



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



June 16, 2023

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

This week, the House met to consider House bills amended by the Senate and Senate responses to House amendments. In most cases, we agreed with the Senate changes; the committee chair explained the change and why we should support it, then it passed on a voice vote. In other cases, we formed a committee of conference to resolve our differences. A simple non-concur, which kills the bill, only happened on HB 46, a study committee on bail reform that had been amended to add

HB 584, a revision to the Uniform Commercial Code, had a rather dull debate by a representative opposed to crypto currency, before being approved on a voice vote. HB 315, banning the “gay panic” defense, was debated over some subtleties of language and sent to committee of conference, 199-175.

I explained HB 337, on providing notice and materials to the public for board meetings; the Senate had clarified some language and authorized a position to redact any personal material – after all, the boards do rule on imperfect criminal records and take disciplinary actions, and apparently the meeting materials are mixed.

HB 75, creating districts for Strafford county commissioners (who are currently elected at large,) was debated partly in opposition to creating districts when they were happy with the three incumbents (who all just happen to be Democrats from the cities, rather than Republicans from the towns) and partly against the idea that this change was not done last session, by the redistricting committee. Actually, we discussed it, but with

all the problems we had with redistricting, we agreed to leave the initial districts in Strafford county for the next session. So the motion to concur failed, 185-188; a motion to *non*-concur also failed, 185-188; a motion to table failed, 186-188; and finally, a motion to request a committee of conference passed, 188-186!

HB 251, on reporting the cost of complying with the renewable portfolio standards, was debated at some length before the motion to concur failed, 185-189. The opposition was concerned that none of the *benefits* of renewable energy were reported, and that only the average cost was included, rather than the specific cost to the individual ratepayer. A motion to non-concur passed, 189-186, looking like a very partisan vote.

HB 281, which the Senate had used to include five separate bills on electric regulation, was also debated, some on specific items included, and some on the principle of piling all these bills together. A motion to concur failed, 176-180, then a committee of conference was requested, 179-178.

HB 610, expanding the types of medical professionals who can certify a patient for the therapeutic cannabis program, also had been loaded up with unconnected bills in favor with one or another Senator, including bail reform. After some debate, the request for a committee of conference was approved, 194-175.

HB 467, on playground accessibility, had an extensive debate. The committee chair was asking for a committee of conference, since the Senate amendment narrowed the type of pathway even more than the House position. As I understand it, the supporters of the bill wanted a soft solid surface – not wood chips – since that is more appropriate for wheelchairs, walkers, and canes;



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



the opposition had actually read the specifications and didn't want to mandate a rubber surface that was expensive, uncomfortable to fall on, and required more maintenance than other resilient surfaces. So, the motion to ask for a conference failed, 161-199, and a motion to concur passed on a voice vote.

I requested we simply not accept the request for a committee of conference on SB 203, on the manufacturing housing board; the committee agreed with me that there was no compromise possible. After all, we had completely removed the board restructuring that had been the content of the original bill, and replaced it with a request to maintain their website. The House also agreed, on a voice vote.

Next week are committees of conference, and we will meet on June 29 to vote on all of them.



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

Representative Carol McGuire
carol@mcguire4house.com
782-4918