

Bill as Introduced

HB 1210 - AS INTRODUCED

2010 SESSION

10-2444

10/03

HOUSE BILL **1210**

AN ACT relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.

SPONSORS: Rep. Winters, Hills 17; Rep. Nord, Rock 1

COMMITTEE: Legislative Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill requires that proposed amendments to bills and resolutions shall be available to the public on the general court Internet site.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics**.
 Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Ten

AN ACT relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Legislature; Amendments to Bills and Resolutions. Amend RSA 20 by inserting
2 after section 4 the following new section:

3 20:4-a Amendments to Bills and Resolutions. Proposed amendments to bills or resolutions
4 before a house, senate, or joint committee, or before the house of representatives or senate in session,
5 which are drafted by the office of legislative services, except those in preliminary form not drafted as
6 official proposed amendments, shall be made available by the general court to the public by posting
7 such amendments on the general court Internet site.

8 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Amendments

Rep. Nord, Rock.1
Rep. Winters, Hills. 17
February 16, 2010
2010-0786h
10/04

Amendment to HB 1210

1 Amend RSA 20:4-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 20:4-a Amendments to Bills and Resolutions. Proposed amendments to bills or resolutions
4 before a house, senate, or joint committee, or before the house of representatives or senate in session,
5 which are noticed for a public hearing, shall be made available by the general court to the public by
6 posting such amendments on the general court Internet site.

NOT ADOPTED



2010-0786h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires that proposed amendments to bills and resolutions which are noticed for a public hearing shall be available to the public on the general court Internet site.

Speakers

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1210

BILL TITLE: relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.

DATE: January 11, 2010

LOB ROOM: **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 12 noon

Time Adjourned: 12:35 pm

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. L. Weber, P. McMahon, Schuett, Lelandeau, Shurtleff, Cottling, S. Nord, Pierce, D. Wheeler, Komi, Hunt, M. Flanders, Dowling, Patten, Millham, Kidder, Baldasaro and Haefner

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Winters

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Joel Winters – Introduced the bill. Will make process more transparent. Suggests Clerk and Legislative Services could perhaps work something out.

Q: Rep. Patricia Dowling – Amendments come at different times; how could that work?

A: Thinks any red stamp amendment should be included.

Q: Rep. Lucy Weber – Every amendment?

A: Yes, but willing to compromise.

Q: Rep. Alfred Baldasaro – Would it be as soon as a member signs off that amendment could be available?

A: Yes.

Q: Rep. Alida Millham – Many amendments never see the light of day; should they be included?

A: Yes, everything.

Q: Rep. Dianne Schuett – Don't you think too many amendments would be confusing to the public especially those not proposed or adopted?

A: Thinks dockets clearly show those amendments adopted.

Q: What about administrative work to post disposition?

A: Yes, should be noted, but again, could be posted in docket.

Q: Rep. Millham – Amendments from committees are already posted.

A: Retained bill amendments were held too long.

Rep. Candace Bouchard – Opposes the bill. Practicality of posting many amendments would be difficult and confusing.

Q: Rep. Baldasaro – Thinks it would benefit legislation to have these available.

A: No, because you would see amendments that never even got proposed.

A: Minutes reflect amendments adopted or considered but you were saying to post all, whether brought forward or not.

Stan Kelly, General Court Information Systems – Supports the bill. Some members want their amendments secret until and if they want them public.

Q: Rep. Weber – Do we have space? What about staff time?

A: We have space; would try to work with Clerk and OLS to automate.

Carol Holahan, Director of Legislative Services – Two concerns - amendment is not public until member presents it to the floor or committee or press. Confidentiality is a concern to OLS. We will need to know demarcation how to make public. Also if all amendments are available it's a major policy change. We draft over 2000 amendments in a budget year.

Q: Rep. John Hunt – When posting LSR's we are asked, "can this be public?"

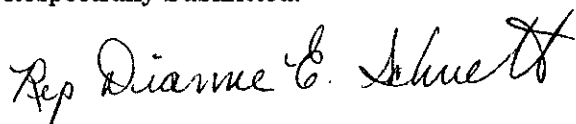
A: Senate can keep titles private; in House, LSR is private except title until you sign off.

Karen Wadsworth, Clerk of the House – Would create a lot of confusion with many amendments. Last week we had two representatives with 6 versions of floor amendments. I think once a committee adopts an amendment that could be public. Thinks every amendment proposed would be overwhelming to members and public. Sees floor amendments as biggest problem; many of them are political ploys.

Rep. Baldasaro – Amendments adopted, could that be posted?

A: I think that could be done through my office.

Respectfully Submitted:



Dianne E. Schuett, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1210

BILL TITLE: relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.

DATE: January 11, 2010

LOB ROOM:

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 12:00 noon

Time Adjourned: 12:35 pm

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. L. Weber, P. McMahon Schuett, Lerandeau, Shurtleff, Gottling, S. Nord, Pierce, D. Wheeler, Komi, Hunt, J. Flanders, Dowling, Patten, Millham, Kidder, Baldasaro and Haefner.

