Your State House
Concord, New Hampshire

April 23, 2021

To my constituents in Allenstown, Epsom, & Pittsfield:

This week, my committee met on SB 133, which is an omnibus of 13 separate bills, with different topics – all related to licensing, at least - and different sponsors, some of whom only support their own sections and not the whole bill. It took all day to hold the public hearing, and I set up three subcommittees to analyze it in more depth. The subcommittee I was on worked on section VII, giving the office of professional licensure & certification a structure for investigations and hearings. After we established that this was intended to supplement, not replace, the existing board authority, we asked OPLC for clarification in a few specific areas – largely the relationship with the well-established investigation process of some boards, such as medicine and psychology - and will consider their suggested language next week. Another subcommittee dealt with the adoption of two interstate compacts, for occupational therapists and audiology and speech-language pathology. They, too, asked for some clarifying language.

The third subcommittee will meet next Thursday on the remaining eleven sections, nine of which are one page or less; one is a page and a half, and only the section creating a new music therapist license is longer - but we've heard a House bill on the same topic, so I suspect the vote on that section will be the same (partisan.)

It's interesting to see how differently the Senate operates: there would have been 13 House bills on these topics, and they would have needed separate hearings. But the hearings would have been easier, for us and for the public who had to sit through up to 12 irrelevant sections before they could testify: separate hearings start at specific times, while this one bill hearing started at 10 and ran on past 3. We're dealing with each section individually, since there's no overlap.

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