

MEETING MINUTES

Legislative Policy Committee

Tuesday, April 13, 2021; 11:00 A.M.
Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Per RSA 91-A:2, III(b) the RPC Chair has declared the COVID-19 Outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting.

1. Call to order.
2. Reviewed status of five bills on watch list
 - *HB025 – Capital Budget including provision of funds for Coastal Flooding Model. Passed House in floor vote 4/7. We assume this will go to the Senate Capital Budget Committee though no hearing date has been set yet.*
 - *SB095 - Relative to remote board meetings under the right-to-know law. Has already passed Senate and been referred to House Judiciary Committee, though no hearing date has been set yet. (Note: hearing was subsequently set and held 4/22)*
 - *HB111 – Establishing a cause of action against the state to protect individual rights. Tabled by House on 4/9 after failing an OTP motion.*
 - *HB279 - Relative to the maximum allowable vehicle gross weight for a combination of truck-trailer and single semi-trailer with 4 or more axles. Tabled on House Floor vote of 200-173 on 4/9/21.*
 - *HB439 - Relative to the powers of city councils. Tabled by House on 4/9 by vote of 189-186 after failing an OTP motion.*
3. Discuss potential RPC comment on two bills still alive following crossover (HB025 & SB095)

The Committee discussed preparing RPC letters of testimony on HB025 and SB095 based on tight connection to regional planning issues and function of the Commission. Scott Bogle will discuss with Tim Roache and draft informational letters. The letters will highlight the benefits provided by each bill, though not recommend a specific vote.

Committee members discussed several other remaining House bills that have crossed over to the Senate and were brought up by various members:

- HB177 – Prohibiting the siting of landfills near state parks
- HB67 - Limiting ability to amend petition warrant articles at deliberative session
- HB484 – Prohibiting Budget Committee from making comments on warrant articles that have not monetary value.
- HB243 – Mandating line by line format for municipal budgets.
- HB315 – Changing rules for aggregation of electric customers.
- HB351 – Requiring legislative approval for changes to the System Benefit Charge related to the energy efficiency component of the SBC. Currently the PUC has discretion to adjust the efficiency component of the SBC to address the Energy Efficiency Resource.
- HB373 – Prevents DES from participating in any state, regional or national low carbon fuel standards program unless specifically directed by the Governor.

Scott Bogle will assemble additional information on each of these bills to discuss at the next meeting.

The next session of the full House won't be until end of May/beginning of June, though hearings on bills that have crossed over will happen in House committees in April and May. 100+ Senate bills that now need to be heard in House committees.

There was discussion of the restructuring of the planning and energy functions at the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI). There will be a new Office of Development and Planning within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (DBEA). Crossover is completed now. Happened Fri 4/9.

There was discussion of inviting Rep. Julie Gilman, who also serves as an RPC Commissioner from Exeter, to join the Legislative Policy Committee if she is interested. Committee members felt that having the perspective of an additional legislator would be useful.

4. Next meeting set for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 11:00am via Zoom.
 5. Adjourn.
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