

THE CILLEY REPORT

NEWS FROM SENATOR CILLEY

Issue 1

December 2007

2007 YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 2007 session was one of the busiest on record with the passage of a wide range of legislation that will benefit the residents of District 6 and the state of New Hampshire. I was proud to work on a number of pieces of legislation that will serve the people of our state well. The following are some of the most noteworthy accomplishments of this legislature:

Strengthened our NH Economy & Enhanced Protections for our Working Men and Women:

- Increased the minimum wage for the first time in nine years
- Strengthened worker protections by ensuring the companies carry workmen's compensation insurance at appropriate levels and do not misclassify workers
- Established a Research and Development tax credit to attract innovation
- Re-established the job training fund and expanded access to affordable housing

Strengthened Education:

- Ensured increased high school graduation rates by raising the dropout age
- Funded a \$4 million increase in dropout prevention
- Guaranteed every child will be able to attend kindergarten
- Increased funding for technical colleges and the university system

- Expanded funding for early learning and for Head Start
- Funded Boys and Girls clubs across the state for after school care

Increased Protections for New Hampshire's Environment:

- Fully funded the Land and Community Heritage Investment program for the first time in six years
- Banned the burning of toxic construction and demolition debris
- Required that 25% of the state's energy be renewable by the year 2025
- Passed comprehensive shoreland protection

Enhanced the Health of our Citizenry:

- Passed a bill that will prevent lead poisoning cases in children
- Eliminated the developmental disabilities waiting list
- Expanded healthcare coverage to age 26
- Funded 10,000 additional children in the Healthy Kids program and pediatric specialty care

- Granted cancer services \$6M using funds from tobacco settlements

Protected Your Rights:

- Ended New Hampshire's involvement in the Federal Real ID program
- Repealed a law that infringes upon a woman's right to choose
- Established civil unions for same-sex couples

Strengthened Public Safety:

- Increased the number of State Troopers
- Granted over \$9M for community alcohol and drug treatment and prevention programs
- Established a death benefit for police and firefighters killed in the line of duty

As we worked on this legislation I heard from so many of you on particular items of interest. Your input was deeply valued and considered before I cast a vote on any specific legislation. As we move forward into the new year, please take the opportunity to let me know how you think we are doing as well as share input on new legislation coming up in this session.

It is my pleasure and honor to serve you.

SERVING THE DISTRICT



The job of a NH Senator falls into two broad categories; legislative responsibilities at the Statehouse in Concord and responsibilities within District 6. Part of the latter is making oneself available to respond to questions or concerns by constituents and to keep them informed of what is happening in Concord. In response to her obligation to her constituents Sen. Cilley holds regular "coffee & chats" at open forums with citizens in each of the communities she serves. If you would like Sen. Cilley to visit your group or organization to hear concerns, or just to learn more about the legislative process, please contact Cathy at news_from_sen_cilley@comcast.net. For a schedule and location of where Sen. Cilley will be next, please visit www.cilleyatnhstatesenate.com.

THE YEAR AHEAD

The 2008 session is shaping up to be as busy as the one just ended. Our legislature has a number of important issues that need to be resolved including, to name a few, the determination of the costs of an adequate education, an equitable approach to the state's share of funding these costs, and resolving the problems of the NH Retirement System in a manner that is protective of its members' retirement benefits while not creating additional burdens for our cities and towns.

Sen. Cilley is the prime sponsor of a number of important bills that will receive a public hearing in the upcoming session and are likely to be of interest to residents of District 6. Because these bills are currently in various stages of drafting and have yet to be assigned bill numbers, we offer a brief synopsis of topical areas below. Future issues of this newsletter will provide a more in-depth discussion of each.

Proposed Legislation:

The following prime sponsored bills are some of the most important topics and/or of broadest general interest:

- Tax relief for our National Guard and Reservists who own businesses and are deployed. Also, allowing our servicemen and women to use the training and education received in the military to satisfy requirements for licensure of regulated professions.
- Increased protections for groundwater resources and for allowing municipalities greater control of water resources within their boundaries.
- Recognition of the contributions made by EMT's by setting aside the fourth Sunday in May

- Increased penalties for dam owners who fail to address maintenance and operation shortcomings
- Creation of a new certified veterinary technician designation that will allow additional coverage for areas facing a shortage of licensed veterinarians
- Tracking pharmacy closings during normal business hours and inordinate waiting periods for prescription fillings

For a full listing of bills on which Sen. Cilley is either the prime or a co-sponsor, please visit the General Court website at www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/senatemembers.asp. If you would like to learn more about any of these bills, please don't hesitate to contact her. Sen. Cilley welcomes input on any legislation on which she is working.

As a very happy constituent of New Hampshire State Senator Jackie Cilley, I wish to thank her for her frequent visits with our group in Somersworth. Burger King Civics Class 101 has enjoyed visits and great dialogue with Senator Cilley. We discussed Willand Pond water levels and associated environmental impacts, Skyhaven Airport and it's possibilities, Somersworth roads closed due to flooding, New Hampshire State Grants and reimbursements, etc. We even discussed Gambling Casinos in New Hampshire. Our next issue topic deals with Medical Oxygen on aircraft for persons with physical disabilities. This national issue is one that should be evaluated at our State level. Getting back to our Senator Jackie Cilley, we feel so confident that issues such as this Oxygen issue will eventually be brought forward for the benefit of our residents with oxygen-related physical disabilities. We all have to thank our Senator Jackie Cilley for her outstanding representation on our behalf. We, at Somersworth's Burger King Civics Class 101 also do hereby wish YOU Jackie, your Husband Bruce and your entire family a very Merry Christmas and Most Happy and Healthy New Year and beyond! —Dick LaBonte, Somersworth

Senator Cilley is in her first term in the NH Senate after having served in the NH House of Representatives for Strafford County, District 3. She can be reached at:

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She is assigned to the following standing committees within the NH Senate:

Vice-Chair, Election Law
Energy, Environment, and Economic Development
Commerce
Executive Departments and Administration

In addition to the standing committees of the senate, Sen. Cilley also serves on a number of statutory committees. For example, she chairs the Commission to Study Issues Relative to Groundwater Withdrawals, Water Resources Committee, and the Citizens Trade Policy Commission. For more information on other committees or commissions on which Sen. Cilley services, please visit <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/default.aspx>.

If you have any questions about these committees or simply want other information about the statehouse or our state government, please don't hesitate to contact Sen. Cilley at the number provided.



On a recent visit with the Burger King Civics 101 group, Jackie takes notes on issues and concerns to the members of the group. This is one of many trips around the district this year.