



April 30, 2021

Your State House

Concord, New Hampshire



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

This week, my committee heard SB 104, changing pay grades for a number of state employee positions, allowing the state to hold reverse auctions (where the lowest bid wins), and a request by the commissioner to re-categorize some of his top managers from classified (hourly) to unclassified (salaried.) There was no opposition, but a subcommittee will review all the details.

SB 155 puts seven emergency orders into statute, from establishing “temporary health partners” to protecting the grandfathered zoning status of summer camps that were unable to operate during the pandemic. The only objection was that making outdoor dining permanent might lead some places to overload their water or septic systems. That seems something localities can solve by ensuring that the maximum number of customers stays the same, even if there are tables outside. We also heard a non-germane amendment to ban the state, and any of its contractors, from requiring documentation of health status: so called “vaccine passports.” That generated a lot of testimony, both in support and opposed; the most serious opposition was from medical facilities, which commonly require their employees to be vaccinated. The subcommittee will have a challenge settling the issues in this amendment. The basic bill is more straightforward, but several sections will need to be deleted as duplicative.

We also heard a non-germane amendment to SB 133, adding a section that allows some child care workers to substitute experience for much of the classroom time currently required. That was supported by child care center operators, opposed by those trying to change “child care” to “early

childhood education.” My position is that early childhood education is important, but the state should not be banning basic child care in its favor – we can, and should, have both. That amendment will be going to subcommittee as well.

Subcommittees meet on SB 133, the omnibus licensing bill. Amendments to the language were recommended for several sections, while others will need more discussion. Almost all these issues are a matter of getting the wording right and consistent across a broad range of statutes - the thrilling work that my committee specializes in!



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