



# New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **State fleet better managed, taxpayers protected under SB 314**

*Legislation mandates employees reimburse state for personal use of 1,800+passenger vehicles*

CONCORD - Faced with the reality that state employees drove taxpayer-funded vehicles nearly 1.5 million miles for personal use in 2011, the Senate moved today to establish a reimbursement program for the personal miles driven in state vehicles. SB 314 passed with supporters describing it as a quintessential taxpayer protection bill.

For years, legislators attempted to get a handle on the business versus non-business miles state vehicles are driven. In 2010, Sen. Peter Bragdon, R-Milford, successfully sponsored legislation that now requires agencies to report the mileage of all state-owned vehicles accruing 15% or more for personal travel. This past December, the Department of Administrative Services presented these findings for the first time to the Fiscal Committee. Highlights of the report included:

- The state owns 1,884 passenger vehicles.
- 233 of these vehicles were used 15% or more for non-business travel in 2011.
- Several of the 233 were driven as much as 50% up to 75% for non-business.
- Non-business use by state employees totaled almost 1.5 million miles in 2011.

Sen. Chuck Morse, R-Salem, called SB 314 a straight forward piece of legislation in keeping with efforts to eliminate government waste. "It simply requires state employees to reimburse the state at the federal rate (55.5 cents per mile) for the non-business use miles they drive. Payment would be made through a payroll deduction and all money collected would be directed to the Highway Fund. SB 314 is sound fiscal policy and similar legislation has been passed in other states with positive results," he said. Morse added that if SB 314 were law in 2011, the state would have collected \$800,000 based on non-business use of passenger vehicles.

**Floor vote:** Voice vote    **Finance Committee vote:** OTP w/Amd, 7-0    **Prime:** Sen. Morse

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