

Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 17, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Majority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services to which was referred HB 385-FN,

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters. Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Timothy Soucy

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services
Bill Number:	HB 385-FN
Title:	relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.
Date:	February 17, 2021
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2021-0307h

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill, as amended, provides that the benefits stated in RSA 281-A:17(c) shall not continue beyond one month after a call, volunteer, or permanent firefighter reaches his or her 70th birthday. This is a change from age 65 to 70 years of age. Firefighters are working longer. This change would give those individuals that retire at 65 the same benefit of the prima facie presumption for Workers Compensation benefits of 5 years from the effective date of said firefighter's retirement as stated in RSA 281-A:17(b).

Vote 13-7.

Rep. Timothy Soucy
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB 385-FN, relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Timothy Soucy for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill, as amended, provides that the benefits stated in RSA 281-A:17(c) shall not continue beyond one month after a call, volunteer, or permanent firefighter reaches his or her 70th birthday. This is a change from age 65 to 70 years of age. Firefighters are working longer. This change would give those individuals that retire at 65 the same benefit of the prima facie presumption for Workers Compensation benefits of 5 years from the effective date of said firefighter's retirement as stated in RSA 281-A:17(b). **Vote 13-7.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 17, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Minority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services to which was referred HB 385-FN,

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters. Having considered the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority, report with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Stephen Boyd

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services
Bill Number:	HB 385-FN
Title:	relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.
Date:	February 17, 2021
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill relates to workers compensation for firefighters. Currently, heart or lung disease is presumed to be occupationally related for firefighters while employed and after retirement up to age 65. This bill as amended would extend the presumption to an additional 5 years to age 70. While respectful of the dangers of the job, the minority believes this age limit will lead to more claims for workers' compensation and increased insurance costs for municipalities, continued future age extensions will put taxpayers on the hook for even higher medical costs, even when a direct causal link cannot be proven. The minority believes this bill does not adequately address future expenditures. The fiscal note indicates that there will be an increase of indeterminable amount for state, county and local governments.

Rep. Stephen Boyd
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB 385-FN, relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.
INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Stephen Boyd for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill relates to workers compensation for firefighters. Currently, heart or lung disease is presumed to be occupationally related for firefighters while employed and after retirement up to age 65. This bill as amended would extend the presumption to an additional 5 years to age 70. While respectful of the dangers of the job, the minority believes this age limit will lead to more claims for workers' compensation and increased insurance costs for municipalities, continued future age extensions will put taxpayers on the hook for even higher medical costs, even when a direct causal link cannot be proven. The minority believes this bill does not adequately address future expenditures. The fiscal note indicates that there will be an increase of indeterminable amount for state, county and local governments.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34
February 10, 2021
2021-0307h
10/08

Amendment to HB 385-FN

1 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

2

3 1 Workers' Compensation; Firefighter and Heart, Lung, or Cancer Disease; Presumption.

4 Amend RSA 281-A:17, I(c) to read as follows:

5 (c) The benefits of RSA 281-A:17, I shall not continue in effect beyond one month after a
6 call, volunteer or permanent firefighter reaches his or her ~~sixty-fifth~~ **seventieth** birthday.

7 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Amendment to HB 385-FN
- Page 2 -

2021-0307h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters.

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SESSION on

BILL TITLE: HB 385 workers comp for fire fighters

DATE: 2/11/21

LOB ROOM:

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # 0307h
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Soucy Seconded by Rep. Seaworth Vote: 13-7

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Soucy Seconded by Rep. Seaworth Vote: 13-7

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: _____ YES NO

Minority Report? Yes _____ No If yes, author, Rep: ? Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: [Signature]
Rep Jonathan Mackie, Clerk



2021 SESSION

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

Bill #: HB 385 Motion: OTP-A AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2/11/21

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Infantine, William J. Chairman	13		
Seaworth, Brian Vice Chairman	1		
Avellani, Lino M. Melvin		6	
Callum, John M.	2		
Mackie, Jonathan D. Clerk	3		
Nunez, Hershel		1	
Warden, Mark		2	
Turcotte, Leonard P.		3	
Prout, Andrew J. Torosian		7	
Boyd, Stephen E.		4	
Hough, Gregg		5	
Sullivan, Brian M.	4		
Soucy, Timothy A.	5		
Baroody, Benjamin C.	6		
Cahill, Michael D.	7		
DiSilvestro, Linda A.	8		
Schmidt, Janice E.	9		
Toomey, Dan	10		
Bouchard, Donald J.	11		
Adjutant, Joshua	12		
TOTAL VOTE:	13	7	



