



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



January 31, 2020

To my constituents in [Allenstown](#), [Epsom](#), & [Pittsfield](#):

This week, my committee continued to hold public hearings on new bills, and also held subcommittee meetings on the more complex ones. I'm on the subcommittee for HB 1642, which prohibits the state from engaging in facial surveillance. The hearing was crowded with privacy advocates, with the only opposition being from the security industry. The subcommittee agreed with the goal of the bill, to protect our privacy as broadly as possible now and let future legislatures deal with possible exceptions; and I drew up a clarifying amendment, which also bans the DMV from sharing their database of drivers' photos.

We heard HB 1315, which makes licenses from the allied health professions expire two years after the initial license, rather than all at once in December; no opposition, a request of the administrators, and very likely to pass. HB 1324 exempts sponsors of shared housing programs from needing a real estate license; it was a learning experience for the committee since none of us were familiar with shared housing programs. These connect house rich individuals (usually seniors) with people who need housing and help them find an appropriate match; there have been some in Vermont for quite a while but there's only one starting up in New Hampshire, in the Mt. Washington Valley. A real estate license seems totally irrelevant to what they're doing, so I expect it to pass.

HB 1367, on professional licenses for out of state candidates, is a very broad attempt to add "certification" to all the reciprocity laws. It also provides a way for migrants with professional experience in a state that doesn't require licenses for that particular occupation to use that experience

to get a license without starting from ground zero. This went to subcommittee to thrash out the details. HB 1326, requiring the independent investment committee of the state retirement system to report, in detail, fees paid, sounded simple but might open a can of worms. The fees paid are quite low as a percentage of the fund (0.3%, to a rough approximation) but a fund the size of the pension system's *should* pay less than smaller ones.

HB 1491, on temporary licenses for the allied health professions, adds all the allied health professions to those eligible for temporary licenses when holding licenses from neighboring states. Seems reasonable to me. HB 1528, setting up a study committee on compensation levels for state employees, seems redundant; the Bureau of Personnel just went out to bid for such a study. HB 1445, adding a building scientist to the Building Code Review Board, sounded reasonable at first, then the hearing revealed that there is no clear definition of "building scientist," and the body tasked with appointing one specifically is uninterested in building codes!

HB 1706, creating a study committee on solid waste practices in state government, is an attempt to reconcile centralized recycling with decentralized waste disposal. Might be reasonable, but I don't think I'd want to be on that committee. HB 1545, on regulation of interpreters for the deaf, had a very informative hearing, with sign language interpreters. No opposition, no obvious problems with the bill.

We also recommended a number of non-controversial bills to the entire House, with all recommendations unanimous or nearly so. HB 1259, exempting the department of information technology from formal (and public) rulemaking for rules on cybersecurity, passed 19-0 with an



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amendment to be effective immediately. HB 1260, a broad but poorly implemented reduction in penalties for some licensing violations, was recommended to be killed, 18-1.

HB 1292, some reforms to the Manchester city retirement system, had an amendment to end the increased employee contributions when the system is fully funded, and passed 19-1, with the opponent more concerned with the process of gaining employee support for the change than the actual reforms. HB 1293, minor changes to the Manchester retirement system, passed without comment. HB 1377, wording fixes for the law on death benefits for EMT and rescue squad members, had a minor amendment and passed unanimously.

My HB 1416, on eyebrow microblading, also passed the committee unanimously. HB 1447, a scheme to allow retirees to work more hours in a part time position, with a new and complex penalty for exceeding the limit, was killed 19-1, largely because it was intended specifically for part-time police who might get called in for emergencies, but was so broadly written that it applied to *all* retirees!

HB 1561, allowing counties to exempt their chief administrator from participation in the retirement system, had some discussion before passing 16-2, with the opponents concerned with exempting more people from the system. I thought adding ten possible county executives to the 200+ *town* administrators currently allowed to pass on the system was minimal. HB 1714, approving amendments to the state building and fire codes, passed 18-0.



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