
Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 4, 2020

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs to which was referred HB 1264,

AN ACT extending the commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation. Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Bill Nelson

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs
Bill Number:	HB 1264
Title:	extending the commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.
Date:	February 4, 2020
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2020-0191h

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill, as amended, extends the life of the commission to June 2022 and adds interim reporting dates in 2020 and 2021.

Vote 20-0.

Rep. Bill Nelson
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB 1264, extending the commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Bill Nelson for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill, as amended, extends the life of the commission to June 2022 and adds interim reporting dates in 2020 and 2021. **Vote 20-0.**

OK Lmca

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Health, Human Services + Elderly Affairs

BILL NUMBER: 1264

TITLE: Extending the Commission on the Seacoast
cancer cluster investigation

DATE: 2/4/20 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. 1264 0191

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

This bill
 Extends the life of the Commission ^{to June 2022} to
^{adds interim} and the reporting dates in 2020 and 2021

COMMITTEE VOTE: 20-0

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

Rep. Bill Nelson
 For the Committee

Rep. Nelson, Carr. 5
January 23, 2020
2020-0191h
01/05

Amendment to HB 1264

1 Amend RSA 126-A:74, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 V. The commission shall make 2 interim reports, one on or before November 1, ~~[2017]~~ **2020**,
4 and one on or before ~~[November 1, 2018]~~ **June 30, 2021**, and issue a final report on its findings and
5 any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the
6 president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the oversight committee on
7 health and human services, and the state library on or before June 30, ~~[2020]~~ **2022**.

Voting Sheets



2020 SESSION

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

*Extending the Commission on the Seacoast
Cancer Cluster Investigation.*

Bill #: HR1264 Motion: OTP on AM #: 0191h Exec Session Date: 2-4-20

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Weber, Lucy M. Chairman	✓		
Campion, Polly Kent Vice Chairman	✓		
MacKay, James R.	✓		
Snow, Kendall A.	✓		
Freitas, Mary C.	✓		
Ticehurst, Susan J. Clerk	✓		
Knirk, Jerry L.			
Salloway, Jeffrey C.	✓		
Cannon, Gerri D.			
Nutter-Upham, Frances E.	✓		
Osborne, Richard G.	✓		
Schapiro, Joe	✓		
Woods, Gary L.	✓		
McMahon, Charles E.	✓		
Nelson, Bill G.	✓		
Guthrie, Joseph A.	✓		
Fothergill, John J.	✓		
Marsh, William M.	✓		
Pearson, Mark A.	✓		
Acton, Dennis F.	✓		
DeClercq, Edward	✓		
Stapleton, Walter A.	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	20	0	



2020 SESSION

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

Bill #: HB1264 Motion: OTPA AM #: 0191h Exec Session Date: 2-4-20

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Weber, Lucy M. Chairman	✓		
Campion, Polly Kent Vice Chairman	✓		
MacKay, James R.	✓		
Snow, Kendall A.	✓		
Freitas, Mary C.	✓		
Ticehurst, Susan J. Clerk	✓		
Knirk, Jerry L.			
Salloway, Jeffrey C.	✓		
Cannon, Gerri D.			
Nutter-Upham, Frances E.	✓		
Osborne, Richard G.	✓		
Schapiro, Joe	✓		
Woods, Gary L.	✓		
McMahon, Charles E.	✓		
Nelson, Bill G.	✓		
Guthrie, Joseph A.	✓		
Fothergill, John J.	✓		
Marsh, William M.	✓		
Pearson, Mark A.	✓		
Acton, Dennis F.	✓		
DeClercq, Edward	✓		
Stapleton, Walter A.	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	20	0	

Rep. Nelson, Carr. 5
January 23, 2020
2020-0191h
01/05

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4 and one on or before ~~[November 1, 2018]~~ **June 30, 2021**, and issue a final report on its findings and
5 any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the
6 president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the oversight committee on
7 health and human services, and the state library on or before June 30, ~~[2020]~~ **2022**.

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1264

BILL TITLE: extending the commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.