2021 SESSION

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

 Bill #: HB385 Motion: Adopt Amendment AM #: 0307h Exec Session Date: 2/11/21

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Infantine, William J. Chairman	13		
Seaworth, Brian Vice Chairman	1		
Avellani, Lino M. Melvin		6	
Callum, John M.	2		
Mackie, Jonathan D. Clerk	3		
Nunez, Hershel		1	
Warden, Mark		2	
Turcotte, Leonard P.		3	
Prout, Andrew J. Torosian		7	
Boyd, Stephen E.		4	
Hough, Gregg		5	
Sullivan, Brian M.	4		
Soucy, Timothy A.	5		
Baroody, Benjamin C.	6		
Cahill, Michael D.	7		
DiSilvestro, Linda A.	8		
Schmidt, Janice E.	9		
Toomey, Dan	10		
Bouchard, Donald J.	11		
Adjutant, Joshua	12		
TOTAL VOTE:	13	7	

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6 call, volunteer or permanent firefighter reaches his or her ~~sixty-fifth~~ **seventieth** birthday.

7 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

UNAPPROVED

2021-0307h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters.

UNAPPROVED

Public Hearing

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

PUBLIC HEARING ON

BILL TITLE: HB 385-FN relative to worker's compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

DATE: 2/4/21

ROOM: Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 10:42

recessed 10:43

Resumed: 1:00

Time Adjourned: 1:28

(members high-lighted in red were absent)

Committee Members: Reps. Infantine, Seaworth, Mackie, Avellani, Callum, Nunez, Warden, Turcotte, **Prout**, Boyd, Hough, Sullivan, Soucy, Baroody, Cahill, DiSilvestro, J. Schmidt, Toomey, Bouchard and Adjutant

Bill Sponsors: Rep. M. Pearson, Rep. S. Pearson, Rep. Shurtleff, Rep. Goley, Rep. Doucette, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Soucy, Rep. Lanzara, Rep. O'Brien

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. Steve Pearson (Sponsor) introduced the bill. He is former volunteer fireman and an ordained minister. He has seen many fireman die young from the effects of the smoke they inhaled on the job.

Q Rep. Infantine- I understand claims have been denied because of the years after retirement so this bill is to get rid of the time limit.

A There is a better person to answer this; Mark Pearson.

*Rep. Mark Pearson testified in favor the bill. Fireman have a much higher risk of many cancers than the general population. Many fireman retire at the same time that their eligibility for worker's compensation currently ends.

*Brian Ryll, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of NH testified in favor of the bill. He submitted written testimony.

Q Rep. Infantine- Are you looking to change the 65 year age limit.

A Yes, there would be no age limit.

Werner Horne testified in favor of this bill. He was the original sponsor of this bill last session.

Q Rep Infantine- Please repeat the example given. What is the death benefit?

A Currently a 70 year firefighter's family would not receive the death benefit of a firefighter who died from heart or lung disease.

House Remote Testify


Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee Testify List for Bill HB385 on 2021-02-04

