



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Senators applaud support for state budget approved in Committee of Conference

Concord, NH - Today, the House and Senate agreed to the committee of conference report on HB 144 and HB 517, the bills which make up the Fiscal Year 2018-19 state budget.

"The budget agreed upon by the House and Senate works to live within our means and does not include any new taxes or fees while accomplishing a number of critical priorities that will better serve the citizens and businesses of our state," said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem).

"This budget works to solve problems in our state. In the middle of a heroin crisis it is critical that we double the funding in this budget that goes to the Alcohol Fund. Additional funding will support the programs related to prevention, treatment, recovery and drug interdiction that we hope will curb the crisis," said Morse. "This budget also allows for the creation of an alcohol and substance abuse treatment wing at the Sununu Center for Youth Services using the remaining funding from FY 17. We realize that we can do a better job preventing this crisis for the next generation by treating addiction early on for our state's young people."

"Mental health has been a growing concern for our state and this budget provides the funding necessary to expand community services and provide additional beds for the many patients currently waiting for care in hospitals across the state. This budget also works to provide much needed certainty in the availability of community resources for families with a disabled child," added Morse.

"Reducing New Hampshire's Business Enterprise Tax and Business Profits Tax was a critical priority so that our state will remain a competitive place for small businesses," said Senate Finance Chair Gary Daniels. "We've seen positive results from the business tax reductions put into place two years ago, restoring confidence in business, creating good jobs and driving the economy in this state."

"The Department of Resources and Economic Development has also been reorganized to better support and promote business and opportunities in this state."

"This budget also eliminates the Electric Consumption Tax, helping our state move in the right direction to reduce the burdensome electric rates paid for by homeowners and businesses. By making changes that will result in lower monthly bills, we put money back in our employer's pockets and create an improved, lower cost state to run a business," added Daniels. "We raised the Rainy Day Fund to \$100 million in an effort to strengthen our economy and ensure a strong bond rating. It's the combination of lowering business taxes, saving for a rainy day and reducing the cost of energy that will continue to improve the business climate in New Hampshire."

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