



## New Hampshire Senate NEWS RELEASE

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### Senate passes a balanced budget serving all of New Hampshire

**CONCORD, NH** – On a vote of 14-9, Senate Republicans led the way, passing a new budget for FY22-FY23 today that is balanced, fiscally conservative and serves all of New Hampshire. The \$13.5B spending plan also lowers property taxes for homeowners, seniors and Main Street businesses, while at the same time, makes significant investments in local communities, education and mental health.

Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem) said, “I am proud of this budget. It works for all of New Hampshire by prioritizing our most vulnerable populations and providing relief to every New Hampshire taxpayer. Republicans believe the most responsible budgets are built on reliable revenues, lower taxes and fiscal discipline which is exactly how we built this one. Our goal is always to be the very best stewards of our taxpayer’s money as possible, and this new budget strongly reflects that governing philosophy.”

#### Highlights of the Senate budget include:

##### Taxpayers

- Provides property tax relief to every New Hampshire homeowner
- Lowers taxes on New Hampshire’s small businesses
- Phases out Interest & Dividends Tax to help seniors and the disabled

##### Property Taxes

- Sends \$100M directly back to property taxpayers
- Sends an additional \$188M from Meals & Rooms revenue back to cities and towns for property tax relief – an increase of \$50.5M over the last budget
- For the first time, puts 30% of revenues from the Meals & Rooms Tax into a dedicated Trust Fund for distribution to cities and towns

## **Small Business**

- Cuts business taxes (BET and BPT) and increases threshold for BET filing
- Reduces Meals & Rooms Tax for first time in decades
- Exempts Paycheck Protection Program(PPP) loans from state taxation

## **Public Safety**

- Makes investments in Granite Shield, which continues to work on drug trafficking interdiction aimed at preventing the supply of illegal drugs from entering NH
- Funds the Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community, and Transparency recommendations for body cameras, which reduce complaints filed against police officers and provide evidence when an incident occurs
- Provides \$500,000 for Internet Crimes Against Children Fund

## **Education**

- Creates Education Freedom Accounts to give low-income New Hampshire families more choices for their children's education
- Corrects education funding formula to ensure schools are not hurt by COVID enrollment drop, providing \$67M in additional aid
- Provides \$30M for school Building Aid
- Reserves \$35M in Education Relief Aid for schools most in need
- Fund's Governor's Scholarship Fund
- Increases funding to towns that expand to full-day Kindergarten

## **Protecting our Environment**

- Provides \$15.6M for state aid grants to keep our water clean
- Consolidates Public Utilities Commission and Office of Strategic Initiative into a new Department of Energy to guide energy policy decisions such as development of offshore wind power

## **Substance Misuse**

- Continues to build on the progress made in combating the opioid crisis
- Provides over \$100M in funding to address substance abuse

## **Mental Health**

- Fully funds new forensic psychiatric hospital to free up beds at the NH Hospital and transfer patients from the secure psychiatric unit at the state prison
- Funds transitional beds to reduce emergency room mental health boarding crisis
- Provides \$8M for community mental health programs and mobile crisis teams
- Fully funds the Developmentally Disabled Wait List
- Provides \$3M to help veterans and seniors recover from social isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Seniors**

- Eliminates Interest & Dividends Tax on retirement savings
- Increases funding for Senior Support Services
- Provides \$1.5M to help seniors recover from social isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Capital Budget**

- Funds state projects all across NH
- Leverages \$25M in additional federal funds to address more projects, reducing future costs

## **Veterans**

- Increases funding for Veterans Support Services
- Creates National Guard Enlistment Incentive Program
- Provides \$1.5M to help veterans recover from social isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Affordable Housing**

- Adds \$25M to the Affordable Housing Fund, leveraging an estimated \$300M in additional private investment
- Continues current affordable housing funds through Real Estate Transfer Tax
- Provides \$100 million in direct tax relief for property taxpayers

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