

# **2023 Environmental Health Conference**

## **NH Environmental Health Legislative Priorities & Success Story**

October 26, 2023



# DPHS Mission and Legislative Role

## Mission:

Protect, promote and improve the health and wellbeing of ALL people in New Hampshire through leadership, expertise and partnership.



## Legislative Role:

- Monitor and engage on public health legislation;
- Provide technical expertise; and
- Collaborate with and serve as a resource to policy makers.

# Environmental Health Legislative Priorities in NH

Emerging  
Contaminants  
(PFAS)

Childhood Lead  
Poisoning  
Prevention

Safe Drinking  
Water

Clean Air

Environmental  
Waste &  
Contaminates

Food Safety

Radiological  
Health & Safety

Clean Energy &  
Climate

# EH Legislative Commissions

- ▶ Study Environmentally-Triggered Chronic Illness(SB85, 2019)
- ▶ Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Perfluorinated Chemicals (HB737, 2019)
- ▶ Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund Advisory Commission (SB380, 2016)
- ▶ Study the Environmental and Health Effects of Evolving 5G Technology (HB522, 2019 - completed)
- ▶ Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation (HB484, 2017 - completed)

# EH Legislative Success Story – HB614

## NH Legislative Process

- Bill Introduced
- Public Hearing
- Committee Work Sessions & Vote
- Floor Vote
- If Successful Moves to Other Chamber
- Repeats the Process
- Committee of Conference (if needed)
- Final Step – Governor’s Desk



## 2023 Legislative Session: LSR 23-0256

- Voluntary PFAS Health Outcomes Repository

# HB614-FN as Introduced

HB614-FN, AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to develop a health outcomes repository related to per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances.

## DHHS Fiscal Note Worksheet

- State Expenditures – Indeterminable Increase
- Estimated significant costs for privacy and security of the information
- Challenges with voluntary registry
- Identified DHHS staff needs
- Identified other concerns with the legislation



# Collaborative Efforts Related to HB614

## DHHS worked with bill sponsor on amended language

- ✓ Building relationships and understanding community concerns/needs
- ✓ Consider recommended next steps in the [Cancer Incidence Report for Merrimack, New Hampshire](#), January 13, 2023
- ✓ Align the amended language to support the Department's recommendations

## HB614-FN (Amendment 2023-0111h)

- Appropriation to DHHS to fund the Merrimack, NH Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study
- \$500,000 to DHHS to enter into a contract with an academic or research organization to complete the Feasibility Study





# Continued Collaborations

## NH House HHS&EA Committee Hearing on Amendment

- DHHS to explore options for grant funding to support the Study
- HB 737 Commission support for the bill amendment

## The Department worked collaboratively with the bill sponsor, HB737 Commission and Vice Chair of the HHS&EA Committee on amendment

- [HB 614-FN \(Amendment 2023-0533h\)](#) – Bipartisan support!
- HHS Legislative Oversight Committee review prior to use of appropriated funds.





# Road to Success

## Bill Path Forward

- Amendment Passed House HHS&EA Committee
  - Bipartisan support/HB737 Commission Support
- Referred to House Finance – Retained in Committee
- Bill language added to the HB2 (State Biennium Budget)
- HB2 signed on 6/20/23
- Department presented to the HHS Oversight Committee on 9/22/23



## Next steps

- Establish a contract with an academic or research partner to complete the Feasibility Study
- Once partner is selected, DHHS will begin planning outreach efforts to the community
- Continued partnerships with policy makers and other environmental health champions

# Thank you!

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