



# Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



May 5, 2023

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

This week, the House met in a very short session. First, we concurred with Senate amendments to five House bills, as recommended by the chairs of Commerce and Agriculture; all were minor. Then we approved 55 non-controversial bills at once, including 12 from my committee. SB 209, on providing free menstrual protection to prisoners, was tabled, 357-9, since a House bill on the same topic was already in the Senate.

SB 77, which was characterized as a minor update to the law on manifest educational hardship, had been opposed by all the Democrats on the Education Committee because it allowed parents to choose a private school, at taxpayer expense. Since “manifest educational hardship” is a rare situation, and current law allows the school board or the superintendent to select a private school, I agree that this is a minor change. Nonetheless, it was debated before passing, 187-183. SB 153-2, on workforce training programs, had a more intense debate. The bill had several distinct parts. The first directed the department of education to create a “marine trades” curriculum in a regional career technical high school – and nobody spoke against that. Then it created a fund for career and workforce development and an advisory committee on Offshore Wind Industry Workforce Training. That was a bone of contention since many representatives, including me, were concerned about creating a training program for what is actually a single possible future business. A floor amendment to delete those sections was debated and failed, 122-251; a motion to divide the question also failed, 118-255; then the bill passed, 250-123.

SB 155, on the procedure for adopting the school administrative unit budget, was tabled, 252-120.

SCR1, affirming support for the first in the nation primary, had several grandstanding speeches before passing, 356-6. The no votes were one senior Republican who never votes for resolutions, and five Democrats – none in leadership – who seemed to be backing their national party.

We debated SB 149, on nurse agencies; the star speaker was not from my committee but a working nurse who pointed out how necessary the agencies and temporary staff were and how easy it would be for them to just shift their workers to neighboring states. I was just getting up to add the last word when the bill was tabled, 199-173.

SB 14, on game cameras, was amended by a late committee amendment presented as a floor amendment, not tabled 46-321, and passed on a voice vote.

The Science, Technology & Energy committee (which actually concentrates on utility regulation) then proceeded to debate its four bills at what was probably excessive length. SB 52, on electric vehicle charging stations, had some minor updates plus a study committee looking for ways that someone *other* than the vehicle owner could pay for them! A committee amendment failed, 183-183, a motion to table failed, 183-188, then the bill passed 187-184. I was opposed because I'm convinced that when these vehicles start appearing in better numbers on our roads, charging stations will as well. No need for the state to get involved.

SB 69, allowing non-profit organizations to net meter up to 5 kW, failed on a tie vote, 186-186. It was then tabled, 190-181. The opponents pointed out that these organizations could put up as big a



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solar plant as they liked; the limit was only on how much electricity they could sell to the grid at retail prices!

SB 79, allowing commercial and industrial users to net meter up to 5 kW of electricity, **passed** after the usual debate, 194-179. Apparently it was more important to support (large) businesses than non-profits! SB 167, on “green hydrogen” energy infrastructure, was killed, 187-186. Hydrogen comes in many colors now...

SB 51, creating a study commission on charitable gaming, passed without comment. SB 104, regulating on line gaming, was indefinitely postponed on a voice vote, prior to any debate. We won't be taking that issue up again this session!

SB 15, on tree stands, had a floor amendment to add the contents of HB 31, which repealed the prohibition on blackjacks and brass knuckles. This was debated, but failed, 177-196; SB 15 then passed on a voice vote.



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