Support: 11 Oppose: 1 Neutral: 3 Total to Testify: 5

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Horn, Werner	werner.horn@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (5m)	No	2/3/2021 9:07 AM
Ryll, Brian	brian@pffnh.org	A Lobbyist	Professional Fire Fighters of NH	Support	Yes (3m)	No	2/2/2021 9:52 AM
PEARSON, STEVE	pearsonforderry@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	Yes (10m)	No	2/2/2021 4:27 PM
Pearson, Mark	canonpearson@yahoo.com	State Agency Staff	Prime Sponsor of the Bill	Support	Yes (0m)	No	2/2/2021 4:35 PM
Ogden, Rudolph	rudolph.w.ogden@dol.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	New Hampshire Department of Labor	Neutral	Yes (0m)	No	2/4/2021 8:58 AM
Sofikitis, Catherine	csofikitis@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Nashua	Support	No	No	2/4/2021 9:12 AM
Petit, Mason	masonpetit@gmail.com	A Lobbyist	SEA/SEIU1984	Support	No	No	2/4/2021 1:20 PM
Rojas, Lexie	lexie.rojas@dol.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	NH Department of Labor	Neutral	No	No	2/4/2021 1:22 PM
Goley, Rep. Jeff	Jgoley0314@yahoo.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2021 5:16 PM
Citarella, Christian	christian.g.citarella@ins.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	Insurance Department	Neutral	No	No	1/29/2021 2:30 PM
Brackett, Glenn	communications@nhaficio.org	A Lobbyist	the working men & women of the New Hampshire AFL-CIO	Support	No	No	2/1/2021 11:05 AM
Labranche, Tony	tony.labranche.public@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/3/2021 12:12 PM
Johnston, Cordell	cjohnston@nhmunicipal.org	A Lobbyist	NH Municipal Association	Oppose	No	No	2/3/2021 6:08 PM
Jones, Chief Ken	nhfirechiefs@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs	Support	No	No	2/3/2021 8:40 PM
Rathbun, Eric	ericrathbun@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/3/2021 11:09 PM

Testimony

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:35:09 PM
From: [Kaytlynn Monroe](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:22:38 PM
To: ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services
Cc: [Brian Ryll](#)
Subject: HB 385 Testimony
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[Hb 385 testimony.pdf](#) 

Good afternoon,

Attached please find testimony from the Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire in support of HB 385 *relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters*. Brian Ryll, President of PFFNH has signed up to speak tomorrow morning.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions moving forward.

Thank you,

Kaytlynn

Kaytlynn Monroe
Government & Political Affairs Director
Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire
43 Centre Street, Concord, NH 03301
603-223-3304 (O) | 603-219-8815 (C)
Email: kaytlynn@pffnh.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The information contained in this transmission is privileged and confidential and is intended only for the recipient(s) listed above. If you are neither the intended recipient(s) nor a person responsible for the delivery of this transmission to the intended recipient(s), you are hereby notified that any unauthorized distribution or copying of this transmission is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately at 603-223-3304. Thank you.

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:35:09 PM
From: [Canon Mark A. Pearson](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:01:06 PM
To: ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services
Subject: Testimony from the Prime Sponsor for hb 385
Importance: Normal

Testimony from Rep. Mark Pearson,

Rockingham County 34 – Atkinson, Hampstead, Kingston, Plaistow
Chairman, Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs committee

before the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitation Services

February 4, 2021

HB 385 – relative to workers’ compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

This bill is the product of and is co-sponsored by a bi-partisan group of legislators who are or were firefighters, with the addition of a former federal marshal, the former Speaker of the House.

I was a volunteer firefighter in Leominster half a century ago, but have kept up with the fire service as a “fire buff” and as the proud father of a Manchester Fire Lieutenant, Stephen Pearson, who is also a legislator representing Derry. I hang out at fire stations, I go to fires and sometimes even get asked to help humping hose.

My career path, however, was the ordained ministry, starting in 1974. In nearly half a century of such ministry I had many firefighters as parishioners. I can think of some who died young. It would be difficult to determine in their cases whether their death was from a career of being exposed to toxic smoke from burning buildings or from being cigarette smokers and overweight.


However, I also had some firefighter parishioners who never smoked and kept themselves in great shape, yet they came down with heart or lung disease or both while their siblings did not. What was the difference in their lives? Was it that the toxic smoke they sucked in over their professional careers finally manifesting itself in disease?

I will leave to people testifying after me to supply the growing scientific data.

I'll leave you with this. It's a cliché but it's ever so true, firefighters run into the burning buildings everyone else is running out of. Even with air packs they suck in over a career toxins known to cause both heart and lung diseases.

They are not firefighters for the money any more than we are legislators for the money. For them as well as us, it's a calling.

Whenever there's an injury or line of duty death, and, in fact, on many other occasions, we thank them for their service. Let's also thank them by removing an artificial date beyond which heart and lung diseases will no longer be covered by workers' comp.

Archived: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:29:00 PM
From: [Kaytlynn Monroe](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:22:38 PM
To: ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services
Cc: [Brian Ryll](#)
Subject: HB 385 Testimony
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Please let us know if we can answer any questions moving forward.

