQUOR COMMISSION

HB2 Changes

- Exempts the Commission only from the consolidation of business processing functions, such as accounts receivable, not from the consolidation of human resources and payroll functions by the Department of Administrative Services.
- Provides the Commission flexibility related to supporting merchant card activity.

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- Amends law to require the Commission to seek Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval for any transfer of \$75,000 or more.

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

HB2 Changes

- Changes section relative to plea-by-mail revenue shortage in FY 2015 by increasing amount of Driver Training Fund revenue, that would otherwise be deposited to the General Fund, by \$0.25 million (\$1.5 million to up to \$1.75 million)

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

HB2 Changes

- Amends language related to the transitional housing unit maintenance fund to allow amounts collected in excess of \$325,000 to be deposited in the fund each year for the purpose of general care, maintenance, repair and upkeep of the transitional housing units.

CATEGORY 3 – RESOURCE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

HB 2 Changes

- Changes section relative to transfer of General Funds to the Fish and Game Department by adding language allowing the funds to be used for search and rescue overtime costs

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB1 Changes

- Decrease appropriations for travel and tourism by \$500,000 in FY 2016 and \$500,000 in FY 2017. This decrease from the Senate position still funds travel and tourism at \$4,269,914 in FY 2016 and \$4,248,072 in FY 2017, more than the FY 15 level of \$3,887,571 (after removing \$314,318 as part of the Executive Order reductions).
- Makes a technical correction to the Highway Welcome Centers accounting unit by decreasing the budgeted amount by \$80,000 each year to reflect the amount to be transferred by the Department of Transportation.
- Adds \$80,000 of general funds each year to the Highway Welcome Centers.

HB2 Changes

- Suspends requirement in current law directing that 3.15% of meals and rooms revenue be used to fund travel and tourism as a result of reductions made in HB 1.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

HB1 Changes

- Unfunds the dam removal coordinator position until October 1, 2015.
- Unfunds three positions in the solid waste program until October 1, 2015.

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CATEGORY 4 – TRANSPORTATION

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HB1 Changes

- Reduces debt service relative to appropriation for equipment purchases in HB 25 changing from \$10.0 million to \$5.0 million.
- Adds \$1.0 million per year to the Bureau of Mechanical Services' equipment line, bringing total appropriation in this line to \$2.0 million per year.

HB2 Changes

- Amends section relative to SB 367 revenue (\$0.042 road toll increase) as follows:
 - Made changes to disposition of revenue for the biennium only, rather than \$8.3 million/year to highway maintenance in perpetuity
 - Eliminated requirement of funding to be used for rehabilitation and resurfacing programs in FY 2016, having revenue flow to the Highway and Bridge Betterment account, per Department request
 - Added additional language to bonding authority relative to TIFIA, per Department request
- Amends section relative to route 106 improvements with language provided by the Department.

CATEGORY 5 – HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS)

HB1 Changes

- Provides a 5% rate increase for providers of long term care services including personal care, home health aide services, home nursing services, and home maker services. The services, which are provided through the Medicaid program, help elderly citizens who qualify to stay in their own homes, remain independent and avoid costly nursing home care.
- Supports the New Hampshire mental health system with continued support of the community mental health centers, funding the new 10-bed crisis stabilization unit at New Hampshire Hospital, and providing an additional \$5.1 million in general funds over the biennium to build and maintain the capacity necessary to satisfy the mental health agreement.
- Provides \$14.5 million in total funds for Medicaid Care Management Step 2 to ensure rates will be appropriate as long term care services for the elderly and disabled are transitioned from a fee-for-service basis to managed care.

HB2 Changes

- Ensures the Department of Health and Human Service stays involved in the provider rate setting process as the Medicaid long term care services provided to the state's elderly and disabled citizens are transitioned to Medicaid Care Management Step 2.
- Provides an appropriation of \$250,000 in each year for enhanced rates for complex patients receiving care from the Crotched Mountain Foundation.

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- Restores funding for the Department of Health and Human Services district offices. All eleven district offices will remain open maintaining access to the Department's programs in communities across the state.

CATEGORY 6 – EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HB1 Changes

- Adjusts appropriation for charter schools relative to updated enrollment figures and increasing the per pupil amount in FY 2017 by \$1,000 rather than \$250.
- Adds \$1.5 million in FY 2017 for adequacy grants relative to increasing the cap from 140% to 160%.
- Eliminates funding for a new position (school nurse consultant).

HB2 Changes

- Increases charter school aid by \$1,000, rather than \$250, in FY 2017
- Increases the cap on adequacy grants from 140% to 160%, in FY 2017
- Adds section that would allow for the distribution of adequacy appropriation in excess of actual expenditures to towns subject to the cap on total grants.
- Adds section requiring the Department to report charter school payment information, including student counts, to the Fiscal Committee.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (USNH)

HB1 Changes

- Decreases appropriation by \$1.0 million per year, bringing annual total to \$81.0 million.