



January 21, 2022

# *Your State House* Concord, New Hampshire



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

This week, my committee continued with public hearings. We heard HB 1062, a minor bill updating the electrology advisory committee statute, then HB 1065, adding a new mental health license for art therapists. This is a repeat bill, and I was surprised that nobody showed up at the hearing (the sponsor, an art therapist, was sick and sent us a letter of explanation of the bill.) My HB 1192, on acupuncture, had two enthusiastic acupuncturists testify, and it turned into a learning experience for the committee. Those with the most questions are on the subcommittee to make sure all the acronyms are correct and the language is clear...

HB 1444, registration of medical spas, would create a new license for these facilities, which perform various cosmetic procedures. Much of the industry came out in opposition; they think they're regulated enough now, since all employees are licensed by a professional board (usually medicine, nursing, or cosmetology) and subject to that discipline. The supporters had anecdotes.

HB 1429, registration of massage establishments, is apparently an attempt to have the state enforce local health and occupancy ordinances. It seems that Derry (in particular) has no specific controls on massage establishments and is being plagued by fly-by-night businesses that apparently engage in human trafficking and prostitution. These are crimes, though, and it seems to me that the police are the correct enforcers, not massage inspectors!

HB 1059, clarifying that an automatic license issued by OPLC when the board hasn't acted in 60 days can be denied for failing to meet the objective qualifications for the license, seems a sensible

precaution to me. We debated it, and voted to pass it 11-5, with the 5 claiming that if the board can't act appropriately we shouldn't bother to license that profession. I tend to agree, but in the meanwhile I don't want the state to be handing out licenses to obviously unqualified people. HB 1273, on free and open source software, was unanimously recommended to kill. Some of its elements were incorporated into HB 1581, but the subcommittee amendment on that bill wasn't ready for a vote.

HB 1018, on the board of medical imaging, is mostly technical corrections and minor wording changes, and went to subcommittee to confirm the language (and, incidentally, consider whether we need to register these people – New Hampshire is the only state that does, and it's looking more and more like a knee-jerk reaction to one bad actor.) HB 1061, on the midwifery council, was my bill to convert the board to an advisory council, as with many of the smaller professions (there are fewer than 40 midwives in the state.) It was interpreted by some of the midwives – and all their friends - as an attempt to strip them of their authority to regulate their profession, so we've been getting phone calls and emails, and enough people packed the committee room to take well over an hour. The bill is going to subcommittee to clarify where OPLC should perform administrative functions, and where midwives are needed for professional regulation (evaluating applications, discipline, continuing education, etc.)

HB 1030, licensure by experience for LNA (licensed nursing assistants), is a follow up to last year's bill that added Army and Air Force medic training and experience. This bill added Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, and made the law more general so we won't need to tweak it if the Space Force adds a medical classification. HB 1427, on the board of speech language pathology and



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hearing care providers, separated the “hearing care provider” position on the board into an audiologist and a hearing aid dealer, as the two professions are very different.

HB 1016, licensing speech language specialists from schools as speech language pathologists, also generated a lot of testimony and an amendment from a committee member. It seems silly to require two licenses, so the amendment deletes the school certification and brings all speech-language professionals under the same board. The actual speech-language pathologists object to giving the specialists the same title, especially since we adopted the interstate compact. So the specialists will keep their distinct title. A subcommittee will be combing over the language to check for discrepancies.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol McGuire".

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