

# Bill as Introduced

HB 1396 - AS INTRODUCED

2010 SESSION

10-2029  
09/10

HOUSE BILL           **1396**

AN ACT               relative to the extension of study committees.

SPONSORS:          Rep. Drisko, Hills 5; Rep. O'Neil, Hills 19; Sen. Kelly, Dist 10

COMMITTEE:       Legislative Administration

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ANALYSIS

This bill allows the extension of a study committee upon the approval of the speaker of the house of representatives and the senate president, if the committee does not file its final report on the date required by the law which established the committee.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 extension of study committees.

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

1           1 Sunset Date for Legislative Study Committees. Amend RSA 14:49, I to read as follows:

2           I.(a) The statutory authorization for every study committee which is established by the  
3 general court shall be repealed *either*:

4                       (1) On the date on which the committee is required to file its report; *or*

5                       (2) *If the committee does not file its report on the date required, the*  
6 *committee shall be extended, upon the approval of the speaker of the house of*  
7 *representatives and the senate president, until the date the committee files its annual*  
8 *report and shall be repealed upon the date of such filing.*

9           (b) In the event that there is no report date, the statutory authorization for the study  
10 committee shall be repealed at 12:01 a.m. on the first Wednesday of December in the even-numbered  
11 year prior to the beginning of the legislative session.

12           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

# Speakers



# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1396

**BILL TITLE:** relative to the extension of study committees.

**DATE:** January 25, 2010

**LOB ROOM:** 104      **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:36 am

**Time Adjourned:** 11:10 am

(please circle if present)

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

**Bill Sponsors:** Reps. Drisko, O'Neil and Sen. Kelly

TESTIMONY

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

**Rep. Dick Drisko, prime sponsor** – Introduced the bill. Has requested extensions for committees before. If all members of a committee feel there is need to continue, that will happen but legislative process is lengthy. This bill seeks to streamline the process. Provides for approval to extend by House Speaker and Senate President.

**Q: Chairman Lucy Weber** – Have you discussed this with Rep. Harding?

**A:** No, with Rep. McMahon and the chairman of ED&A.

**Q: Rep. Robert Haefner** – What is risk that this could extend a committee that shouldn't be?

**A:** That's being studied by Rep. Harding's group.

**Q: Rep. Alfred Baldasaro** – Described a committee being pushed aside now; why would a speaker opposed agree to extend?

**A:** I sympathize but the current process is so lengthy.

**Q:** Would you agree the membership would be better at weeding out feel-good studies?

**A:** I don't disagree, but you stand risk of losing really needed studies.

**Q: Rep. John Hunt** – How do we draw the line between ad hoc vs. something that just needs tweaking?

**A:** Sounds like a solution.

**Q: Rep. Alida Millham** – What about different levels of studies?

**A:** My motivation was because of my experience with time limitations on my own study.

**Q:** Did you document the roadblocks?

**A:** The main roadblocks were the lack of time.

**Chairman Lucy Weber stated that HB 1304 and HB 1396 would not be in executive session (voted upon) until after hearing Rep. Harding's bills.**

**Rep. Laurie Harding** – Chairman of Committee on Committees. Explained work of her committee to repeal approximately 35 committees. Two different types of committees: Chaptered/ Session Law studies as opposed to the 256 statutory committees. We found some of the former dating back to 1998 which continue as long as they create annual reports. Mentioned costs of continuing committees. Also spoke of 2010 House Rules Am limiting chaptered study memberships and extending them for a biennium if introduced in first year. Sen. Downing is amending ~~to~~ RSA 14:49 to make language conforming to needs and defines study committees.

**Q: Rep. Robert Haefner** – How many Chaptered Studies are there?

**A:** Available on line; there are many still on the list from 2005, 2003, 1998, those will sunset in 2011. A lot are not meeting and should expire.

**Q: Chairman Weber** – All of those will expire unless new legislation is passed?

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Rep. Haefner** – What is the number?

**A:** 34 pages; first 10 pages are statutory; perhaps 60 to 80.

**Q: Rep. Al Baldasaro** – Why isn't there an FN on these?

**A:** Are you referring to staff time and mileage? Ask OLS.

**Rep. John Hunt** – The only money spent is mileage; if only members are legislators, how does that save?

**A:** Saves staff time trying to track down an authority, write letters, process responses.

**Q:** They still have to do that if outside members are invited. How is that saving?

**A:** You don't have to identify a member just notify the organization, plus you don' have to meet a quorum number.

**Q: Rep. Millham** – Won't this create bureaucracy of reinstating studies through legislation?

**A:** Feels the number of those will be limited.

**Q:** Do you feel using "caucuses" would help solve part of this problem?



**A: That is great; we hope you can bring ideas such as that forward at our hearings.**

Respectfully Submitted:

*Rep Dianne E. Schuett*

Dianne E. Schuett, Clerk

*Leg Admin.*

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1396**

**BILL TITLE:** relative to the extension of study committees.

**DATE:** 1-25-10

**LOB ROOM:** 104

**Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:36 am

**Time Adjourned:** 11:10 am

(please circle if present)

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

**Bill Sponsors:** Reps. Drisko, O'Neil and Sen. Kelly

**TESTIMONY**

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

Rep. Drisko, sponsor, introduced bill. Has requested extensions for committees before. If all members of a committee feel there is need to continue, that will happen but legislative process is lengthy. This bill seeks to streamline the process. Provides for approval to extend by Spkr and Pres.

? Weber. Have you discussed this with Rep. Hoerding? - Ans - No, with Rep. McMahon and Chr. of ED&A

? Haefner - what is risk that this could extend a committee that shouldn't be. Ans - that's being studied by Rep. Hoerding's group.

