



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



August 25, 2023

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

This month, I'm providing a summary of the bills I submitted this year. I was prime sponsor of nine, and seven have been signed into law: HB 109, an update of the occupational therapy act; HB 266, notice requirements for hybrid or remote rulemaking meetings; HB 285, relaxing some rulemaking requirements for the department of revenue assessment; HB 330, again, relaxed rulemaking requirements for the national guard; HB 358, a general update of rulemaking requirements and procedures; HB 564, adopting some amendments to the state building code; and HB 655, a recodification of the laws governing the office of professional licensure and certification.

All these except for HB 330 went through my committee, Executive Departments & Administration, and passed the House on consent. Obviously easier to pass bills under those circumstances!

HB 157, on the legislative policy on sexual harassment, and HB 344, marijuana legalization (including home grow, but no sales) were both retained in committee; they will go to the House in January. HB 344 is likely to be killed since the Senate is opposed to simple legalization.

My cosponsored bills weren't as successful, since I wasn't as involved with most of them. There were 17 bills, 10 in the Senate; 7 were signed, 4 retained in committee, 4 killed (or tabled, which has the same result), and two vetoed! That's a first for me...

The vetoed bills were HB 337, which set explicit

transparency requirements for licensing board meetings, and SB 42, on repayment of unemployment. HB 337 was driven by concerns from the licensed communities, which have complained for years that agendas, budgets, and other items for board meetings were not available to the public in advance. The governor was concerned that this would set a precedent of different requirements for different types of meetings; I hope that's reasonable since it's unlikely we would be able to overturn the veto. SB 42 was debated in the House and I actually voted against it, preferring the current law which allows (but does not require) interest on erroneously claimed unemployment payments. Again, the likelihood of overturning the veto is low.

I plan to be a lot more cautious this year on co-sponsoring – I couldn't keep track of most of them!

Besides summer vacations, I've actually been working on three legislative committees. JLCAR (joint legislative committee on administrative rules) always meets year round, and has been busy this year keeping up with law changes (especially for the OPLC), and readopting the first sets of ten year rules – that law was effective in 2013.

The committee on building code updates has also met; the building code control board has recommended going to the 2021 codes, except for the energy code, since the 2021 energy code has major changes from 2018. This is the necessary conflict of more stringent (and costly) energy efficiency buildings, versus the lower maintenance cost of operating such buildings. With home ownership becoming more costly, it doesn't feel right to *mandate* that initial expense (builders or buyers can, of course, voluntarily comply with these requirements.) I expect this will be a contentious issue in the legislature, as energy



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issues derailed the 2015 code updates.

I was also appointed to the commission on the retirement system, and then elected chair. We're working on both a fix for the "gap" personnel, police, fire, and corrections personnel hired but not vested in 2011, and possibly a revision to the entire retirement system. The House had approved a fix for the gap, but the Senate was unwilling to pay the cost – and didn't have time to investigate options. So the commission is working on that, as well as talking about other options for the system.



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