

Bill as
Introduced

HB 500 - AS INTRODUCED

2013 SESSION

13-0113

03/04

HOUSE BILL **500**

AN ACT requiring the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belknap county.

SPONSORS: Rep. Luther, Belk 3; Rep. F. Tilton, Belk 3; Rep. Greemore, Belk 2; Rep. Flanders, Belk 3

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belknap county.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 Thirteen

AN ACT requiring the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belknap county.

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

- 1 1 Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles; Belknap County Location. The department
- 2 of safety shall maintain an office of the division of motor vehicles in Belknap county for the licensing
- 3 of drivers and the registration of motor vehicles.
- 4 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Speakers

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 500

BILL TITLE: requiring the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belknap county.

DATE: February 12, 2013

LOB ROOM: 203 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 1:30 p.m.

Time Adjourned: 1:59 p.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Bouchard, M. O'Brien, Rhodes, Johnsen, Patten, Soucy, C. Williams, LaPlante, Burtis, O'Flaherty, Sykes, Packard, Crawford, Hikel, Hinch, Straight, T. Walsh, Steven Smith, Chirichiello and Hodgdon.

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Luther, Belk 3; Rep. F. Tilton, Belk 3; Rep. Greemore, Belk 2; Rep. Flanders, Belk 3

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. Luther, the prime sponser of the bill spoke in favor of the bill. This bill would re-open a closed DMV office in Belknap County. A sub station could be opened without costs other than the personnel. The on-line solution has sometimes sent people to un-offical web sites.

Harry Accornero, former state representative. Speaking in support of the bill. Having to drive 30 to 35 minutes to get to Concord DMV is a real hardship especially for the elderly.

Roland Mayheu, speaking in favor of the bill. Understands the cost to state government, but this is really needed.

Rick Bailey, Director of NH DMV speaking in opposition to the bill. While he agrees with the hardships, what do they say to the other communities which have equally longer drives to open offices. The staff was laid off, and the equipment went to busier offices. They have added an on line option. What locations would they pick to open a DMV station? Many areas of the state have 25 - 30 mile drives. Staffing is the cost item. * written testimony provided which includes cost estimates.

Rep. Hikel, is there any way to bring these functions to local clerk's offices? Registrations now allowed, but licensing presents a high security problem.

Rep. Bouchard, funding for these sub stations comes from the highway fund? If there were more money could more stations be opened? Yes, more money would allow more stations to be opened.

Rep. O'Flaherty, is there anything which can be done to warn people about the malicious web sites? Some things were possible, but now web search engines offer possibilities when the address is wrong. They are looking to improve the language for the web site.

Rep. Hikel, was there a bill to close Milford. No.

Rep. Frank Tilton, speaking in support of the bill. Many people who might come to this office may in fact come from other areas in central NH. Only a few days a week would be needed. Help people avoid these difficulties.

Rep. Johnsen, is there a way that this facility could be locally funded? There could be a way. Would the cost be as noted in the DMV handout? Not seen it.

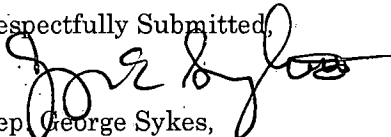
Rep. Burtis, are there creative ways that might help with this problem? For example, transportation services might take the elderly to their appointments. There are bus services, but not effective. Could a volunteer pool of people developed to help people who could go on line. Certainly, there must be.

Rep. Soucy, Dir. Bailey the reason the sub station was closed was due to budget cuts. If this is passed, would this impact other stations? Yes.

Rep. Smith, has anyone ever looked at a mobile station? Yes, but a good mobile solution has not been found.

Rep. Johnsen, could a person or persons (staff) move around? Yes, but the impacts are the same as previously noted.

Respectfully Submitted,


Rep. George Sykes,
Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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(members present in **BOLD**)

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Respectfully Submitted

George Sykes, Clerk

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TESTIMONY

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Testimony



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
JAMES H. HAYES BLDG. 33 HAZEN DR.
CONCORD, N.H. 03305
603/271-2559

JOHN J. BARTHELMES
COMMISSIONER OF SAFETY

EARL M. SWEENEY
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

NH DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

LEGISLATIVE POSITION PAPER

HB 500 SB AS INTRODUCED (X) AMENDMENT NO.

This bill would require the DMV to maintain a driver licensing and motor vehicle registration substation in Belknap County. It is inexplicable why there is no fiscal note accompanying this bill, because it is obvious that there will be a fiscal impact involved in implementing it, and the fiscal impact would certainly exceed many times over the \$10,000 threshold amount where the Legislature requires fiscal notes.