Thank you,

Kaytlynn

Kaytlynn Monroe
Government & Political Affairs Director
Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire
43 Centre Street, Concord, NH 03301
603-223-3304 (O) | 603-219-8815 (C)
Email: kaytlynn@pffnh.org

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PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

O F N E W H A M P S H I R E

House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee
Legislative Office Building
33 N State Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Testimony in support of HB 385-FN relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters

Dear Chairman Infantine and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brian Ryll and I serve as the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire and am a Captain for the Portsmouth Fire Department. On behalf of the 42 local unions and approximately 2,000 active and retired professional fire fighters and paramedics that I represent, I am providing testimony in support of HB 385-FN *relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters*.

It is well documented that throughout the course of their duty, fire fighters are subjected to a number of occupational hazards that take a toll on the human body. The routine exposure to high physical and emotional stress, heat, and cancer causing carcinogens makes it far more likely that a fire fighter will develop cardiovascular disease, lung disease or cancer. The American Heart Association cites sudden cardiac death as the leading cause of death for fire fighters at approximately 45% of all job-related deaths. Repeated injury as a result of physical strain, emotional stress, or exposure to carcinogens or infectious diseases have a cumulative effect on the human body that increases a fire fighters risk of cardiovascular disease. [1] Moreover, The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's most recent study shows that fire fighters are at a 14% increased risk of dying from cancer as opposed to the general population. [2]

The hazardous nature of the fire service industry has never been disputed. In fact, the State of New Hampshire has already recognized the serious and sometimes catastrophic effects of this profession by adopting legislation that states when a fire fighter is diagnosed with heart, lung or cancer disease it is presumed to have been occupationally related. HB 385 would simply eliminate the sunset provision that this benefit would not continue past a fire fighter's 65th birthday. Fire fighters routinely risk their lives to protect the citizens in the communities they serve, and are oftentimes rewarded with cardiovascular disease, pulmonary illness or a cancer diagnosis for their efforts. It is incumbent upon us to show these fire fighters that we will always have their back for the service they provide to this great state, and not just until they turn 65.

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

O F N E W H A M P S H I R E

I respectfully ask for the committee's full support of HB 385, *relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in fire fighters.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Ryll
President
Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire

[1] Kales, S. N., & Smith, D. L. (April 2017). Firefighting and the Heart Implications for Prevention. *Circulation*, Volume 135, Pages (Issue 14), 1296-1299. Retrieved from <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/full/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.117.027018>

[2] FAQ. (2020, December 30). Retrieved February 02, 2021, from <https://firefightercancersupport.org/resources/faq/>

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:31:50 PM

From: [Barbara Southard](#)

Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:21:03 PM

To: ~[House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services](#)

Subject: NH House Remote Testify: 9:00 am - HB385 in House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

Importance: Normal

I support this bill because working families need it. They need to know that will be able to care for themselves or a family member when they need to.

Thank you,
Barbara Southard
506 Rowe Mountain Rd., Bradford, NH 03221

Sent from my iPad

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:31:50 PM

From: [Jonathan Weinberg](#)

Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 9:41:09 AM

To: [~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services](#)

Subject: NH House Remote Testify: 9:00 am - HB385 in House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

Importance: Normal

Jonathan Weinberg, testimony:

Good morning, my name is Jonathan Weinberg, and I am a recently elected member of the Concord School Board, however, I am here representing myself and not the board.

We all know New Hampshire has to do everything possible to attract and retain young working families. We have a rapidly aging population so much so that we have a statewide committee dedicated to address this startling revelation called the "NH State Plan on Aging". Research by this state sponsored committee states that by 2030, approximately 1/3 of NH's population will be over 65.

These two issues combined illustrate that we have to do something much greater to attract people, especially younger individuals and families to the Granite State. When young families look at opportunities and compare these opportunities between a state that stands to support its workers versus one that delegates paid sick time to an employer's discretion, it is obvious which option produces a more secure working environment and overall environment to raise a family. Voting Yea on HB590 will not only greatly benefit the over 66% of Granite Stater's who do not have access to paid leave but will also help elevate NH's status as an ideal employment destination and help attract younger workers to our state.

