



Advocacy Matters Newsletter

Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire

March 26, 2021

General Court News- Legislative Activities Suspension

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court is conducting legislative activities remotely with the exception of publicly noticed sessions in the House or Senate Calendar. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building remain closed to visitors.

Legislative Update -Teresa Rosenberger, Lobbyist, Bernstein Shur

The House has not met as a full body since early March. They are planning on 3 marathon days the week after Easter at the Bedford Sports Complex to vote on all remaining bills. The biggest bills they have, the budget, HB 1 and its trailer bill, HB 2 may have a full day floor debate by themselves. There have been numerous amendments (policy not budget related) to the budget that are needed to get the budget passed in the House. The House Finance Committee has been working diligently on zoom to put together a budget that will be balanced for the next fiscal biennium. At the same time, the House Ways and Means Committee has been working also diligently trying to update the revenue estimates. As of today, the revenue estimates that the House is working with are lower than the estimates the Governor based his budget on so the House budget will cut the Governor's budget. As of this writing budget items that impact individuals with brain injuries are OK. Once the budget goes to the Senate and the revenue estimates come in for April, we may see the Senate increase the Houses budget....hopefully not make more cuts. Time will tell.

On the policy front, a couple of bills are moving forward that we support. SB 150 which creates dental benefits for those on Medicaid will be voted on in the full Senate for the second time on April Fools Day. It passed unanimously the first time. SB 100 which creates a Commission to study safety in healthcare facilities has passed the Senate. The Brain Injury Association is in full support of both of these bills and is hoping the House will agree with the Senate on moving these to the Governor's desk.

There has been no conversation recently about whether the House or Senate will go back to meeting at the State House. As the state continues to get vaccinated, there may be a push after crossover (April 9th) to meet in person. Only time will tell.

Brain Injury Public Policy Committee Meeting -April 13, 2021

The next scheduled Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire Public Policy Committee ZOOM Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:30pm**. The Brain Injury Public Policy Committee will be meeting regularly on the **second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm**. Eldon Munson, Jr., Chair of the Committee, will preside over the 2021 meetings.

During the meeting, Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire Lobbyist Teresa Rhodes Rosenberger from the Law Firm of Bernstein Shur will provide the committee with a legislative and public policy update.

All are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please visit <https://bianh.salsalabs.org/bimppcm> to register and receive the ZOOM link or contact Ellen Edgerly at Ellen@bianh.org or 603-834-9570.

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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