



Legislative Bulletin

June 5, 2013

Medicaid Expansion on the Senate Chopping Block

The NH Senate will take center stage this Thursday when it acts on the Senate Finance Committee's recommended budget. The Senate budget is \$300 million less than the House version of HB 1. This is because the Senate disagreed with the House's revenue projections for the hospital Medicaid Enhancement Tax. The Senate also rejected the House's increases in the gas tax and the tobacco tax.

The most controversial part of the Senate budget is the Finance Committee's recommendation (on a party line vote of 4-2) to create a study commission to delve further into perceived pros and cons of Medicaid expansion. This would delay New Hampshire's potential adoption of Medicaid expansion beyond PPACA's expansion start date of January 1, 2014 and cause the State to forgo about \$340 million in federal funds. This pits the Senate squarely in opposite to the Governor and the House and should make for a contentious Joint Legislative Conference Committee on the budget.

At the beginning of the Legislative Session, **GSHHA's Board of Directors adopted a position in support of Medicaid expansion** because it will provide insurance coverage to nearly 60,000 New Hampshire residents who are likely uninsured or underinsured. This week, a [letter](#) indicating GSHHA's support for the expansion was hand-delivered to all Senators' offices.

Members who want to voice their individual support for Medicaid expansion should [contact their State Senators](#) before Thursday.

For two points of view on this issue, check out [Sen. Jeb Bradley's op-ed](#) in a recent *NH Union Leader* and [Rep. Tom Sherman's op-ed](#) in today's paper.

The House is expected to non-concur with the Senate's budget. **A Conference Committee of the two chambers will attempt to work out a compromise over the next few weeks, with a target date for completion by June 20th.** The State's fiscal

year and new biennium starts July 1. GSHHA will be monitoring budget negotiations. Stay tuned!

If you have questions about state or federal legislative issues, call GSHHA at 603-225-5597 or email [Gina Balkus](#).