For a number of years, DMV maintained a substation in Belknap County, at first in a furniture store building on Court Street in Laconia, and later at the Belknap Mall in Belmont. Two years ago when the Legislature passed a budget that forced the agency to make some serious cuts to expenditures, the only option that would produce enough savings to implement the cuts was to close several substations. We picked the ones that did the least amount of business, and Belmont was one of these.

The DMV has soldiered on and managed to improve services in the face of these cuts, but there is no more "low hanging fruit" that we can harvest to save money – DMV is at the tipping point now, and any additional budget cuts in the new budget, or expensive mandates such as opening another substation, will unavoidably lead to serious degradations to our customer service and losing much of the ground we have gained in the past few years in this area.

Currently, residents of Belknap County who need to conduct transactions at a DMV office have two options – the State Police Troop E substation in Tamworth, which is in Carroll County, or the DMV home office in Concord, in Merrimack County. For most parts of Belknap County, Concord would be the closest. For example it is only 18 miles from Belmont and takes less than a half-hour to get there.

Moreover, most customers can be serviced without the need to travel to a substation. For example, driver licenses are only renewed every 5 years, so at the worst someone from Belknap County would only have to travel to Concord for this purpose twice in a decade. And, if they choose to do so, they can renew their license once every 10 years by going online and doing it with a credit card on the DMV website. They can also pay traffic fines online. Municipal

Agents, their local city and town clerks, can complete all but a very few motor vehicle registration transactions, and soon car and truck dealers will be able to issue number plates when they sell a car to you.

The Department would love to be able to return to Belknap County if fiscal conditions would allow us to do so. However, given the current fiscal climate and that in the foreseeable future, we do not believe the limited number of times when a trip to Tamworth or Concord is necessary to complete a transaction with the DMV is worth jeopardizing service to the rest of the state, including residents of Belknap County, and that unfortunately would be the result if this bill passes.

APPROVED:

Earl M. Sweeney

Assistant Commissioner

Attachments (2)

TRAVEL DISTANCES FROM TOWN CENTER TO DMV SUBSTATION

	Colebrook	Berlin	Twin Mtn.	
Lancaster	37.7	32.2	18.1	
Northumberland	29.2	32.2	24.6	
Errol	21.9	26.7	60.0	
	Berlin	Twin	Tamworth	
N. Chatham	59.6	57.2	36.2	
	Twin Mtn.	Tamworth	N. Haverhill	
Woodstock	27.7	49.5	26.5	
	Tamworth	Concord	Epping	Dover Point
Alton	33.3	29.6	35.5	31.6
Moultonborough	13.9	52.2	65.3	-
Wolfeboro	21.1	40.7	46.5	-
Laconia	33.2	25.3	64.7	-
Farmington	34.7	38.2	26.7	22.8
	Claremont	Concord	Keene	
New London	23.2	39.4	49.8	
Bradford	24.9	32.2	45.0	
Hillsborough	36.6	27.7	30.9	
Alstead	20.2	58.1	19.1	
	N. Haverhill	Claremont	Concord	Tamworth
Hanover	36.3	30.0	66.4	-
Lebanon	46.0	21.5	61.3	-
Canaan	42.7	34.0	51.9	-
Rumney	32.1	57.2	52.8	41.9
Dorchester	35.6	53.2	65.1	54.2
Wentworth	23.5	52.1	60.3	49.4
Plymouth	44.0	60.4	44.4	33.5
	Keene	Milford	Nashua	
Rindge	22.0	27.2	35.2	
Peterborough	20.4	15.1	28.1	
Jaffrey	18.2	21.3	34.2	
	Epping	Dover Point	Salem	
Seabrook	19.6	19.5	22.5	
South Hampton	14.5	25.8	20.3	
Plaistow	16.7	36.6	10.6	

Projected Costs for a New Substation

	<u>FY 14</u>	<u>FY 15</u>	<u>FY 16</u>	<u>FY 17</u>
2 FT CTO 1	\$ 93,094.42	\$ 98,223.96	\$ 103,612.61	\$ 109,639.60
1 FT Licensing Officer	\$ 55,410.77	\$ 58,420.91	\$ 61,612.11	\$ 64,962.00
2 PT CTO	\$ 34,112.00	\$ 35,386.67	\$ 36,686.67	\$ 38,194.67
PT Benefit	\$ 1,574.40	\$ 1,574.40	\$ 1,574.40	\$ 1,574.40
Total Payroll Expense	<u>\$ 184,191.59</u>	<u>\$ 193,605.94</u>	<u>\$ 203,485.79</u>	<u>\$ 214,370.68</u>
Build Out	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment/Furniture	\$ 20,000.00			
Lease Expense	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Utilities	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Total Leasehold Expense	<u>\$ 187,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 67,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 67,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 67,500.00</u>
Projected Costs	<u>\$ 371,691.59</u>	<u>\$ 261,105.94</u>	<u>\$ 270,985.79</u>	<u>\$ 281,870.68</u>

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 500

BILL TITLE: requiring the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belknap county.

