

# Committee Report

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**February 3, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly  
Affairs to which was referred HB 75,**

**AN ACT renaming and adjusting the membership of the  
New Hampshire commission on deafness and hearing  
loss. Having considered the same, report the same with  
the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

**Rep. Mark Pearson**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 75</b>
Title:	<b>renaming and adjusting the membership of the New Hampshire commission on deafness and hearing loss.</b>
Date:	<b>February 3, 2021</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>CONSENT</b>
Recommendation:	<b>OUGHT TO PASS</b>

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

This bill comes at the suggestion of the New Hampshire Commission on Deafness and Hearing Loss, which I chair. Members of the deaf and hard of hearing (d/hh) community note that our title speaks about medical conditions, not about people. Members of the Commission researched what similar commissions in other states are called. Invariably, their titles speak about people. The second part of the bill adds three additional members to the Commission. There are three large groupings of long term care facilities in the state. While these facilities give good care to their d/hh residents, their leaders know there are periodic problems which keep them from doing even better. By inviting a representative of each of these groupings to sit on the Commission, both they and Commission members believe that periodic conversations could be held to the betterment of all.

Vote 20-0.

Rep. Mark Pearson  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

**HB 75**, renaming and adjusting the membership of the New Hampshire commission on deafness and hearing loss. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Mark Pearson for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill comes at the suggestion of the New Hampshire Commission on Deafness and Hearing Loss, which I chair.

Members of the deaf and hard of hearing (d/hh) community note that our title speaks about medical conditions, not about people. Members of the Commission researched what similar commissions in other states are called. Invariably, their titles speak about people. The second part of the bill adds three additional members to the Commission. There are three large groupings of long term care facilities in the state. While these facilities give good care to their d/hh residents, their leaders know there are periodic problems which keep them from doing even better. By inviting a representative of each of these groupings to sit on the Commission, both they and Commission members believe that periodic conversations could be held to the betterment of all.

**Vote 20-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

# Voting Sheets

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 75**

**BILL TITLE:** renaming and adjusting the membership of the New Hampshire commission on deafness and hearing loss.

**DATE:** February 1, 2021

**LOB ROOM:** 206/208

**MOTIONS:** OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. M. Pearson

Seconded by Rep. Woods

Vote: 20-0

**CONSENT CALENDAR: YES**

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Beth Folsom, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/22/2021 10:06:45 AM  
Roll Call Committee Registers  
Report

2021 SESSION

**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs**

Bill #: HB 75      Motion: OTP      AM #: \_\_\_\_\_      Exec Session Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Pearson, Mark A. Chairman	20		
Marsh, William M. Vice Chairman	1		
McMahon, Charles E.	2		
Nelson, Bill G.	3		
Acton, Dennis F.	4		
Gay, Betty I.	5		
Cushman, Leah P.	6		
Folsom, Beth A. Clerk	7		
Kelsey, Niki	8		
King, Bill C.	9		
Kofalt, Jim	10		
Weber, Lucy M.	11		
MacKay, James R.			Absent
Snow, Kendall A.	12		
Knirk, Jerry L.	13		
Salloway, Jeffrey C.	14		
Cannon, Gerri D.	15		
Nutter-Upham, Frances E.	16		
Schapiro, Joe	17		
Woods, Gary L.	18		

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/22/2021 10:06:45 AM  
Roll Call Committee Registers  
Report

2021 SESSION

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

Bill #: <u>HB 75</u>	Motion: <u>OTP</u>	AM #: _____	Exec Session Date: _____
Merchant, Gary			19
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>			20
			0
			1



# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 75

**BILL TITLE:** renaming and adjusting the membership of the New Hampshire commission on deafness and hearing loss.

**DATE:** February 1, 2021

**LOB ROOM:** 206/208                      **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 9:14 AM

**Time Adjourned:** 9:23 AM

**Committee Members:** Reps. M. Pearson, Marsh, Folsom, McMahon, Nelson, Acton, Gay, Cushman, Kelsey, B. King, Kofalt, Weber, MacKay, Snow, Knirk, Salloway, Cannon, Nutter-Upham, Schapiro, Woods and Merchant

**Bill Sponsors:**

Rep. M. Pearson

Rep. Porter

Rep. Woods

Rep. Read

Rep. Gagne

Rep. Major

Rep. Cordelli

Rep. Merchant

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Bradley

Sen. D'Allesandro

**TESTIMONY**

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

**Rep. Pearson – Bill Sponsor**

- After researching and polling the new title was settled upon to better reflect the population the represent and not a diagnosed condition.
- Additional members would allow other facilities and agencies which have population that would benefit by their representation.