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Winters

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep Winters - introduced bill. will make ~~ams~~ ^{process} more transparent. suggests Clk & Leg. Svcs could perhaps work

? Dowling - Ams come at different times. ~~How~~ what types
How can that work?

A - thinks any red-stamp am should be included

? ~~Schuet~~ ^{Wheeler} - E very am?

A - yes but willing to compromise

? Baldasaro - would it be as soon as a member sign-off
that ams could be avail?

A - yes

? Millham - Many ams never see the light of day - should they be included
A. yes, everything

? Schutt - Do you think many ans would be confusing to public - especially those not proposed or adapted

A - think dockets clearly show those ans

? Schutt ^{adapted} - what about admin work to post disposition

A - ~~can~~ yes, should be noted, but again, could be posted in docket

? Millham - Ans from comms are already posted

A - ~~this~~ retained bill ans

Rep C. Bouchard - opposes bill. Practicality of ^{posting} many ans would be difficult and confusing.

? Baldasaro - Thinks it would benefit leg. to have these available

A - No, because you would see ans that never even got proposed.

? Baldasaro - in minutes

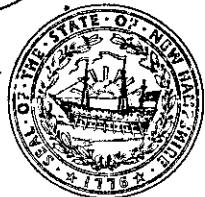
A - Minutes reflect ans adopted or considered but ~~those~~ you were saying to post all - whether brought forward or not.

Stan Kelly - some members want their ans secret until and if they want them public.

? Weber - ~~can~~ do we have space? What about staff time?

A - have space, we would try to work w/ CLK & OLS to automate.

Carol Holahan Dir OLS - I concerns - Ans is not public until member presents it to fle or comm or press. Confidentiality is a concern to OLS. We will need to know demarkation how to make public.



State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

Also - if all ans are available it's a major policy change. We draft over 2000 ans in a budget yr.

? Hunt - when posting LSR's we are asked - can this be public?

A - Sen can keep titles private - in House, LSR is ^{exactly} private until you sign off.

K. Weddworth - ^{Would} Creates a lot of confusion with many ans. Last week we had 2 Keys with 6 versions of fl ans. I think once a comm adopts an am that could be public. Thinks every am proposed would be overwhelming to members & public. Sees fl ans as biggest problem - many of them are political ploys.

Baldasaro - Ans adapted, could that be posted?

A - I think that could be done thru my ofc.

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1210

BILL TITLE: relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.

DATE: 2-17-10

LOB ROOM: 104

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. Nord OLS Document #: 2010 0786h

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Nord

Seconded by Rep. McMahon

Vote: 15-1(No RC) (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Nord

Seconded by Rep. Baldasaro

Vote: 4-14 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Patten

Seconded by Rep. Lerandeau

Vote: 16-2 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: Consent or Regular (Circle One)

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Dianne E. Schuett, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1210

BILL TITLE: relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.

DATE: ^{recessed to} ~~1-26-10~~ 2-17-10

LOB ROOM: 104

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. Nord & Winters OLS Document #: 2010-0786 h
Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ^{AM}ITL, ~~Interim Study~~ (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Nord
Seconded by Rep. McMahon
Vote: 15-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.) (no RC)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Nord
Seconded by Rep. Baldassarro
Vote: 4-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

ITL Patten / Sekandear 16-2

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: Consent or Regular (Circle One)

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Dianne E. Schuett, Clerk

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Bill #: HB 1210 Title: re availability of proposed am's

PH Date: 1 / 11 / 2010 Exec Session Date: 2 / 17 / 2010

Motion: OTP / AM Amendment #: _____

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Weber, Lucy M, Chairman		13 14
McMahon, Patricia M, V Chairman		1
Lerandean, Alfred C		2
Shurtleff, Stephen J		3
Gottling, Suzanne H		4
Nord, Susi	1	
Pierce, David M abs		5
Wheeler, Deborah		13
Komi, Richard N		6
Schuett, Dianne E, Clerk		7
Hunt, John B	2	
Flanders, John W		8
Dowling, Patricia A	3	
Patten, Betsey L		9
Millham, Alida I		10
Kidder, David H		11
Baldasaro, Alfred P	4	
Haefner, Robert H		12
Kerr		
TOTAL VOTE:	4	15

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Bill #: HB 1210 Title: re availability of proposed am'sPH Date: 1 / 11 / 2010Exec Session Date: 2 / 17 / 2010Motion: ITC Amendment #: _____

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Weber, Lucy M, Chairman	16	
McMahon, Patricia M, V Chairman	1	
Lerandau, Alfred C	2	
Shurtleff, Stephen J	3	
Gottling, Suzanne H	4	
Nord, Susi		1
Pierce, David M	5	
Wheeler, Deborah	6	
Komi, Richard N	7	
Schuett, Dianne E, Clerk	8	
Hunt, John B	9	
Flanders, John W	10	
Dowling, Patricia A	11	
Patten, Betsey L	12	
Millham, Alida I	13	
Kidder, David H	14	
Baldasaro, Alfred P		2
Haefner, Robert H	15	
TOTAL VOTE:	16	2

Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 3, 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

to which was referred HB1210,

AN ACT relative to the availability of proposed

amendments to bills and resolutions. Having

considered the same, report the same with the following

Resolution: **RESOLVED**, That it is **INEXPEDIENT TO**

LEGISLATE.

