



Advocacy Matters Newsletter
Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire
January 27, 2023

Legislative Update-Teresa Rosenberger, Lobbyist, Bernstein Shur

This coming week we have a number of executive session where bills we are watching will be voted on in Committee. Also, this week we have the first meeting of the full House. It will be interesting to see how things go with the count being so close, who shows up and what they decide to debate. There are not a lot of controversial bills up yet. But they are coming.

We had one priority bill hearing this week where we signed in support. **SB 188, requiring children under the age of 2 to be in a rear facing car seat** unless they are over the manufacturers recommended weight and height for the car seat. The bill has good support, however, the Chair of the Commission who worked on the issue all summer, former Rep. Pat Abrami, testified he voted for the bill last year but with what he knows now after studying the issue all summer, he would not vote for it today. Yikes, that was not good. AAA, the NH Medical Society, Dartmouth, Pediatric Society all testified eloquently in support. No one, not even Rep. Abrami, disputes the facts that this is a safety issues and children are more protected when facing rear. Not sure when the committee is going to vote on this but probably next week.

SB 84, which defines behavioral health crisis programs within the mental health treatment laws; creates a commission to study behavioral health crisis programs; and limits pre-authorization requirements for emergency behavioral health services, has bi-partisan sponsors and should pass the committee with an amendment. 94 individuals signed in in support and only 1 individual signed in in opposition to SB 84. NAMI, New Futures, and DHHS Bureau of Behavioral health all spoke in support, NH Hospital Association spoke that they have some concerns particularly around prior authorization. Anthem also has some concerns. Senator Bradley asked that the hospital association, insurers and the supporters work together on an amendment.

Many of the bills we are watching are having executive session this coming week so it will only be another couple of weeks before we know what is really alive and moving and can really concentrate on those bills. My best, Teresa

Brain Injury Public Policy Meeting Invitation

The next Brain Injury Public Policy Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14th at 4:30 pm, all are welcome to attend.

ZOOM Link:

Time: Feb 14, 2023 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Every month on the Second Tue, until Jun 13, 2023, 5 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86858047776?pwd=QzVxSFR6MWkxQ0M1T0gvRXRYTDZiZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 5804 7776 Passcode: 796391 One tap mobile
+13017158592,,86858047776#,,,,*796391# US (Washington
DC) +13052241968,,86858047776#,,,,*796391# US

Brain Injury Legislative Status Report

Attached find the most recent Brain Injury Legislative Status Report for your review.

Take care,

Ellen

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