? Baldasaro - described a committee being pushed aside. now - why would a Spkr opposed agree to extend.

Ans - I sympathize but the current process is so lengthy.  
? Baldasaro - would you agree the membership would be better at weeding out feel-good studies. Ans - I don't disagree but you stand risk of losing really needed studies.

? Hunt - How do we draw the line between ad hoc vs. something that just needs tweaking. Ans - sounds

HB 1396 Cont'd

Ans cont'd - like a solution.

? Millham - what about different levels of studies?

Ans - my motivation was because of my experience with time limitations on my own study.

? Millham - Did you document the roadblocks?

Ans - the main roadblocks were the lack of time.

Chair stated HB 1304 & 1396 will not be exped until after hearing Rep. Harding's bills.

Rep Harding - Chr of Comm on committees. Explained work of her committee to repeal approx. 35 committees. Two different types of committees - Chaptered/Session Law studies as opposed to the 256 statutory committees. We found some of the former dating back to 1998 which continue as long as they create annual reports. Mentioned costs of continuing committees. Also spoke of 2010 House Rules Am limiting Chaptered Study memberships and extending them for a biennium if introduced in first year. Sen Downing is Am <sup>RSA</sup> 14:49 to make language conforming to needs and defines Study Committees.

? Haefner - How many Chaptered Studies are there? -

Ans - Avail on-line. There are many still on the list from 2005, 2003, 1998 - those will sunset in 2011. A lot are not meeting and should expire.

? Weber - All of those will expire unless new legis-

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motion is passed. Ans - yes

? Raefner - what is the number? Ans - 34 pages (first 10 pages are statutory) perhaps 60 to 80

? Bolducro - why isn't there an FN on there. Ans - Are you referring to staff time and mileage? Ask O.S.

? Hunt - The only money spent is mileage - if only members are legislators, how does that save? Ans - Saves staff time trying to track down an authority, write letters, process responses.

? Hunt - They still have to do that if outside members are invited. How is that saving? Ans - you don't have to identify a member, just notify the org., plus you don't have to meet a quorum number.

? Milham - Won't this create bureaucracy of reinstituting studies through legislation.

Ans - feels the number of those will be limited.

? Milham - Do you feel using "Caucuses" would help solve part of this problem? Ans - that is great, ~~at~~ we hope you can bring ideas such as that forward at our Hearings.

Closed at 11:10am

Respectfully submitted

Rep Diane E. Schutt, clerk

# Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1396

**BILL TITLE:** relative to the extension of study committees.

**DATE:** 2-9-10

**LOB ROOM:** 104

**Amendments:**

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

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

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

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

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

Moved by Rep. Hunt

Seconded by Rep. Baldasaro

Vote: 16-0 (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 1396

BILL TITLE: relative to the extension of study committees.

DATE: 2-9-10

LOB ROOM: 104

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

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

Moved by Rep. *Hunt*

Seconded by Rep. *Baldasaro*

Vote: 16-0 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

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

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (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

## LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Bill #: HB 1396 Title: re. extension of study committees.PH Date: 11/25/2010Exec Session Date: 2/9/10Motion: ITL

Amendment #: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Weber, Lucy M, Chairman	16	
McMahon, Patricia M, V Chairman	1	
Lerandeau, Alfred C	2	
Shurtleff, Stephen J	3	
Gottling, Suzanne H	4	
Nord, Susi	5	
Pierce, David M	6	
Wheeler, Deborah	7	
Komi, Richard N	8	
Schuett, Dianne E, Clerk	9	
Hunt, John B	10	
Flanders, John W <i>absent</i>		
Dowling, Patricia A	11	
Patten, Betsey L <i>absent</i>		
Millham, Alida I	12	
Kidder, David H	13	
Baldasaro, Alfred P	14	
Haefner, Robert H	15	
TOTAL VOTE:	16	0



# Committee Report

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**February 17, 2010**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

**to which was referred HB1396,**

**AN ACT relative to the extension of study committees.**

**Having considered the same, report the same with the**

**following Resolution: RESOLVED, That it is**

**INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

**Rep. John B Hunt**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION
Bill Number:	HB1396
Title:	relative to the extension of study committees.
Date:	February 11, 2010
Consent Calendar:	YES
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill provides that study committees could be extended upon the approval of the speaker of the house and the senate president. As with HB 1311 above the committee will address the issue of when study committees end with the comprehensive Senate bill.

Vote 16-0.

Rep. John B Hunt  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

**HB1396**, relative to the extension of study committees. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**  
Rep. John B Hunt for **LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**. This bill provides that study committees could be extended upon the approval of the speaker of the house and the senate president. As with HB 1311 above the committee will address the issue of when study committees end with the comprehensive Senate bill. **Vote 16-0.**

**Original: House Clerk**  
**Cc: Committee Bill File**

HB 1311--ITL

This bill provides that all study committees shall be repealed on the earlier of the date to file its report or the first Wednesday on December of the even numbered years. The text of the bill conflicts with current House rules. There is a Senate bill which addresses the same subject more comprehensively, so the committee decided to wait for that bill.

HB1396--ITL

This bill provides that study committees could be extended upon the approval of the speaker of the house and the senate president. As with HB 1311 above the committee will address the issue of when study committees end with the comprehensive Senate Bill.

HB 1451--ITL

All the specific committees that would have been extended in this bill are included in the all encompassing Bill HB 1689 that lists all the study committees to be retained. They include the rivers management advisory committee, the localriver management advisory committees, the lakes management advisory committee, and the oil disbursement fund.

On 2/9/10 4:10 PM, "Stapler, Carol" <[carol.stapler@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:carol.stapler@leg.state.nh.us)> wrote:

John, your blurbs are:

HB 1311, ITL

HB 1396, ITL

HB 1451, ITL