



February 19, 2021

# Your State House

## Concord, New Hampshire



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

This week, my committee continued public hearings on three bills that had overflowed from last week. HB 85, switching to Atlantic time (essentially daylight saving all year) continued with testimony from various interested parties. One advocate for eliminating the daylight saving time change pointed out that fifteen states have passed some time change legislation in the last few years, and three bills are in Congress for various changes to the current time scheme. The broadcasters are opposed, because their syndication and networks are based in New York, and New England isn't a big enough market to induce them to set up a far east center.

HB 499, banning facial recognition, had the author of the language on usability in court presenting his nuanced approach. The ACLU testified in support of the amendment, stating that facial recognition is currently so faulty that it has not become established yet: it is most accurate on young white males, and fails on older people, women, and people of color. Amazon has banned law enforcement from using their face database because of these problems; some other jurisdictions (Portland, ME; San Francisco; Boston) have banned its use entirely. Another representative raised the points she used to stop it last year, that we often need quick identification of missing children and missing seniors, and this bill would bar that. I don't understand the concern: the identification of lost or trafficked children doesn't need face recognition presented in court, since there must be other evidence that they are victims.

We voted on three bills we'd heard earlier: my HB 72, updating the state building code and

fire by amendments previously approved by the building code review board and the board of fire control, was amended to include the December updates to the fire code and passed, 19-0. We voted 19-0 to kill HB 444, on the pharmacy board, because the boards of nursing, medicine, and dentistry were all opposed to the inspections allowed, and we had retained this bill last year to give them a chance to work it out between them.

Finally, HB 130, setting the order of deductions for medical premiums from pensions, was recommended to pass, 19-0.

We then continued the hearing for HB 544, prohibiting the propagation of divisive concepts. Both the supporters and opponents of this bill were intense, and some members of the committee reacted in kind. Besides the length, this was the most unpleasant hearing I've ever been involved in.



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