



New Hampshire State Senate ***NEWS RELEASE***

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Statement by Sen. Morse on status of budget deliberations

(Concord) Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Morse, R-Salem, issued the following statement today regarding the status of state budget deliberations currently underway:

"I had hoped to be able to share the news of whether our proposed budget is balanced or not this afternoon. However, I am not in a position to do that yet. There are still several unresolved issues that will have a significant impact on the budget that the Senate Finance Committee is putting together, specifically:

- House and Senate conferees have not yet come to an agreement on SB3 which makes changes to the state's retirement system. Their work will have a real bearing on what we are trying to accomplish.
- We are still waiting on details from Gov. Lynch explaining how he plans to balance the FY11 budget. This is a crucial piece that affects our starting point for FY12 and FY13.
- Finally, the House incorporated \$20 million in General Fund savings in each of the next two years that are still unaccounted for.

"The bottom line is this: We have no extra money to spend at this point. However, if the three areas I highlighted are resolved in our favor, we may be in a position to fund items not yet included. We all have other items we would like to take care of in this budget, but at this time, it does not appear that this is an option we can consider.

"With all of the unknowns facing us, we need to be prudent and conservative and continue to hold the line on spending. I appreciate the work that the members of the Senate Finance Committee have done so far and I hope they will continue to be patient through this process."

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