



New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Bragdon to step down as Senate President

Plans to call a session after Labor Day

CONCORD, NH - Senate President Peter Bragdon announced today he will call the Senate back into session to allow him to step down from the position of president and give the Senate the opportunity to choose a new president.

"It has been an unbelievable honor and pleasure to serve as president of the state Senate for the past three years," Bragdon said, "but I realize my new position as executive director of the Local Government Center may cause some people to question the openness and integrity of the Senate, attributes that I have worked hard to nurture as president."

"Though I initially presumed that any potential conflicts I might face due to my employment would be similar to those of any other senator or representative, given New Hampshire's volunteer legislature, I have come to see the merit in arguments that the position of Senate president presents many greater challenges. Though I have promised to recuse myself from even the most seemingly mundane administrative tasks if a conflict arose, I do realize the perception of impropriety could still exist and could tarnish the reputation of the Senate."

"With that in mind, over the coming days I will be checking with all senators about their availability for a session to elect a new president. Hopefully we can find a convenient date right after Labor Day. While I do not want this issue to linger any longer than necessary, I also believe it is important to give all 24 senators a fair opportunity to attend this session if they want to. Assuming I can reach all the senators reasonably quickly I hope to announce a date for a senate session by the end of next week."

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