

GREATER NASHUA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# THE CHAMBER

## THE "BOTTOM LINE" LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A Weekly Report From the Chamber on Issues Affecting You in the State Capital

June 17, 2005

Issue #23

### THE WEEK JUST PAST...

One of the biggest issues of the session was resolved on the House floor this week. By a substantial margin the House adopted legislation known as "the Gatsas plan" as an alternative to "the Lynch plan". While there was some initial uncertainty about the Governor's response to the House action, matters resolved rather quickly, with the Governor pledging to let the bill become law. In explanation, the Governor indicated that while he was not entirely pleased with the outcome, he was favorably inclined to letting the bill become law because it achieved two goals: it essentially disposes of the concept of the "donor town", and it introduces a targeted aid formula. What it didn't do, which the Governor's plan would have done, was to repeal the statewide property tax. Nashua loses over \$2 million under this plan, which met with united opposition from the Nashua delegation in the House.

You can expect litigation over this. Mayor Streeter is reviewing the City's options, and the Town of Londonderry (another major loser under the plan) already had indicated its readiness to challenge the previous version of the bill. It is essentially the same as legislation deemed "constitutionally flawed" by the former Attorney General, Peter Heed. Governor Lynch has indicated that he expects Attorney General Kelly Ayotte will vigorously defend the new law. If she does, she will be defending a law about which even supporters are unenthusiastic. Few see the legislation as anything close to a durable solution.

Committees of Conference are well underway as the 2005 session winds up. While there are still a goodly number of unresolved bills, the attention is focused upon the "money bills", HB 1 and 2. Conference Committee meetings on those bills are convening daily, running a significant number of hours, and attracting a large gallery of "interested parties".

### THE WEEKS AHEAD...

June 20, 2005

**SB 37** (disclosure of expert testimony) – Conference Committee, 8:30 a.m., SH 103 <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2005/SB0037.html>

**SB 28** (confidentiality and workers' compensation) – Conference Committee, 10:00 a.m., LOB 101  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2005/SB0028.html>

June 20, 2005      **HB 1** (making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2006, and June 30, 2007.) – Continued Conference Committee – 11:00 a.m., LOB 210  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2005/HB0001.html>

June 21, 2005      **HB 194** (establishing a study committee to examine regulatory practices pertaining to the telecommunications industry) – 10:00 a.m., LOB 304  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2005/HB0194.html>

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