



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

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Statement by Senate Finance Chair regarding Agency Budget Requests – Day One

CONCORD – Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Morse issued the following statement today after the first of three days of public hearings on state agency budget requests:

“Today’s hearings showed just how difficult building the next budget will be. In the General Fund alone, state agencies are requesting nearly \$700 million in new spending -- a 26% increase over our last budget. These increases would have to be paid for by cuts in other areas of government or, more likely, through significant tax increases.

“I am disappointed that very few agencies referenced their reduced spending alternative budgets or proposed areas for efficiencies. Furthermore, the reduced budgets information provided by Administrative Services is really nothing more than simple math and basically useless to budget writers in terms of identifying agency priorities. This is a missed opportunity and I hope more agencies will be forthcoming with these required reductions throughout the rest of the week. This will help budget writers focus on the essential functions of state government for 2013-2014.

“Governor-elect Hassan sounded the right tone at the start of the hearings when she noted many of these requests were too high, and signaled her intention to disseminate her budget targets to state agencies in the near future. I would urge the governor-elect to do so quickly and openly so we can better understand her funding priorities.”

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