



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



April 7, 2023

To my constituents in Allenstown, Dunbarton, Epsom, & Hooksett,

This week, I presented some bills to the Senate. HB 278, which I'd amended to simply cancel the repeal of the requirement that employers in the retirement system report on hours worked by retirees, was appreciated by the committee, since most of the members had been involved in the various changes we'd made to that statute over the years (even while it was, on paper, repealed!) HB 594, allowing the OPLC to grant licenses to people with out of state licenses as long as the other states requirements were "substantially similar," was also well received. I pointed out that no board has yet defined any other state's requirements as substantially similar or not, despite issuing many licenses to out of state applicants. Having the comparison in explicit rules will also make it easier for people moving to New Hampshire. A senator brought in an amendment allowing physicians with an ongoing relationship with a patient provide telehealth without a New Hampshire license, which I generally support but wonder why we need to keep making exceptions to that very recent requirement...

My committee also met to hear Senate bills. SB 203, on the composition of the manufactured housing board, provided a lot of interesting data. This board, which is not a licensing board but a complaint resolution panel, was repealed by the governor's version of HB 2, and the Finance committee hadn't changed that decision, since the board has hardly met in the last four years. The bill reduced the board from eleven members to five, with two tenant aligned members, two representatives of park ownership, and one person familiar with low income housing. That seemed problematic, as the last member would end up

deciding the question most of the time. The current board makeup includes legislative and public members, as well as an attorney familiar with housing law, so there are enough neutral parties. The testimony was spirited and intense, with many tenants in the communities opposed to the state community loan fund, which has supported resident owned communities and in fact seems to be strongly pushing for parks to purchase their land, with a loan from this fund... I sent the bill to subcommittee, since we uncovered a lot of issues.

SB 146, on the other hand was simple: it slightly revises the duties of the agricultural advisory board, and was supported by both the current board and the commissioner of agriculture. We voted unanimously to recommend the bill. SB 208 requires online publishing of a "checkbook" for federal funds; we again voted to support it.

SB 49, creating a dedicated, non-lapsing fund for the OPLC was very similar to HB 445, which we passed on to the Ways & Means Committee. It included a reporting requirement not in HB 445, but not a cap on the fund. I presented an amendment to update the language to that of HB 445, which turned out to be only one sentence, adding a \$3 million cap before lapsing any surplus to the general fund at the end of the biennium. The committee discussed the bill, and were concerned that funds should be used only for the benefit of the fee-paying licensees. We decided to hold off voting on this while some members investigated proper language.

SB 107, on general administration of regulatory boards, had some good language about due process for license applicants (or holders) with criminal records. One questionable section deleted an option for disciplinary cases under the electricians' board to be appealed to the building code review



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This week, I only had Senate meetings. I presented HB 266 to the Judiciary committee, explaining that it codified the pandemic era emergency rules for remote rulemaking hearings and meetings. This bill does *not* authorize any remote or hybrid meetings, it simply adapts the right to know law in case some other bill does so – and I know of at least one that passed the House. No opposition, not many questions.

The next day I was with the Senate ED&A committee. Dan testified on the Finance amendment to HB 250, increasing the accidental death benefit, which put a cap on the award. I testified that the House had amended the bill to fund this benefit (a good thing) but I was not convinced that it needed to be increased (the growth in salaries gave inflation protection, and I heard no good reason a 50 year benefit at 50% of pay needed to go to 100%.) I then introduced HB 330, my bill on national guard recruitment and rulemaking; the guard was there to keep me in line, and explained that the court fines averaged less than \$2000/year – the recruitment benefit was funded by the state. I also testified on HB 519, on establishing a chief information security officer. I wasn't a sponsor, but it went through my committee and nobody else was there.

The Senate committee than voted on some of the House bills they had heard. HB 330 and HB 519 were both recommended to pass, unanimously. They held off on HB 250, since they were concerned about the cap on benefits.

HB 655, my bill restructuring OPLC, was recommended to pass without amendment, as was HB 594, granting licenses for professionals from

other states that had similar requirements for the license – and required the OPLC to make rules about what was “similar.” These are two very important bills my committee dealt with this year, and since the Senate didn't change them, they will go directly to the Governor. HB 461, which penalized towns that replaced a full-time leadership job with a “part time” one, was amended to become a study committee and passed. HB 258, the animal chiropractors bill, was unanimously killed as unnecessary.



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