Rep. Betsey L Patten

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION
Bill Number:	HB1210
Title:	relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.
Date:	February 18, 2010
Consent Calendar:	YES
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

We have all asked for an amendment to a bill going through the legislative process. A large majority of those amendments are not acted on by the standing committees. This bill would have required that all amendments to bills and resolutions would have to be posted on general court's Internet site with an effected date of 60 days after passage. The intention of the sponsors as stated in the testimony was for transparency and public access to all amendments. During discussion the majority of the committee felt that this would cause more confusion for the public and also cause a lot of extra work for our staff. The committee requested that the sponsors get together with the clerks of both houses, office of legislative services and the office of information technology to see if there was a way to share amendments without all the confusion. An amendment was presented to the committee that would have required that only the amendments that were posted in the calendar for public hearings would be posted to the Internet site. After deliberation the majority of the committee concluded that a new House procedure, with approval by the Speaker, could put those specific amendments on the website immediately without putting the requirement in statute. This action would then start a pathway to getting more amendments on the website once the glitches, if any, were fixed.

Vote 16-2.

Rep. Betsey L Patten
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

HB1210, relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.

INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Betsey L Patten for LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION. We have all asked for an amendment to a bill going through the legislative process. A large majority of those amendments are not acted on by the standing committees. This bill would have required that all amendments to bills and resolutions would have to be posted on general court's Internet site with an effected date of 60 days after passage. The intention of the sponsors as stated in the testimony was for transparency and public access to all amendments. During discussion the majority of the committee felt that this would cause more confusion for the public and also cause a lot of extra work for our staff. The committee requested that the sponsors get together with the clerks of both houses, office of legislative services and the office of information technology to see if there was a way to share amendments without all the confusion. An amendment was presented to the committee that would have required that only the amendments that were posted in the calendar for public hearings would be posted to the Internet site. After deliberation the majority of the committee concluded that a new House procedure, with approval by the Speaker, could put those specific amendments on the website immediately without putting the requirement in statute. This action would then start a pathway to getting more amendments on the website once the glitches, if any, were fixed. **Vote 16-2.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HB 1210 relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.

Betsey Patten for the Committee ITL 16-2 Consent

We have all asked for an amendment to a bill going through the legislative process. A large majority of those amendments are not acted on by the standing committees. This bill would have required that all amendments to bills and resolutions would have to be posted on general court's Internet site with an effected date of 60 days after passage. The intention of the sponsors as stated in the testimony was for transparency and public access to all amendments. During discussion the majority of the committee felt that this would cause more confusion for the public and also cause a lot of extra work for our staff. The committee requested that the sponsors get together with the clerks of both houses, office of legislative services and the office of information technology to see if there was a way to share amendments without all the confusion. An amendment was presented to the committee that would have required that only the amendments that were posted in the calendar for public hearings would be posted to the Internet site. After deliberation the majority of the committee concluded that a new House procedure, with approval by the Speaker, could put those specific amendments on the website immediately without putting the requirement in statute. This action would then start a pathway to getting more amendments on the website once the glitches, if any, were fixed.

Stapler, Carol

From: Lucy McVitty Weber [lwmcv@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:30 AM
To: Stapler, Carol
Cc: Patten, Betsey
Subject: FW: Blurb
Attachments: HB 1210relative to the availability of proposed amendments to bills and resolutions.doc

Carol,

The blurb is ready to go. It should be our last one.
I am headed in to Concord shortly, and will check in to see if everything is set.

Thank you,
Lucy

Rep. Lucy McVitty Weber
217 Old Keene Road
Walpole NH 03608
603-756-4338
lwmcv@comcast.net

----- Forwarded Message

From: Betsey Patten <blpatten@hotmail.com>
Date: Thu, 18 Feb 2010 08:24:10 -0500
To: Lucy McVitty Weber <lwmcv@comcast.net>, Betsey Patten <blpatten@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Blurb

Lucy - I am attaching my blurb. Fix whatever you need. Thanks. Betsey If you need to call my cell 387-8376

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 2010 06:15:40 -0500
Subject: Re: Blurb
From: lwmcv@comcast.net
To: blpatten@hotmail.com

Thank you, Betsey, and thank you for once again taking this on.

As you are going to be going out to a meeting this morning, would you give me a call (756-4338) as soon as you hit the Send button, so that if there are any edits, I can get your approval before you go out?

Thank you,
Lucy

Rep. Lucy McVitty Weber
217 Old Keene Road
Walpole NH 03608

2/18/2010