



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



October 27, 2023

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

This week, the House met for one last time in 2023 to consider the Governor's vetoes of four House bills (and any Senate bills that might be overridden in that chamber – but there weren't any.)

HB 35, requiring student ID cards have the National Eating Disorders Hotline printed on them, had no discussion at all: the veto message mentioned that the hotline has been shut down. So we supported the veto, 350-0.

HB 142, continuing the subsidies to the Burgess Biomass Power Plant, was debated between representatives from the north country, who talked about the benefits of the plant to their local economy, and others who talked about the continued subsidies and the debt that this plant was piling up. I found out from a friend in the business that there are, in fact, other biomass plants in the state, but they're struggling since Burgess sucks up all the low grade forest products at a higher price than the others can afford to pay. So I voted to sustain the veto, as I had voted against HB 142 when it came before the House. The vote was 194-159 to override, not the 2/3 necessary, and less than the first vote in the House.

HB 337, requiring additional notice and transparency for meetings of professional boards, went through my committee and, in fact, I was a cosponsor. I spoke against the veto, pointing out that this bill passed the House twice, once on a voice vote and once on a 387-0 roll call (without discussion, after passing Finance unanimously.) The Senate had amended it with language

suggested by the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, which was the only agency the bill would affect. The Senate also authorized a new position to redact any personal information from the Board minutes or discussion items, and passed it twice on voice votes. Nobody spoke in favor of the veto, so we voted 251-104 to override. It went to the Senate, where, after some lobbying by the governor's office, they voted 12-11 to override – not enough to do so. We'll be seeing another version of this bill next year.

HB 342, requiring lead test results for children entering public schools or licensed child care centers, was debated on whether this was necessary: current law requires lead testing at ages 1 and 2, when corrective action is more effective. The concern of the opponents (and the governor) was that this would create a barrier to entry in schools and day care centers. The vote was 184-171 to override, not enough to be effective.

The House also voted to extend the sign off deadline for new bills by two weeks, since the drafting office not only has a lot of new attorneys but is struggling with over 200 retained bills (many of which need amendments) over 800 new House bills, and over 300 new Senate bills.

After the session, all the bills on the table died – over 60 of them!



Representative Carol McGuire
carol@mcguire4house.com
782-4918