DATE: February 19, 2013

LOB ROOM: 203

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL Interim Study (Please circle one.) with recommendation to the finance committee

Moved by Rep. O'Brien

Seconded by Rep. Rhodes

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

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

Moved by Rep.

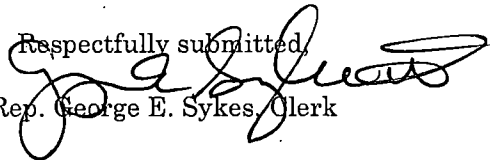
Seconded by Rep.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: yes

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

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. George E. Sykes, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 500

BILL TITLE: requiring the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belknap county.

DATE: 2/19/13

LOB ROOM: 203

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL Interim Study (Please circle one.) *W recommendation to the finance committee*

Moved by Rep. *O'Brien*

Seconded by Rep. *Rhodes*

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: *Yes*

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

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,
George E. Sykes
Rep. George E. Sykes, Clerk



2013 SESSION

TRANSPORTATION

Bill #: HB 500

Title: requiring dept. of safety to maintain division of motor vehicles driver licensing & regist. office in Belknap Co.

PH Date: 2 / 12 / 13

Exec Session Date: 2 / 19 / 13

Motion: ITL

Amendment #: _____

MEMBER

YEAS

NAYS

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Bouchard, Candace C W, Chairman	✓	
O'Brien, Michael B, V Chairman	✓	
Rhodes, Brian D	✓	
LaPlante, Roland H		
Soucy, Timothy A	✓	
Williams, Carol A		
Johnsen, Gladys	✓	
Patten, Dick W	✓	
Burtis, Elizabeth B		
O'Flaherty, Tim	✓	
Sykes, George E, Clerk	✓	
Packard, Sherman A,	✓	
Hikel, John A,		
Hinch, Richard W,	✓	
Chirichiello, Brian K	✓	
Smith, Steven D	✓	
Crawford, Karel A	✓	
Hodgdon, Bruce E	✓	
Straight, Philip N	✓	
Walsh, Thomas C	✓	
TOTAL VOTE:		

16

0

Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 20, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on TRANSPORTATION to which was referred HB500,

AN ACT requiring the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belknap county. Having considered the same, report the same with the following Resolution: **RESOLVED**, That it is **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**.

Rep. Michael B O'Brien
FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	TRANSPORTATION
Bill Number:	HB500
Title:	requiring the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belknap county.
Date:	February 20, 2013
Consent Calendar:	YES
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The committee feels it is not appropriate to mandate the department of safety to open an office in Belknap County. However, to provide an office for the area, the committee recommends the finance committee review the matter with the DOS to see if the needs of Belknap County can be met in the budget.

Vote 16-0.

Rep. Michael B O'Brien
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

TRANSPORTATION

HB500, requiring the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belknap county. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael B O'Brien for TRANSPORTATION. The committee feels it is not appropriate to mandate the department of safety to open an office in Belknap County. However, to provide an office for the area, the committee recommends the finance committee review the matter with the DOS to see if the needs of Belknap County can be met in the budget. **Vote 16-0.**

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Blurb

HB 500 requiring the department of safety to maintain a division of motor vehicles driver licensing and registration office in Belnap county.

ITL 16-0 CC

The committee feels it is not appropriate to mandate the department of safety to open an office in Belnap County. However, to provide an office for the area, the committee recommends the finance committee review the matter with the DOS to see if the needs of Belnap County can be met in the budget.

Rep. Michael O'Brien,
For the committee

CW3

2/20/2003

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: House Transportation

BILL NUMBER: HR 500

TITLE: requiring the DOS to maintain a Div 2 Motor Vehicle driver licensing + registration

office in Belknap County

DATE: 2/19/13 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

- OUGHT TO PASS
- OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT
- INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2nd year of biennium)

Amendment No. _____

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

recommened to the finance committee
The Committee feels it is not appropriate to mandate the DOS to open a office in Belknap CO. However to provide an office for the Area, the Committee recommends the Finance Committee review the matter with the DOS to see if the needs of Belknap County can be meet. if the budget.

CWB
2/19/2013

COMMITTEE VOTE: 16-0

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

- Copy to Committee Bill File
- Use Another Report for Minority Report

Rep. Michael B. Brewer
For the Committee