



Advocacy Matters Newsletter
Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire
February 20, 2023

Legislative Update-Teresa Rosenberger, Lobbyist, Bernstein Shur

The House met this week to vote on bills. It was a bit of an arduous process. Bill after bill was a 186-186 vote which meant the Motion failed, then a tabling motion which failed, then another motion that failed, and then another tabling motion that passed. Please note it only takes a majority to take a bill off the table until the end of March. Once we get to April, a bill stays on the table unless it can get a 2/3rd vote of all present to remove it from the table which in this climate would be next to impossible. There were a number of bills that did not make it to the table as people left the Chamber to go to the Bathroom, get coffee or have a smoke. A number of bills that the Republicans would have tabled got a vote of 183-187, so they passed. All session, we will see this. Guess they may have to institute scheduled potty breaks. As we have said for all session, it's all about the numbers and who shows up.

Next week we have one very important hearing.

HB 222 requiring seat belts for all occupants when riding in a vehicle has a hearing Tuesday at 1:00. We are hoping for a big turnout for support. The executive session is at 2:00. This is quite odd as usually the Committee chair gives the Committee time to digest what they have heard and do some homework before voting. The guess is someone knows how the vote is going to go.

HB 642 prohibiting HHSA from enforcing salary caps for direct support workers has a hearing on March 1 at 10:00.

SB 86, Senator Bradley's omnibus Healthcare Development workforce bill, will be voted on by the full Senate Thursday. It has a 5-0 vote out of committee. SB 85 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. The Committee Amendment reduces the legislative membership on the commission, and adds a representative of the community behavioral health centers. This bill recognizes the severe crisis New Hampshire is facing with regard to behavioral health and takes several critical steps to move the State forward in responding to the crisis. It should pass with no problems and then go to Senate Finance to discuss the cost of the programs.

Things are really picking up these days in Concord. Teresa

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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