

# RELEASE: AFTER PULLING OUT EVERY DELAY TACTIC IN THE BOOK, HOUSE REPUBLICANS RUN OUT THE CLOCK AND BLOCK VOTES ON 73 BILLS

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## New Hampshire House of Representatives Concord, New Hampshire House Democratic Office

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **AFTER PULLING OUT EVERY DELAY TACTIC IN THE BOOK, HOUSE REPUBLICANS RUN OUT THE CLOCK AND BLOCK VOTES ON 73 BILLS**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – The three-day marathon House of Representatives Session ended without votes on 73 bills, many of which were sponsored and supported by Democrats. After the session **Deputy Democratic Leader David Cote (D-Nashua)** released the following statement:

“In the decades that I have served in the House, I don’t remember ever seeing such broad and aggressive moves by the Majority to rig our sessions to kill so many bills without discussion, debate, or votes. Last term when we had lots of bills and were pushed up to a deadline, the Democratic Majority showed leadership and a commitment to the institution by staying until 4 in the morning to finish the people’s business. This Majority showed that they have no interest in transparency or the legitimate functioning of this body.”

**Representative Tim Smith (D-Manchester)** added, “Today, at the end of three long session days, with 73 bills still left to be acted on, we were forced to end business due to a contractual obligation with the facility and vendors helping with sound and logistics. Running out of time to act on these bills effectively kills them for the year since today was the deadline.

Last week the Speaker took the unusual step of listing the bills recommended ITL at the end of the calendar, instead of the normal alphabetical-by-committee order, which meant they would be the last to be acted on. Most of the bills recommended ITL were sponsored or supported by Democrats. Our session days were scheduled at the last possible moment which resulted in us running into the deadline by which the House must act on all House Bills. Instead of having the courage to debate these bills on the floor and let the Full House vote on the outcome, it appears that House Republicans stacked the deck to arrive at this outcome.”

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#### **On Background:**

- The deadline for the House to Act on all House Bills is April 9<sup>th</sup>
- The Speaker was asked on multiple occasions how late the house would go on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. In each instance he refused to answer the question or said “how long we go is up to the members

of the House.”

- No public notice of a stop time for April 9<sup>th</sup> was ever made. The first mention of it was after 5:00pm on Friday at session.
- Under questioning at the end of the day on Friday, the Speaker admitted that he had known for weeks that the house had contractual obligations to be done with work by around 7:00pm on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- For the past few weeks, it has been abundantly clear to everyone that there would be a lot of bills on the calendar for the House to act on, yet additional session days were not scheduled.
- The order of bills on the calendar is controlled by the Speaker, and it is incredibly rare to order bills in the way they were for this week with all ITL recommended bills at the end.
- The 73 bills effectively killed when the house ran out of time to act on them:
  - **HB 336, (Pg. 64)** – establishing a condominium dispute resolution board.
  - **HB 358, (Pg. 64)** – relative to the installation of solar energy systems in condominiums.
  - **HB 403, (Pg. 65)** - relative to the sale of alcoholic beverages in refillable containers.
  - **HB 449, (Pg. 65)** – relative to the repair of home appliances.
  - **HB 450, (Pg. 65)** – relative to motor vehicle insurance policy minimums.
  - **HB 475, (Pg. 66)** - prohibiting the production of a drivers’ license or nondrivers’ picture identification card as a condition of conducting certain business.
  - **HB 553, (Pg. 66)** – prohibiting renewal of certain consumer contracts without express written notice to consumers.
  - **HB 618, (Pg. 66)** – relative to the sale and distribution of polystyrene food service products.
  - **HB 66 (Pg. 67)**, relative to the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer.
  - **HB 138-FN (Pg. 67)**, allowing prisoners serving life sentences to be eligible for parole after 25 years.
  - **HB 507 (Pg. 67)** prohibiting no-knock warrants.
  - **HB 511-FN (Pg. 68)**, relative to the penalties for possession of certain controlled drugs.
  - **HB 557 (Pg. 68)**, relative to the authority of state and county correctional facilities to discipline inmates using close or solitary confinement.
  - **HB 612-FN (Pg. 68)**, relative to the penalty for overtaking a school bus.
  - **HB 203 (Pg. 68)**, establishing a committee to study school meal programs in New Hampshire's public schools and non-sectarian schools that accept public funds.
  - **CACR 4 (Pg. 69)**, relative to redistricting. Providing that an independent redistricting commission shall be established to draw boundaries for state and federal offices.
  - **HB 61 (Pg. 69)**, relative to absentee voting and allowing for partial processing of absentee ballots prior to election day.
  - **HB 105 (Pg. 70)**, relative to political contributions made by limited liability companies.
  - **HB 428 (Pg. 70)**, relative to the procedures for apportioning electoral districts.
  - **HB 465-FN (Pg. 70)**, relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations and labor unions.
  - **HB 468 (Pg. 70)**, relative to the definition of political advocacy organization.
  - **HB 489 (Pg. 71)**, prohibiting certain political contributions.
  - **HB 491 (Pg. 71)**, relative to over voted ballots.
  - **HB 516-FN (Pg. 71)**, allowing voters to vote by absentee ballot.
  - **HB 538 (Pg. 72)**, relative to domicile residency, voter registration, and investigation of voter verification letters, and relative to the terms "resident," "inhabitant," "residence," and "residency."
  - **CACR 7 (Pg. 72)**, relating to the governor. Providing that there be a lieutenant governor who shall assume the duties of the governor if the governor is incapacitated.
  - **HB 209-FN (Pg. 73)**, relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.
  - **HB 221 (Pg. 73)**, making the state vaccine registry an opt-in program.
  - **HB 290 (Pg. 73)**, relative to policies required for health facilities and special health care service licenses.
  - **HB 506 (Pg. 73)**, relative to equal access to places of public accommodation.
  - **HB 601-FN (Pg. 74)**, relative to the privacy of personal information retained by a health or social service agency and prohibiting the sharing of such information between such agencies.

