



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



June 6, 2024

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

This week, the only legislative activity was committees of conference.

My committee had committees of conference on four House bills: HB 518, HB 1079, HB 1521, and HB 1622, and two Senate bills, SB 371, resident physicians, and SB 480, on real estate practice.

I chaired the conference on HB 1521, on recovery houses. The only issue was the Senate amendment that required new recovery houses in Nashua and Manchester (and possibly other cities later) to be approved by the legislative body, that is the board of aldermen. The Senate, led by Senator Murphy of Manchester, was concerned that so many recovery houses were located in these two cities, and with the failure rate close to 50% of inhabitants, those who left the recovery houses joined the city's homeless population. In addition, the concentration meant that many residents were far from their homes, relatives, and other support systems, increasing the chances of relapse and failure. The House position was that recovery houses needed to be in places that had the necessary support services, and where residents could live without relying on cars for everything (since many recovery house residents don't have cars.) So, cities or towns with dense areas: Allenstown should work, Epsom wouldn't. We all agreed that such places should have more (or at least some!) recovery houses: but Berlin, Salem, Portsmouth, etc, don't have any. We disagreed on whether the limit would encourage other towns to have recovery houses, and could not reach a compromise.

HB 1622, on administrative rulemaking, had some

language issues that we'd like to fix. It had a very fast, very cordial committee meeting. The House agreed to the Senate amendment with two wording changes, for clarity, and the deletion of that one section already in HB 518. After some discussion of the language changes, the Senators agreed.

HB 518, on administration of licensing boards, had been amended with SB 485, military licenses, since the House had put a non-germane amendment about penalties for false reports of child abuse onto that bill. The Senate then killed SB 485, and the committee of conference on this bill was necessary to add the committee amendment to SB 485 – the digital verification required by the Senate bill had problems (and costs!) that hadn't been apparent at first.

HB 1079 on critical incident stress management team members, had a random amendment to provide incentive payments to teachers in underserved areas. There was no problems with the basic bill, but the teacher retention program was modified so that the cost would be considered in the next budget.

The Senate conferees for both SB 371 and SB 480 discussed the bills and agreed with the House versions.



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