



# New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Senate continues pro-business agenda**

*Passes legislation clarifying BPT and interest & dividends; increasing good government concerning the Revenue Administration and requiring spending alternatives to state budget*

(Concord) The state Senate passed four bills today dedicated to strengthening the ability of companies to conduct business in New Hampshire. The legislation clarifies net operating loss carryovers under the Business Profits Tax, modernizes the state's interest and dividends tax, requires legislative approval before the Department of Revenue can impose fees or assess fines on taxpayers, and requires reduced spending alternatives as part of the budget process.

**SB 126** – Increases the state's current net operating loss (NOL) threshold from a very limited one million to \$10 million dollars. Sen. Jim Luther (R-Hollis) said, "SB126 is important in order to support our business community and enhance New Hampshire as a business-friendly state. In this difficult economic climate, raising the NOL threshold is the right thing to do for companies both large and small. If they're struggling, it will enable them to recover more quickly and to invest their profits back in to hiring and other areas that will ultimately lead to more profitability."

**SB 168** – saying New Hampshire's interest and dividends tax is incredibly outdated, Luther also urged the Senate to support SB168 because it will bring simplicity and clarity to existing law, plus eliminate 40 pages of administrative rules and instead, replace them with a simple, one-page form that will help encourage compliance.

**SB 76** - requires the Department of Revenue Administration to have express legislative authorization before increasing fees, establishing fines or imposing penalties on taxpayers. Sen. Fenton Groen (R-Rochester) told his colleagues the bill fostered good government and transparency because it puts the responsibility for adopting fines or penalties on elected officials, not administrative rule makers.

**SB 146** – speaking in support of the legislation, Sen. Chuck Morse (R-Salem) said, "The intent is to require that all state agencies submit a reduced spending level alternative as part of the budget process. By asking the governor to submit his information to the legislature at 95% ensures a more informative and accurate budget for state agencies to use in their calculations." He added that because lawmakers are often forced to review up to five different versions of the state budget before actually voting, SB 146 would create a more open and transparent process while also allowing legislators to begin working on a budget on day one.

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