



New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Senate to address spending cap issue with SB2

Authorizes cities and towns to adopt spending caps; returns local control to taxpayers

(Concord) Sen. David Boutin (R-Hooksett) announced today that the state Senate will begin hearings on a bill allowing cities and towns to adopt spending caps to their municipal budgets. Support for the Senate Bill 2 began to build after a spending cap enacted by the City of Manchester was found to be pre-empted by existing law by the state Supreme Court this past November. SB2 removes this conflict.

Boutin commented on the bill saying, "The bottom line with SB2 is that it supports local control by keeping the decision of whether or not to enact spending limits in the hands of taxpayers. Nashua, Derry, Rochester and Franklin are among the six other municipalities across the state that have had caps in place for years, but the court's ruling brought their legality in to question as well. That's why we need SB2 to clarify the law going forward and it will."

Additionally, Boutin singled out Franklin -- the first city in New Hampshire to adopt a spending cap. "That city's experience shows that once voters witness first-hand the effectiveness of a cap they become more and more supportive. Voters there defeated the most recent attempt to do away with their cap by an overwhelming 4-to-1 margin. That is tremendous example of local control," he said.

SB 2 is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee on Tuesday, February 22, in Representatives Hall from 9:00- 11:00 am.

(Note: Sen. Boutin will also be a guest on WGIR's *The Charlie Sherman Show* on Monday, February 21 at 7:30am to discuss the legislation.)

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