Thank you.

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:31:50 PM

From: pgarvey10@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:22:22 PM

To: ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

Subject: NH House Remote Testify: 9:00 am - HB385 in House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

Importance: Normal

Attachments:

testimony HB 590.docx ;

To whom it may concern,

Please find my testimony attached. I omitted to put time needed at registration, I expect the testimony should take 3-5 minutes.

Thank-you,

Paula Garvey

CF PFAB Co-ordinator DHMC

Email: pgarvey10@gmail.com

Stay masked!

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:31:50 PM
From: [Steve Bargdill](#)
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 4:09:52 PM
To: ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services
Subject: NH House Remote Testify: 9:00 am - HB385 in House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services
Importance: Normal

Dear committee members,

If you remove curriculum development, management, tutoring, contact hours in general. If we only look at the work-related duties involved in teaching a single class. Not including health insurance or other benefits, full time faculty are paid 9 thousand dollars for that one single class. For the same work, for the same class, for the same expertise an adjunct receives \$2508.

I would suggest teaching five courses--two in the fall, two in the spring, one in the summer—at \$12540 does not equal 80 grand, nor does \$12540 come close to seventy-five percent.

Feel free to plug in the numbers yourself at [the teaching wage gap calculator](#). If you want to read how the wage gap calculator works, you can check out John Warner's January 26, 2020 [Equal Pay for Equal Work: Calculating 'Fair Pay' for Teaching](#) at Inside Higher Ed

My name is Steve Bargdill, I'm the president of SEA's chapter 32.

I joined SEA January 2020, was quickly recruited as president of chapter 32. I have in my tenure increased monthly meeting attendance as well as the number of team members on the contract negotiation team, only to watch those numbers of active participants drop due to a lack of communication initiative on the part of the SEA. We have been out of contract since 2018. We have been through mediation, through fact-finding, and have been through mediation again. And round and round we go because there are zero consequences for either side for saying no, which is why we have turned to the legislative body.

I am not here today as a representative of SEA. I represent myself.

Though, perhaps, [others share my personal experience](#).

I have been an adjunct with Great Bay Community College for the last five years. And my comments here will take approximately five minutes. Thank you for listening to me.

At Great Bay, we have 34 full-time faculty. Roughly, 200 contingent. I am a part of that contingent. Teaching on average 3 classes a semester, one semester teaching beyond the credit-hour cap for adjunct faculty, and I signed a waiver stating the over the cap credit limit did not constitute an offer for a full time position. I am not the only adjunct who has signed a similar statement.

Today is February 4th.

I will not pay rent until February 12th. This is the same conversation I have with my landlord three times a year. Internet services cost me roughly an unreimbursed \$150 a month—this is a service I cannot do without because even before the pandemic, I needed access to student records, student

assignments, and email on a daily basis, and you can imagine now with the need for even Zoomier Internet speeds, that bill is consistently paid late as well. Over the past five years, I have been on food stamps, heating assistance, rent assistance, have visited on multiple occasions the local food bank, and was informed I should simply consider those state and federal programs as a portion of my overall pay. I own a car that has sat in the driveway for a year because I have not been able to afford the repairs. My teeth are falling out of my mouth and I cannot afford to see a dentist. And I am one of hundreds.

I am consistently good at my job. I serve on the faculty forum, am part of the Great Bay Community College presidential search committee. I have even been recently asked to speak at Great Bay's all college meeting. All of which I do for free because I believe in Great Bay's mission: student success, teaching excellence, exceptional workplace culture, creativity, inquisitiveness, community and civic engagement, diversity, citizenship and sustainability.

As I said. I am good at my job. But I could be so much better if I was not worried about whether or not my landlord will one day simply throw us out onto the street. My attention would not be split between three to four colleges all across New England, sometimes commuting hours between campuses, time that would be better spent with students—preparing our state's future workforce.

In 2015, the state restored 5.5 million dollars to the CCSNH budget, and in spite of the money, laid-off faculty. They did increase the Vice Chancellor's and Chancellor's salary for a combined annual additional 120 thousand dollars. In 2019 CCSNH asked for 16 million. The state approved, and there were, again, lay-offs.