DATE: January 22, 2020

LOB ROOM: 205 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 11:05 AM

Time Adjourned: 11:25 AM

Committee Members: Reps. Weber, Campion, Ticehurst, MacKay, Freitas, Knirk, Salloway, Cannon, Nutter-Upham, R. Osborne, Schapiro, Woods, McMahon, Nelson, Guthrie, Marsh, DeClercq and Stapleton

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Meuse

Rep. Cushing

Rep. Le

Rep. McBeath

Rep. Altschiller

Sen. Sherman

Rep. Bushway

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. Meuse, Bill sponsor -

Introduced the bill. In 2016 two forms of pediatric cancer were identified in higher than usual rates. NH has some of the highest cancer rates in the country. A commission looked into it and has been continuing to meet. Since the matter is complex, much time has been spent in educating the members. It is hoped that the commission will clarify if there is a link between cancers and the Coakley Landfill. It is also hoped that what is learned can be applied to other investigations, leading to a decrease in incidences.

Question - Rep. Weber: Is extending the commission to 2022 giving enough time?

Answer: Commissions should not have an indefinite lifetime.

Question -Rep. Woods: What is the question you are trying to answer to have completion?

Answer: Is there an environmental contaminant in these 5 communities that we can conclusively link to cancer in children.

Question -Rep. Nelson: Will there be more interim reports?

Answer: Additional interim reports would be a good idea.

***1 Mindi Mesmer, NH State Water Alliance, Supports -**

A cancer cluster was confirmed in 2016. Because there are limited numbers of these rare cases it may not be possible to establish a direct connection to a cause. There are increased numbers of other cancers. The commission has overseen what is happening, what may be causing cancer in the seacoast area and proposing legislation.

Question - Rep. Weber: If we were to amend this to require interim reporting, say in June of 2020 and 2021, would those be appropriate reporting times?

Answer: Yes.

Question - Rep. Salloway: Don't we have a state epidemiologist whose job it is to provide data on these matters?

Answer: We need to improve how we analyze this data.

Question - Rep. Campion: Has the turnover been low enough on the commission?

Answer: There has been a lot of continuity.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Susan Ticehurst, Clerk

Testimony

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs
Public Hearing on HB 1264

Bill Title:	Extending the commission on seacoast cancer cluster investigation.		
Date:	1/22/20		
Room:	205	Time Public Hearing Called to Order:	11:05
		Time Adjourned:	11:25

Committee Members Present:

X	Schapiro
X	Cannon
X	Stapleton
X	Nutter-Upham
X	Marsh
X	Salloway
	Fothergill
X	Freitas
	Snow
X	MacKay
X	Ticehurst
X	Weber

X	Guthrie
X	Osborne
	Acton
X	Woods
	Pearson
X	Knirk
X	DeClercq
X	Nelson
X	McMahon
X	Campion

Testimony

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

*	Attachment #	Name	Testimony:
		Rep. Meuse	Introduced the bill. In 2016 two forms of pediatric cancer were identified in higher than usual rates. NH has some of the highest cancer rates in the country. A commission looked into it and has been continuing to meet. Since the matter is complex, much time has been spent in educating the members. It is hoped that the commission will clarify if there is a

			<p>link between cancers and the Coakley Landfill. It is also hoped that what is learned can be applied to other investigations, leading to a decrease in incidences. Rep. Weber: Is extending the commission to 2022 giving enough time? Answer: Commissions should not have an indefinite lifetime. Rep. Woods: What is the question you are trying to answer to have completion? Answer: Is there an environmental contaminant in these 5 communities that we can conclusively linked to cancer in children. Rep. Nelson: Will there be more interim reports? Answer: Additional interim reports would be a good idea.</p>
*	#1	Mindi Mesmer, NH State Water Alliance	<p>Supports the bill. A cancer cluster was confirmed in 2016. Because there are limited numbers of these rare cases it may not be possible to establish a direct connection to a cause. There are increased numbers of other cancers. The commission has overseen what is happening, what may be causing cancer in the seacoast area and proposing legislation. Rep. Weber: If we were to amend this to require interim reporting, say in June of 2020 and 2021, would those be appropriate reporting times? Answer: Yes. Rep. Salloway: Don't we have a state epidemiologist whose job it is to provide data on these matters? Answer: We need to improve how we analyze this data. Rep. Campion: Has the turnover been low enough on the commission? Answer: There has been a lot of continuity.</p>

Hearing recessed at

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Susan Ticehurst, Clerk

NH Has the Highest Rates of 4 Cancers in the Nation

New Hampshire has nation's highest pediatric cancer rate, CDC says



101 shares



Updated: 10:00 AM



FEATURED IN CATEGORY

NH's High Bladder Cancer Rate Prompts State To Urge Testing Private Wells for Arsenic

By DHHS news May 9, 2018

Rate of New Cancers in the United States

Esophagus, All Ages, All Races/Ethnicities, Male and Female
Rate per 100,000 people



95% Confidence Interval: Hide Show

Area	Age-adjusted Rate
New Hampshire	7.6
Maine	7.0
West Virginia	5.9
Montana	5.8
Iowa	5.6
Vermont	5.5

Rate of New Cancers in the United States

Female Breast, All Ages, All Races/Ethnicities, Female
Rate per 100,000 women



95% Confidence Interval: Hide Show

Area	Age-adjusted Rate
New Hampshire	145.9
Connecticut	143.9
Massachusetts	137.7
Rhode Island	136.6
Delaware	136.2
New Jersey	134.9

T.A.



