

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

March 24, 2006

Issue #10

### THE WEEK JUST PAST...

#### TAX INCENTIVES AND CREDITS:

**HB 657 (Downtown Revitalization Incentive).** HB 657 was heard last week in the Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee. Eighteen varied groups, including the Nashua Chamber, supported this initiative. It is a good economic development tool for cities and towns to have in their tool belt. The bill specifically provides for a stay of the current property assessment for a period of time for projects that rehabilitate underutilized structures in town and urban centers. Extra years are given if the project includes workforce housing.

**SB 380 (R&D Tax Credits).** The Senate this week passed SB 380, which provides for an R&D credit against either the business profits tax or the business enterprise tax. The Chamber has been a long-time supporter of this proposal, because it helps our cutting-edge industries and adds one more arrow into the quiver of the state economic development team as they seek to attract new businesses to New Hampshire. The maximum amount of credits claimed by all state taxpayers in a given year is limited to \$1,000,000, and each taxpayer can claim a maximum of \$100,000.

**SB 397 (Temporary Energy Tax Credit Against BET).** SB 397, which gives a \$500 one-time only energy tax credit against the BET, passed the Senate. There was debate as to why a reduction in the BET would not be more beneficial to small business. It was argued successfully that this money was a one-time windfall from taxes of off-shore companies, and it should be given to all business as a one-time relief from high energy costs. The relief is costing the state \$18 million. We'll see what the House has to say about this as, during the middle of their session last week, they supposedly could not find \$20 million they were to spend on social programs.

There will definitely be spending fireworks right before Memorial Day!

## **HOUSE DROWNS BILL:**

**HB 1138 (Mandatory Pay For Employees Called Back To Work).** Late on Wednesday night, the full House sent this bill for a long walk off a short pier. The bill as introduced would have required employers to pay employees 4 hours minimum when called back to work. The Committee voted 8-7 to recommend an amendment which would have sent the number at 3 hours. This bill brought lots of business organizations out of the woodwork to oppose it (including the Nashua Chamber), and the opposition to the bill during the floor debate and the voting was truly bipartisan. Several legislators, including one well-known Concord democrat, went to the floor to speak against the bill because it was harmful to small businesses. The common theme sounded by these legislators was that it is wrong for the state to mandate that small businesses pay more money to certain employees, whether or not the employees actually work for that time. Only 24 Representatives voted to pass the bill.

## **THE WEEKS AHEAD...**

March 28, 2006

**HB 1278** (increasing the fine for violating certain laws relative to labor) - Hearing - 10:15 a.m., LOB 102  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/HB1278.html>

**HB 1478** (penalties for employers who give false or incomplete required information about employees to the department of employment security and establishing an amnesty period for certain unpaid contributions) - Hearing - 10:35 a.m., LOB 102  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/HB1478.html>

**HB 1588** (unemployment compensation requirements for governmental and non-profit employers) - Hearing - 10:55 a.m., LOB 102  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/HB1588.html>

**SB 287** (making certain changes to the eminent domain statute) - Public Hearing - 1:00 p.m., LOB 208  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/SB0287.html>

**SB 300** (exempting certain transfers of real estate between charitable organizations from the real estate transfer tax) - Public Hearing - 10:00 a.m., LOB 202 <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/SB0300.html>

**SB 376** (revenues dedicated to the education trust fund) - Public Hearing - 11:00 a.m., LOB 202  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/SB0376.html>

March 29, 2006

**HB 1444** (definitions under the real estate transfer tax) - Hearing - 1:00 p.m., SH 100 <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/HB1444.html>

**SB 225** (horse and dog racing) - Public Hearing - 10:00 a.m., LOB 202  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/SB0225.html>

**SB 283** (stop loss insurance) - Subcommittee Work Session - 9:30 a.m.,  
LOB 302 <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/SB0283.html>

**SB 363** (prohibiting DRA from collecting any communications services tax  
that is not permissible under federal law) - Public Hearing - 11:00 a.m.,  
LOB 202 <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/SB0363.html>

March 30, 2006

**HB 1660** (regulating identity theft) - Hearing - 1:20 p.m., SH 103  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/HB1660.html>

April 4, 2006

**HB 1452** (requiring insurance coverage for the cost of testing for bone  
marrow donation) - Hearing - 10:15 a.m., LOB 102  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/HB1452.html>

**HB 1751** (penalties for failure to have workers' compensation coverage) -  
Hearing - 10:55 a.m., LOB 102  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/HB1751.html>

**SB 386** (large groundwater withdrawals) - Public Hearing - 11:00 a.m.,  
LOB 305 <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/SB0386.html>

April 26, 2006

**HJR 25** (encouraging the US Congress to propose an amendment to the  
Constitution concerning eminent domain) - Hearing - 10:40 a.m., SH 103  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/HJR0025.html>

Please contact Teresa Rosenberger, Devine, Millimet - (603) 410-1705, or the Greater Nashua Chamber of  
Commerce - (603) 881-8333, if you have any questions.