



New Hampshire Senate

## News Release

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### Senate passes state budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19

*Includes business tax relief, mental health and substance abuse funding*

Concord, NH - Today, the Senate passed HB 144 and HB 517, the bills which make up the Fiscal Year 2018-19 state budget.

"I would like to thank the Senate for their support of the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget and for the work of the Senate Finance Committee and especially Senator Gary Daniels for working with the House, Senate and Governor to produce a budget that lives within our means and works for the state of New Hampshire," said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem). "This budget balances the needs of our citizens while also growing our economy and creating good jobs for New Hampshire families without raising or creating any new taxes or fees. This budget provides funding to tackle the heroin crisis, increases support for families with a disabled child and adds beds for mental health patients, among other key priorities that will effectively help and care for our friends and neighbors.

"We also took steps to grow our state's Rainy Day Fund to \$100 million, creating a strong economic foundation for our state while cutting the business profits tax and business enterprise tax ensuring future job creation and that New Hampshire remains a competitive place for small businesses. These changes and more will continue to make New Hampshire a great place to live for working families," added Morse.

"I am pleased that the Senate passed the FY 18-19 budget for the State of New Hampshire. The Finance Committee spent a number of weeks listening to the needs of each department, organization and citizen whose daily life would be affected by the outcome of this budget," said Senate Finance Chair Gary Daniels (R-Milford). "I'd like to also recognize the House's work on the budget and Governor Sununu's leadership and vision for the state of New Hampshire for the next two years. We were able to include many of the policies that were part of the House and Governor's budgets."

"We addressed our state's most critical needs in this budget, including programs to benefit families with a disabled child, adding 60 new beds and community treatment options to relieve the growing mental health problem while also making critical changes to the leadership, oversight and staffing levels at the Division of Children, Youth and Families so that children in abusive homes have the protection they deserve," said Daniels. "Following Governor Sununu's guidance, we adopted a plan to develop a youth substance abuse treatment center at the Sununu Youth Services Center using \$2 million in unspent funds in the Governor's commission on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. By renovating a wing of the

Sununu Center, we will be able to help our young people overcome their addiction early on and pave a positive path forward. We also agreed to double the funding for the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery in this budget bringing it to \$14 million, up from \$7 million. As of last Friday, the Commission had \$4.3 million in unspent funds for the fiscal year ending June 30. Frankly, this is a tremendous disappointment in the middle of a heroin crisis and we need to make sure that these resources are being used in our communities building on the positive programs created to combat all sides of the heroin crisis."

"The budget that passed the Senate today also includes additional business tax cuts and increases our small businesses' ability to make capital investments. This allows businesses in New Hampshire to create good paying jobs and grow their business, keeping our state competitive with other states in New England and nationally," added Daniels.

"New Hampshire is facing a high tech workforce shortage and it is prudent that we create opportunities for students to become engaged in science, technology, engineering and math [STEM] fields through programs like FIRST Robotics," said Senator John Reagan (R-Deerfield). "This budget provides resources that would bring FIRST Robotics into every elementary school in the state which can play a critical role in building a student's interest in STEM and provide skills for real world application. This program also encourages local businesses to step up and become involved in our children's education that will create a stronger skilled workforce in the future."

"I support the FY 2018-19 budget that passed the Senate today because it not only lives within our means, only increasing general fund spending by 1.4 percent in 2018 and 1.1 percent in 2019, but because of the important priorities it achieves in the next two years for the citizens and small businesses in our state. This budget reduces tax burdens on our small businesses, which will support the 12.1 percent business tax revenue above projections in 2017, while maintaining one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation and one of the fastest growing economies in the country," said Senator Bob Giuda (R-Warren). "This improves our ability to be competitive in business with other states in New England and protects the attractive and competitive climate businesses are looking for."

"This budget also builds the Rainy Day Fund up to \$100 million which is simply responsible budgeting that will strengthen our state's economic footing and build on New Hampshire's bond rating," added Giuda.