**Jules Good, NE Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services – Supports**

- Shared life experience and suggests that at some point an additional member to the commission would be a person who represents the deaf /blind population.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Beth Folsom, Clerk

## House Remote Testify

### Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill HB75 on 2021-02-01

Support: 10 Oppose: 1 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 2

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Good, Jules	juligood5@gmail.com	480.335.8767	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (3m)	2/1/2021 8:31 AM
Kelliher, Christopher	villagernh@gmail.com	603.660.8166	A Lobbyist	NHARCH	Support	Yes (2m)	2/1/2021 9:00 AM
Rosenberger, Teresa	Trosenberger@bernsteinshur.com	603.396.6865	A Lobbyist	NH Health Car Association	Support	No	2/1/2021 9:18 AM
Millet, Emily	emilymillet1011@gmail.com	603.391.5031	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2/1/2021 4:09 PM
Cannon, Gerri	gerri.cannon@gmail.com	603.841.5410	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2/1/2021 8:45 AM
Birdsell, Senator Regina	regina.birdsell@leg.state.nh.us	603.271.2609	An Elected Official	Senate District 19	Support	No	1/22/2021 3:04 PM
Fordey, Nicole	nikkif610@gmail.com	516.318.2296	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/23/2021 4:06 PM
major, Norman	norman.major@leg.state.nh.us	603.382.5429	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	1/24/2021 2:19 PM
Donnelly, Ryan	rdonnelly@gsil.org	603.520.3271	A Lobbyist	Granite State Independent Living	Support	No	1/31/2021 3:13 PM
Ploszaj, Tom	tom.ploszaj@leg.state.nh.us	603.279.9965	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	1/31/2021 8:11 PM
Rathbun, Eric	ericrathbun@gmail.com	860.912.3751	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/31/2021 10:10 PM

# Testimony

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 75**

### **AN ACT RENAMING AND ADJUSTING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION ON DEAFNESS AND HEARING LOSS**

To be heard in the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs committee, February 1, 2021

Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman and members of the committee.

For the record, I am Mark Pearson, Chairman of this committee and also Chairman of the New Hampshire Commission on Deafness and Hearing Loss.

Nearly two years ago I formed a sub-committee of the Commission to consider various pieces of legislation. This group made recommendations to the whole Commission. It became my task to turn into LSRs those recommendations receiving a favorable response from the Commission.

Two issues are reflected in hb 75.

1. We heard from numbers of people in the deaf/hard of hearing (d/hh) community that the Commission's name spoke of disabilities, not people, and we might want to change the title accordingly. I charged a few of the subcommittee members with taking an informal poll within d/hh circles to see what others think. A few others were charged with providing us a list of what other states call groups similar to our Commission.

The result was a request to change our name to The New Hampshire Commission for the deaf and hard of hearing.

2. Various Commission members related stories of suboptimal d/hh services in nursing homes. I have considerable experience with nursing homes and other long term residential facilities, first, because in my growing up years I never lacked a close relative who lived in one, and, second, because as a clergyman of 46 years standing, I've always had several parishioners in such facilities. And, to top this off, my assignment in our Rockingham County delegation is to be part of the team overseeing our county nursing home.

I believe most nursing home / long term residential facility administrators are proficient and caring. In talking with several of them it became clear that they were also open to learning more in general and about d/hh residents in particular. This is particularly the case in those facilities where they seldom have more than one, if any, d/hh persons in residence.

We looked at various ways of addressing any concerns that arise and administrators' desire to do even better. We concluded that adding representatives from private nursing facilities, county nursing facilities and assisted living facilities to our Commission would bring them in contact with Commission members who are either d/hh themselves or who advocate for them or both. The leaders of these three groups are in agreement.

Thank you for your attention.

Bill as  
Introduced

**HB 75 - AS INTRODUCED**

2021 SESSION

21-0032

11/05

HOUSE BILL **75**

AN ACT renaming and adjusting the membership of the New Hampshire commission on deafness and hearing loss.

SPONSORS: Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Rep. Porter, Hills. 1; Rep. Woods, Merr. 23; Rep. Read, Rock. 17; Rep. Gagne, Hills. 13; Rep. Major, Rock. 14; Rep. Cordelli, Carr. 4; Rep. Merchant, Sull. 4; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20

COMMITTEE: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

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ANALYSIS

This bill changes the name of the New Hampshire commission on deafness and hearing loss to the New Hampshire commission for the deaf and hard of hearing and adds members to the commission.

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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.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

AN ACT                   renaming and adjusting the membership of the New Hampshire commission on deafness and hearing loss.

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

1           1 New Hampshire Commission on Deafness and Hearing Loss; Name Change. Amend the  
2 chapter heading of RSA 125-Q to read as follows:

3                           NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION [~~ON DEAFNESS AND HEARING LOSS~~]

4   **FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

5           2 New Hampshire Commission on Deafness and Hearing Loss; Name Change. Amend the  
6 introductory paragraph of RSA 125-Q:1, I to read as follows:

7                   I. A commission, to be known as the New Hampshire commission [~~on deafness and hearing~~  
8 ~~loss~~] **for the deaf and hard of hearing** is hereby created and established. The commission shall  
9 consist of the following members:

10           3 New Subparagraphs; New Hampshire Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;  
11 Membership. Amend RSA 125-Q:1, I by inserting after subparagraph (s) the following new  
12 subparagraphs:

13                   (t) A representative from a private nursing facility appointed by the New Hampshire  
14 Health Care Association.

15                   (u) A representative from a county nursing facility appointed by the New Hampshire  
16 Association of Counties.

17                   (v) A representative from an assisted living facility appointed by the New Hampshire  
18 Association of Residential Care Homes (NHARCH).

19           4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.