



Advocacy Matters Newsletter

Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire

May 22, 2023

State Budget Update-Teresa Rosenberger, Lobbyist, Bernstein Shur

This is not a fun time of year with the Senate and House even though it is beautiful outside. The Senate Finance Committee is starting the executive session on the budget this week. There will be more discussion this week on the Department of Health and Human Services budget. They are nearing the end in the Senate.

Legislative Update-Teresa Rosenberger, Lobbyist, Bernstein Shur

Last week showed once more just how volatile things are in the House. The Republicans lost every bill that was on their agenda. Too many members did not show up on the Republican side and some middle of the road Republicans voted with the Democrats. It was a black day for the Republican leadership in the House. The Senate seems to be holding the line on partisan votes with their 14-10 majority.

The big news last week was after hours of amendments the Democrats were able to pass **SB 263**, the bill that makes Medicaid expansion permanent. It now goes to the House Finance Committee for a vote and then back to the full House. It's outcome is still not secure as to whether it is permanent or sunsets in a number of years. Folks, including us, are working it hard for the permanent version.

HB 317 creating a Commission to study transitioning the A-2 tier waiver system for folks with disabilities, has a full works session this week. It cannot pass this year as it did not cross over to the Senate at the end of March. They will begin work so it can move forward next year.

Finally **HB 467**, requiring public playgrounds to have resilient solid surface materials for accessibility has passed the Senate. It was amended so it has to go back to the House but hopefully this time it will move faster through the process.

The other big news was that **SB 118**, requiring a rear facing car seat for kids 2 and under passed the Committee 11-9. It will definitely be a floor fight on June 8th so if you see your Rep at the dump, ask them to vote yes. Thanks to all who helped.

HB 554 dealing with the treatment of opioids also has a work session this week to prepare for passage in 2024 as well as **HB 608** creating a pilot program to redesign the DD service at DHHS will be worked on this week. Lots going on before summer break. **SB 85** dealing with behavioral services programs passed the Senate also last week. Some good wins. Now let's just keep them.

The House will not meet again until June 8th. At that time the few bills we have left should be voted on. Teresa

Invitation to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Public Hearing

June 14, 2023, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: Granite State Independent Living, 21 Chenell, Drive, Concord, NH
Registration is Required, Light Refreshments

It is important that people with brain and spinal cord injuries, their family members and individuals/organizations that provide supports and services to these people attend this public hearing to share with the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council(BSCIAC) what is currently working and what is not in their lives.

Why?

Your feedback based on your experience is important to the council to include when their annual report is compiled, this report is a statutory charge from the New Hampshire Legislature. If you would like to review past BSCIAC reports, visit the Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire website at www.bianh.org

Attached find additional information on the BSCIAC Public Hearing.

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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