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Lori A. Shihinette
Commissioner

Lisa M. Morris
Director

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301
603-271-4501 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4501
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www.dhhs.nh.gov

February 3, 2020

Representative Lucy Weber, Chair
Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 205
33 N. State Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Representative Weber and Members of the Committee,

The Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) would like to provide some clarifying information relative to testimony that was provided by a stakeholder at the hearing on HB 1264 – extension of the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Commission Investigation.

Throughout the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation, the DHHS and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) have worked closely to coordinate community meetings and exchange data related to cancer and environmental exposures. Both agencies had representatives on the Governor's Taskforce. We also have DES representation on the DHHS Cancer Concerns Review Committee that meets routinely.

Included here is a link to a more comprehensive report our work related to the Seacoast Cancer cluster investigation.

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/hsdm/cancer/documents/rvc-cancer-cluster-052017.pdf>

Although the Department is not taking a position on the legislation, DPHS is actively involved with the Commission, as State Epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan is a member of the Commission. The NH Healthy Lives Program (<https://nhhealthylives.org/>) has presented multiple times to the commission providing vital information on incidence of pediatric cancer and chronic disease on the Seacoast.

We wanted to remind the committee of the extensive work that both DPHS and DES have done as part of the Commission as well as on other environmental health related topics and committees.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Division of Public Health Services with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Lisa Morris
Director

Cc: Members of the Health & Human Services
and Elderly Affairs Committee

1/22/20

To: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee

RE: HB 1264 – Extending date for Seacoast Cancer Investigation to 2022

I strongly support the extension of the deadline for the Seacoast Cancer investigation from June 2020 to 2022, and I encourage you to *amend the bill to request annual interim reports, e.g., in June 2020 and June 2021.*

I am a scientist and recently moved from a state where an investigation of increased incidence of a rare cancer is just beginning. I am still collaborating with others in that effort and we are planning studies to span a few years and much longer.

I applaud those in New Hampshire who began to study the unusual incidence of cancers in the seacoast area. Such research brings much needed scientific information to the nation and also improved confidence among local residents in government services. Cancer is an especially complex disease often associated with years of exposures. If such cancer studies are diminished or cut short, we will miss important patterns that help in early detection and even prevention of cancer. Extending the final report also provides more time to obtain additional funding.

Extending the time **and having annual interim reports** will foster confidence among local residents in government efforts to protect health. I have personally seen many instances in which the threat of a serious disease such as cancer, even a rare cancer, carries a powerful emotional component that negatively impacts decisions of potential residents or new businesses to move to an area. I encourage you to do all you can to support comprehensive studies of serious diseases in localities and make the methods and results readily available to residents.

Cynthia Walter, Ph.D.

22 West Concord St.

Dover, NH 03820

walter.atherton@gmail.com

Bill as Introduced

HB 1264 - AS INTRODUCED

2020 SESSION

20-2641
01/04

HOUSE BILL **1264**

AN ACT extending the commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.

SPONSORS: Rep. Meuse, Rock. 29; Rep. Cushing, Rock. 21; Rep. Le, Rock. 31; Rep. McBeath, Rock. 26; Rep. Altschiller, Rock. 19; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Rep. Bushway, Rock. 21

COMMITTEE: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill extends the commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.

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 Twenty

AN ACT extending the commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.

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

1 1 Extending the Commission on the Seacoast Cancer Investigation. Amend RSA 126-A:74, V to
2 read as follows:

3 V. The commission shall make 2 interim reports, one on or before November 1, 2017, and
4 one on or before November 1, 2018, and issue a final report on its findings and any recommendations
5 for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate,
6 the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the oversight committee on health and human
7 services, and the state library on or before June 30, [~~2020~~] 2022.

8 2 Commission on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation; Repeal Date Extended. Amend
9 2017, 197:5, I to read as follows:

10 I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect June 30, [~~2020~~] 2022.

11 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.