



# Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



April 5, 2024

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

This week, my committee met to hear the first of our Senate bills. SB 337, on doula and lactation service provider certification, was something the Senate had worked on last year but had not made it into HB2 with the rest of the “*momnibus*” bill. It had the department of health & human services provide an optional certification, based on professional qualifications, for the purpose of getting Medicaid payments. The original bill specified a certain certification organization, the bill amended by the Senate had a different set, and the sponsor brought in an amendment to not specify any particular organization, just leave it up to HHS to set the standards in its rules. We heard from two competing groups of lactation service providers, each of whom supported the idea but not the inclusion of the other group! We discussed it for a while, realized it was beyond our knowledge, and voted, 10-1, to pass the bill with the neutral amendment. (with a snowstorm projected, several members were watching the hearings from home.)

SB 485, requiring digital licenses for military and their spouses, had a number of people in support, including the department of veteran's services and the OPLC, which testified they were updating their on-line licensing portal and should have much of it up and running in June (and a vendor who tried to sell us their program!) The bill went to subcommittee to ensure it didn't impose excessive costs or conflict with the processes we just set up in HB 1385.

SB 488, on the regulation of physicians' assistants, mostly clarified the continuing education requirements and exempted them from violating the barbers' law, say by shaving a head before

surgery. As usual, this short bill revealed a mess of incomplete and contradictory statutes, so it was off to subcommittee as well.

SB 369, increasing the public notice requirements for licensing boards, was a resubmission of last year's HB 337, which had been vetoed by the governor and not overridden in the Senate. This year's bill had some tweaks to overcome the governor's issues, including an appropriation for a new position. A minor error – putting a comment period extension against verbal, rather than written, comments – will require an amendment but the committee supported the idea of the bill.

SB 371, on the licensing of resident physicians, was supported by the medical school at Dartmouth, which has been applying for the license for its residents. Right now they ask for one for the entire term of the residency – usually three or four years, but up to seven years for some specialties. Questions revealed confusing statutes that should be cleaned up in any case, in addition to the policy decision on the length of the license. HB 1622, currently in the Senate, has a “notwithstanding other provisions of law” clause that limits licenses to two years, and this bill would have to be reconciled with that. Personally, I believe residents are capable of applying for a license renewal themselves, and in any case seven years is too long. The subcommittee will hash this out.

SB 306, relative to manufactured housing rulemaking authority, is another cleanup bill that reinstates the authority to resolve disputes between manufactured housing installers, manufacturers, inspectors, and consumers. This was previously done by the manufactured housing board which we eliminated last year, and without their process we must fall back on the federal HUD dispute resolution process – which idea is opposed by everybody in the business! Again, we support the



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idea but don't think the bill as written is correct, so it went to subcommittee.

SB 486, adopting the physician assistant licensure compact, was supported by the usual suspects (PAs and their professional group, the department of military services, and the OPLC.) This compact hasn't been formed yet – this is the first year it was available – and five states have adopted it so far. The committee debated it, but with its unformed status and the multiple changes we're putting PA regulation through, we didn't want to enter the compact this year. Maybe next session, when the rules and costs of the compact are available for consideration, and the effects of other reciprocity changes have settled down. The vote was 11-0 to kill this bill.



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