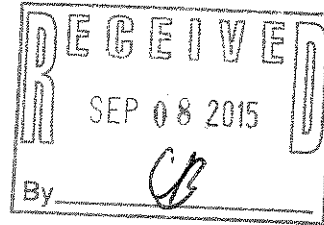


The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951



September 3, 2015

Town of Allentown
Board of Selectmen
16 School Street
Allentown, New Hampshire 03275

Dear Members of the Allentown Board Selectmen,

As the State Senator who represents Allentown, I want to first thank you for the opportunity to serve you in Concord. We have been hard at work this session to develop policies and a state operating budget that better serves New Hampshire citizens and communities across New Hampshire.

There were over 1,000 pieces of legislation proposed by the House and Senate this session which addressed a wide range of New Hampshire issues. Specifically, the Senate focused on its main priorities, which include improving New Hampshire's business economy and creating new jobs. We worked to meet these priorities by addressing high energy rates, reforming the high cost of worker's compensation insurance and reducing business taxes. The legislature also passed a FY 2016-17 operating budget that addressed the needs of the state's most vulnerable citizens while incorporating business tax reductions aimed at growing New Hampshire's economy and creating jobs.

Despite our meaningful work, Governor Maggie Hassan chose to veto the budget, requiring the state to operate at FY 2015 levels for the next six months, or until a new budget is enacted.

The budget would have provided significant funding to support many critical resources our towns and cities rely on. Some of those proposals included in the budget were the drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services, a new education funding formula, increased Rooms and Meals taxes returned to towns and cities statewide, as well as several resources for infrastructure improvements to fix our local roads and bridges.

This budget was and is good for New Hampshire and I plan to continue working with my Senate colleagues to find a responsible solution, without losing sight of the major accomplishments that were achieved in this proposal.

I've included a report that outlines some of the major policy changes included in the vetoed budget, as well as other legislative priorities that have become law in our state.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to meet with you, or attend a School or Select Board meeting. Please email me at john.reagan111@gmail.com or kathryn.cummings@leg.state.nh.us to arrange a date.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Senator John Reagan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Senator John Reagan
NH State Senate District 17
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
603-271-4063

A Report to the Cities and Towns of Senate District 17

Legislative Accomplishments, January-June 2015

The 2015 legislative session welcomed five new Senators to the ranks, making the Republican/Democrat split 14-10. Throughout the session, Senate leadership, headed off by Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem), focused on introducing legislation and a FY 2016-17 budget that would improve New Hampshire's small business economy, stimulate job growth, provide resources for the state's most vulnerable citizens, all while living within our means. The budget passed by the legislature was, however, vetoed by Governor Hassan.

Budget (Vetoed)

Jobs and the Economy

- Lowered the Business Profits Tax for the first time in 20 years, and the Business Enterprise Tax for the first time ever, restoring NH's competitiveness over neighboring states. *HB 2*
- Expanded the Research and Development Tax Credit in FY18. *HB 2*
- Rejects \$129 million in tax increases in Governor Hassan's budget.

Health and Human Services

- Funded vital assistance programs: Meals on Wheels, ServiceLink, & Developmental Disabilities. *HB 1*
- Preserved Emergency Shelters and staffing at NH Hospital. *HB 1*
- Increased funding for alcohol & drug treatment and prevention programs by 75%, including new Substance Abuse Disorder Benefit under Medicaid. *HB 1*
- Funded NH Mental Health Settlement, increasing funding for existing mental health infrastructure by \$6.5 million. *HB 1 & 2*
- Ensured opening of 10-Bed Crisis Unit at NH Hospital.

Helping Cities and Towns

- Increases state aid under Meals and Rooms Tax. *HB 1 & 2*
- Increases state support for local public schools. *HB 1 & 2*

Education

- Increases state funding for University System by \$12 million, including 3.8 million, enough to ensure a two-year tuition freeze at the Community College System. *HB 1*
- Phases out cap on Adequate Education Grants. *HB 2*
- Increased state support for Charter School students. *HB 1 & 2*

Public Safety

- Established sustainable funding for State Police Detectives Bureau and Homeland Security. *HB 1 & 2*

Protecting Taxpayers and their Constitutional Rights

- Approved a Balanced Budget using conservative revenue estimates and no tax increases. *HB 1 & 2*
- Doubled the Rainy Day Fund to protect NH's fiscal health and bond rating. *HB 1*
- Rejected \$129 million in job-killing tax increases in Hassan Budget. *HB 1 & 2*
- Provided tax relief for NH Businesses, cutting our uncompetitive business tax rates. *HB 1 & 2*
- Increased state aid to cities and towns for schools, road construction, and Meals and Rooms revenues, helping local taxpayers. *HB 1 & 2*
- Established Tax Amnesty, Voluntary Disclosure; enabling collection of delinquent tax revenue. *HB 2*

Other legislation passed by the House and Senate to become law:

Jobs and the Economy

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- Approved Workers' Comp reforms, enabling employers to contest unreasonable health care charges. Lowering Workers Comp is a key to job creation in New Hampshire. *SB 133*
- Updated New Hampshire's outdated banking laws. *SB 188*
- Updated and reformed New Hampshire's securities laws. *SB 266*
- Protected the local fishing industry from stifling regulations. *HB 464*
- Authorized Business Finance Authority to assist Balsam's Redevelopment. *SB 30*

Health and Human Services

- Authorized use of "telemedicine" to improve health care delivery at lower cost. *SB 84 and SB 112*
- Strengthen protections against lead poisoning in children. *SB 135*
- Provided parity for oral anti-cancer therapies. *SB 137*
- Reduced hurdles for Managed Care Organizations to treat mental illness. *HB 564*

Helping Cities and Towns

- Authorized municipalities to improve storm water protections. *SB 97*
- Authorized cities and town to establish special assessment districts. *HB 486*
- Reduced costly and unnecessary mandates on local elections. *HB 493*

Education

- Provided state support to local school districts for courses given to home-schooled students. *SB 151*
- Increased state support for Community and Technical Education Centers. *SB 190*
- Allows towns to provide property tax exemption for Charter Schools. *HB 662*

Public Safety

- Established "Good Samaritan" protections for people requesting medical assistance for drug overdose victims. *HB 270*
- Improved interoperability of public safety radios. *SB 46*
- Restricted the sale of synthetic drugs like Spice. *SB 106*
- Enabled Fish & Game to revoke license of persons convicted of sexual assault while hunting. *HB 212*
- Increased penalties for indecent exposure. *HB 597*
- Establishes fine for persons convicted of domestic violence to assist victims. *HB 681*

Energy

- Protected electric ratepayers, approved Eversource generating asset divestiture. *SB 170 & SB 221*
- Improved ability of Site Evaluation Committee to review energy projects. *HB 614*
- Improved Site Evaluation Committee rules for gas pipelines to protect landowners. *SB 572*

Protecting Taxpayers and their Constitutional Rights

- Improved state agency budget reporting requirements. *SB 32*
- Improved disclosure requirements for homeowners facing foreclosure. *SB 50*
- Repealed antiquated permit requirement to carry firearms. *SB 116*
- Strengthened protections against abuse of EBT cards. *HB 219 & SB 169*
- Reformed Real Estate Transfer Tax to remove improper tax on ground leases. *SB 232*