



New Hampshire State Senate

NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Hails Passage of Bi-Partisan Budget

Governor Hassan expected to sign \$10.7B two-year spending plan

CONCORD – Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Morse, R-Salem, made the following statement today after both the Senate and the House passed a new two-year budget with bi-partisan support:

“Now that the budget has passed both the Senate and the House in a bi-partisan manner, the real winners today are the citizens of New Hampshire. Like the Senate proposal, the budget does not raise taxes or fees and relies on realistic revenue estimates to fund the spending it authorizes – a top priority of the Senate. It spends only what the state can afford at \$10.7 billion – hundreds of millions of dollars less than either the governor or House versions – a top priority of the Senate.”

“Senate Finance is proud of the work we did in crafting the Senate’s budget. We believed strongly that it was a responsible spending plan for New Hampshire. Though some were quick to criticize our work for political purposes, I am pleased that, given a couple weeks and more careful study, they came to largely agree that ours was a thoughtful, balanced proposal that meets our state’s needs within existing means. We welcome their newfound support.”

Additionally, Morse highlighted seven other areas of the two-year spending plan, saying it:

- Includes funding for flood control, state aid wastewater grants, and county nursing home reimbursements, priorities of the Senate that will lessen the burden on town and county taxpayers.
- Enacts reforms to our uncompensated care program, and funds that program with real dollars to ensure our hospitals are reimbursed for the care provided to low-income residents, a priority of the Senate.
- Funds critical safety net programs in the Department of Health and Human Services like the DD Waitlist, CHINS, and Mental Health services, a priority of the Senate.
- Restores the UNIQUE scholarship program and increases funding for state assistance to the Community College and University System, a priority of the Senate.
- Prevents a raid of the LCHIP fund and instead fully funds the program, a priority of the Senate.
- Does not expand Medicaid, instead it calls for necessary further study of the program.
- Requires the Governor and Department Commissioners to responsibly manage their budgets to keep spending in line and costs low in order to meet lapses and necessary back of the budget reductions.

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