The investments New Hampshire continues to make in our community college system are not paying off. How much longer do you think the 32 full-time faculty at Great Bay will survive as full-time? How long must they wait for another round of lay-offs? And yet, CCSNH continues to bemoan low enrollment numbers.

Reliance upon contingent faculty and easily fireable employees, treating talented teachers badly, underpaying professionals is industrial foolishness and budgetarily short-sighted.

As demonstrated by other schools such as Texas Tech who have reversed their reliance upon the adjunct, by creating higher quality employment for faculty, you guarantee increased enrollment, increased tuition, a stronger state workforce, and a state population with more resources.

HB501 in my opinion is only the first step. At the very least, the bill will assure a modicum of budgetary oversight. It will at the very minimum allow teachers to focus on students, not whether they will make next month's rent.

I recommend you retain the bill.

Thank you for your time. And I'll take any questions you may have, including any in regards to what steps we have taken as a union.

Kind Regards,
Steve Bargdill
603 617 6018

Great Bay Community College

stevebargdill.com

Good writing is always about things that are important to you, things that are scary to you, things that eat you up. --John Edgar Wideman
Pronouns: they, their, them

Good Morning,

My name is Paula Garvey from Amherst. I support this bill to ensure access to paid sick leave in New Hampshire.

My daughter Rosie was born with Cystic Fibrosis – a chronic health condition that effects the lungs and other organs. CF requires a lot of medical care, with frequent doctors visits and hospitalizations. At age 15, she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis which has had a huge impact on her health. Both conditions have led to multiple hospitalizations and surgeries. It has been very challenging as family to work and care for a child with health conditions.

- In the past, when Rosie was hospitalized I was fortunate to have 4 days of paid sick leave but after that I would have to use unpaid leave. This is particularly stressful when you have a child with a chronic health condition with frequent hospitalizations. My husband and I juggled our sick days to ensure that one parent was available. On one occasion, my older daughter who works in New York took sick leave to come home to support us, when we had used our days.
- Parents of children with chronic health conditions have to attend multiple appointments – when Rosie is healthy she has clinic every 3 months, and often with appointments between clinic visits. It is very difficult to manage work and sick days in times like this.
- On a general note, as the Covid Pandemic has taught us, it is imperative to stay at home when feeling unwell so not to spread infection. Knowing that people have a cushion of some pay would make it easier to make the right decision.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Paula Garvey

Bill as
Introduced

HB 385-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0481

10/08

HOUSE BILL **385-FN**

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

SPONSORS: Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Rep. S. Pearson, Rock. 6; Rep. Shurtleff, Merr. 11; Rep. Goley, Hills. 8; Rep. Doucette, Rock. 8; Rep. Pratt, Rock. 3; Rep. Soucy, Merr. 16; Rep. Lanzara, Hills. 28; Rep. O'Brien, Hills. 36

COMMITTEE: Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the length of time the presumption of heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters.

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

HB 385-FN - AS INTRODUCED

21-0481

10/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

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

- 1 1 Repeal. RSA 281-A:17, I(c), relative to the length of time the presumption of heart or lung
- 2 disease in members of fire departments is occupationally related, is repealed.
- 3 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 385-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

COUNTY:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

METHODOLOGY:

The New Hampshire Municipal Association states this bill would repeal RSA 281-A:17, I(c), regarding the presumption that heart or lung disease in firefighters is occupationally related terminates one month after the firefighter’s 65th birthday. Repealing this limitation could lead to more claims for workers’ compensation, and increased workers’ compensation rates for municipalities. However, the Association has no information from which to estimate any increase in claims or costs. The Association does not expect any impact on municipal revenues.

The Department of Safety indicates this change would increase the potential for continuation of current claims and make new claims possible. The costs related to the increased claims cannot be determined, but would impact State, county and local expenditures for workers compensation.

The Department of Labor does not anticipate this bill would impact state, county or local revenues. In terms of expenditures, the Department states it is possible that extension of the presumption beyond age 65 could lead to increased expenditures, at the county and local levels

through an increase in premiums costs for workers' compensation coverage. However, there is no way for the Department to credibly quantify such potential increase in accepted claims or premium costs.

It is assumed no fiscal impact will occur until after July 1, 2021.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

New Hampshire Municipal Association and Departments of Safety and Labor