- **CACR 6, (Pg. 74)** - relating to the retirement age of judges. Providing that the retirement age of judges be increased.
- **HB 160, (Pg. 75)** - relative to notice of rent increases in certain residential rental property.
- **HB 216, (Pg. 75)** – relative to public notice of and access to meetings under the right to know law.
- **HB 288, (Pg. 75)** – eliminating the housing appeals board.
- **HB 430, (Pg. 75)** – repealing the prohibition on entering or remaining on a public way or sidewalk adjacent to a reproductive health care facility.
- **HB 434, (Pg. 76)** - prohibiting the use of public funds for abortions.
- **HB 550, (Pg. 76)** – relative to the nonpayment of rent during the state of emergency.
- **HB 578, (Pg. 76)** – relative to standards for mental health courts.
- **HCR 3, (Pg. 77)** - declaring that the Claremont case’s mandates that the legislative and executive branches define an adequate education, determine its cost, fund its entire cost with state taxes, and ensure its delivery through accountability, are not binding on the legislative and executive branches.
- **HB 107, (Pg. 77)** – relative to the minimum hourly rate.
- **HB 113, (Pg. 77)** – relative to payment for earned but unused vacation or personal time.
- **HB 563, (Pg. 32)** – establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.
- **CACR 5 (Pg. 78)**, relative to the New Hampshire general court. Providing that the provision for compensation of legislators is removed.
- **HB 156 (Pg. 78)**, relative to posting legislative amendments on the New Hampshire legislative website.
- **HB 341, (Pg. 79)** – relative to permissible residential units in a residential zone.
- **HB 392, (Pg. 79)** - relative to the membership of local land use boards.
- **HB 467, (Pg. 79)** - relative to current use tax rate eligibility.
- **HB 512, (Pg. 79)** – relative to emergency housing assistance.
- **HB 588, (Pg. 79)** – relative to building codes for tiny houses.
- **HB 616, (Pg. 80)** – relative to review of planning board decisions.
- **HB 158, (Pg. 80)** – relative to the definition of prime wetland.
- **HB 229, (Pg. 81)** – defining "wake boat."
- **HB 80, (Pg. 81)** – relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.
- **HB 119, (Pg. 82)** – relative to legislative approval of the New Hampshire general court for increases in the systems benefit charge.
- **HB 168, (Pg. 82)** – requiring the adoption of innovative vehicle emissions standards pursuant to section 177 of the federal Clean Air Act.
- **HB 371, (Pg. 82)** – relative to proceedings of the public utilities commission on rates and charges.
- **HB 396, (Pg. 83)** – relative to credits for certain energy production not issued renewable energy certificates.
- **HB 407, (Pg. 83)** – relative to the purchase of output of limited electrical energy producers in intrastate commerce and including qualifying storage system.
- **HB 112, (Pg. 83)** – establishing a committee to study the effects of deportation of primary earners on family members who are United States citizens.
- **HB 580, (Pg. 83)** – requiring the approval of the governor before the New Hampshire National Guard can be deployed overseas.
- **HCR 1, (Pg. 83)** – relative to urging Congress to practice fiscal restraint and applying to Congress for a Constitutional Convention for such purpose.
- **HB 300 (Pg. 84)**, relative to driver education.
- **HB 328 (Pg. 84)**, relative to the application process for drivers' licenses and relative to privacy of motor vehicle records.
- **HB 352 (Pg. 85)**, relative to operation of recreational vehicles on state highways.
- **HB 386 (Pg. 85)**, relative to the operation of certain watercraft on Wachipauka Pond.
- **HB 587-FN, (Pg. 86)** - relative to indicating citizenship or legal residency on drivers' licenses and nondrivers' identification cards.
- **HB 68, (Pg. 68)** - relative to the definition of child abuse.
- **HB 372-FN, (Pg. 9)** - relative to enforcement of the elections laws.

- **HB 429, (Pg. 9)** - relative to college or university student voting.
- **HB 570, (Pg. 9)** - permitting certain political organizations to appear on a general election ballot as a minor party after holding a nominating convention.

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