



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



April 19, 2024

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

This week, there was no session so I only had one day of committee work. We heard SB 134, creating a separate class of disability pension for public safety employees who are victims of violence. We have fairly extensive benefits for public safety employees who are *killed* on the job, but this pension would deal with those who are attacked and survive. It turns out that it is mostly younger employees with only a short time on the job who are attacked while working, and their regular disability pension is very small: 2/3 of the average pay for the last five years, which for younger employees includes the minimal salaries earned while training. So, this new pension is 100% of their current base pay and \$1000/month medical subsidy, without the limit on earnable compensation which applies to normal disability pensioners. The Senate has worked on this bill for over a year and fixed most of the issues identified in the first version; the cost, in particular, is well below the fiscal note, probably \$50 – 90,000 per eligible retiree, and there are currently two survivors out on disability pensions (the bill allows them to re-apply for this new pension within 90 days of when the bill is effective). After several hours of emotional testimony, we voted unanimously to pass the bill.

SB 600, on the board of pharmacy and CPA examinations, adds a pharmacy technician to the board. It seems that the multiple changes we've made to pharmacy regulation has made the department of justice unsure of how many members there are on this board, so we really want to pass the bill to settle the issue. Since there were questions over whether it should be a licensed or

certified technician, the bill went to subcommittee. There was nobody present to explain the CPA section of the bill – which had been added as a non-germane amendment in the Senate – and it wasn't clear why the current statutory limit of 18 months to finish all sections of the CPA qualifying exam was a problem.

SB 480, on the regulation of real estate professionals, was also a collection of disparate parts. One part dealt with inactive licenses, which are more common with real estate than other professions; there was no objection to this. Another added a definition of “post licensing,” which the board rules use to specify different continuing education requirements for new licensees than for more experienced ones. After we cleared up some confusion, this is also harmless. There's a clarifying amendment on board approval of training programs that doesn't seem to be necessary after other changes to these statutes; that function was assigned to the OPLC rather than the board. Then one section would require that the OPLC provide a dedicated staff person for licensee communication on every board with more than 7,000 licensees. Besides the fact that this creates a single point of failure in the organization, these big boards (medicine, nursing, cosmetology, engineers, plumbers, electricians, and real estate) don't all bring in enough license revenue to cover their costs – and real estate doesn't. There's no funding in the bill. So, the committee discussed the bill and agreed to eliminate the last two sections and pass the rest. The vote will be next week as we need an amendment to do this.

SB 372, on plumbing apprentices, specifies that master plumbers can have more than one apprentice if they choose not to sign up for the federal apprenticeship registry. The sponsor brought an amendment to clear up some confusing language, and I expect we'll pass the bill when we



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get a **house** amendment to do so. Senate amendments can be read and discussed, but not passed in the House...

SB 487, moving the personnel appeals board out of the department of administrative services and setting it up as a separate element of government, was a request of the department to eliminate a perceived conflict of interest. This board is a judicial body where state employees appeal decisions of management and the division of personnel – so having them co-located with the division and using division personnel to support their operations does seem wrong. The division testified in favor and answered our questions; with no opposition, we voted to pass the bill.



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

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