



**New Hampshire General Court**  
**JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

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**Senate and House agree to extend pay freeze for legislative staffers  
until Nov. 2012**

(Concord) In a move reflecting the Legislature's awareness and concern that the state continues to struggle with the realities of a poor economy, Senate President Peter Bragdon and Speaker of the House William O'Brien announced today that the pay freeze for all legislative staffers enacted last year will be extended an additional 12 months through November, 2012. The move affects some 56 joint legislative employees and totals \$50,000 in deferred savings. The decision came following a 7-2 vote by the Joint Legislative Facilities Committee. Other committees will meet separately to address the status of the remaining employees who work for either the Senate, House of Legislative Budget Office.

**Senate President Peter Bragdon:**

"Our Joint Legislative Facilities Committee is doing the responsible thing by extending the current pay freeze. When some 40,000 of our fellow Granite Staters remain unemployed, now is not the time to be giving out raises here in Concord. That being said, our legislative staffers are very dedicated employees. They are indispensable to the Senate and the House being able to carry out the people's business effectively. Our decision to extend their pay freeze is not a reflection on their hard work, but rather the state of our economy."

**House Speaker William O'Brien:**

"This freeze of legislative salaries is one more step the Legislature has taken to reduce our own costs to lead by example for state government. Coupled with mileage savings, elimination of cell phones, reducing land lines and cutting personnel in the Speaker and House Majority Leader offices, we understand that the legislature can't simply ask agencies to cut spending without doing our part to be part of the solution. This is another small, but important, step in an ongoing process to identify all areas where we can bring efficiency to the Legislative Branch."

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