

The House met on Thursday February 2nd for a short session.

My committee had 7 bills on consent. These are bills that the committee agreed on the recommendation and asked the House to support the recommendation. HB 140 regarding Granny D was pulled from consent – all others were voted as recommended.

The consent calendar and regular calendar are found starting on page 2.

https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/calendars_journals/viewer.aspx?fileName=Calendars\2023\No%2009%20January%2027%202023.PDF

There were 8 bills on the regular calendar – please note that this is an unusually light agenda because bills are still in committee.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT AND ADMINISTRATION – (my committee)

HB33 relative to polycystic ovary syndrome asking for a special data – committee recommendation was Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) 19-0. Not put on consent as courtesy to sponsor. Voice vote was yes to ITL.

HB94 – establishing October 2023 as eczema awareness month – recommendation was 17-2 for ITL – not put on consent due to the heartfelt testimony of the public. Voice vote was yes to ITL

HB230 – directing the department of agriculture DOA, markets and food to employ an electronic data processing system for all registrations under its purview. This bill updates the DOA from a paper to online process so that employees are relieved of data entry rather than the work of the department. Committee recommendation was Ought to Pass (OTP) 18-0. Bill was not on consent due to fiscal note. Voice vote for OTP – this bill now goes to Finance.

HB455 – This bill allows the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) to have its funds non-lapsing and restricts anything about OPLC costs and salaries to be used to reduce license fees. Committee recommendation was 15-1 for OTP. Voice vote was yes to OTP

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB95 is an attempt to remedy the housing problems in NH with rent control for municipalities. Although there is an issue with housing availability, there are significant issues with this bill. Only 3 members of the 20 committee members voted OTP.

First motion – Table – failed 180Y/186N – I voted no

Second motion ITL – Passed 301Y/63N – I voted yes

ITL passed

HB295 requires all select board and school board meeting to be recorded and broadcast live. Although I support the transparency and participation that this allows, it requires municipalities to spent money they may not have.

Motion was to table – 322Y/45N – I voted yes.

With this table motion, we can possibly get an amendment that would improve the bill.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB412 – establishes a commission to study revenue relative to the road toll for funding improvements to the state highways and bridges. This bill re-establishes the study commission to look at the road toll (AKA gas tax) Committee voted OTP and the House voted yes to this recommendation.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERAN AFFAIRS

HB330 FN – this bill raises the enlistment incentive pay from \$500 to \$1000 to current and former members of the NH National Guard for refer enlistees. Committee was OTP and the House voted yes in a voice vote.

BILLS TAKEN OFF CONSENT

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 140 commemorates January 24th as Granny D day. The committee recommendation was ITL. Floor debate with those who pulled the bill from consent and the ranking member of the committee – House voted yes to ITL on voice vote.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

2HB 148 this bill creates minimum value of equipment and material purchases from \$5,000 to \$10,000 subject to competitive bidding made by the county sheriff, county attorney, county treasurer and county register of deeds. The committee recommended ITL.
House Motion – Table – voice vote Y (voted Y)

HB 422 – creates a county registry of monthly rent charged by landlords for each owned unit. The committee motion was ITL.

Motion was to lay the bill on the table because there is a Housing Committee who is working on this issue. 163Y/200N – I voted no

Motion Indefinitely postpone – 206Y/158N – I voted no

I voted not to table because I would have voted for ITL. However, the next motion was to indefinitely postpone which does not allow discussion for the rest of the 2 year term – I did not want to postpone and voted no.

House session recording – my floor speech is at 48:47

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooiEEIUTfzw>

Here is a perspective for the 2023 House Session

<https://indepthnh.org/2023/02/04/how-much-legislature-accomplishes-is-up-for-debate/>