

Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

May 25, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Majority of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs to which was referred SB 107,

AN ACT relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Bonnie Ham

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Bill Number:	SB 107
Title:	relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Date:	May 25, 2021
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill provides that new businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible for federal relief funds. The intent of the bill was to make sure that the new businesses that were started after March 2020 would be allowed to receive funds going forward. The Main Street Program, which was based on looking back to 2019, has ended, so there is no need for this legislation since all businesses, new or old, can qualify for any new money, assuming that they comply with the new Federal rules.

Vote 11-7.

Rep. Bonnie Ham
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

SB 107, relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Bonnie Ham for the **Majority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill provides that new businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible for federal relief funds. The intent of the bill was to make sure that the new businesses that were started after March 2020 would be allowed to receive funds going forward. The Main Street Program, which was based on looking back to 2019, has ended, so there is no need for this legislation since all businesses, new or old, can qualify for any new money, assuming that they comply with the new Federal rules.

Vote 11-7.

REGULAR CALENDAR

May 25, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Minority of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs to which was referred SB 107,

AN ACT relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Having considered the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority, report with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Christy Bartlett

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

MINORITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Bill Number:	SB 107
Title:	relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Date:	May 25, 2021
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Commerce Committee heard from several new businesses that were not eligible for the Main Street Relief Fund because they were established after May 26, 2019. As anyone who has opened a new business knows, the first year is the most vulnerable and planning and financing a new business doesn't start on that first day. Months of planning and sacrifice are invested before that door opens. The NH legislature says they support businesses and entrepreneurs in our state, yet, have voted against allowing these businesses to be covered. This bill is a "shall" for the new money that is forthcoming to support businesses affected by the pandemic, if they qualify, based on the federal guidelines. The minority of the committee would like to be sure that those new businesses that have survived this pandemic year and need some help to continue, will be eligible for the new funds. In case there is any doubt that there is a need, there were 68 people who signed in to support this bill and 0 opposed.

Rep. Christy Bartlett
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

SB 107, relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Christy Bartlett for the **Minority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The Commerce Committee heard from several new businesses that were not eligible for the Main Street Relief Fund because they were established after May 26, 2019. As anyone who has opened a new business knows, the first year is the most vulnerable and planning and financing a new business doesn't start on that first day. Months of planning and sacrifice are invested before that door opens. The NH legislature says they support businesses and entrepreneurs in our state, yet, have voted against allowing these businesses to be covered. This bill is a "shall" for the new money that is forthcoming to support businesses affected by the pandemic, if they qualify, based on the federal guidelines. The minority of the committee would like to be sure that those new businesses that have survived this pandemic year and need some help to continue, will be eligible for the new funds. In case there is any doubt that there is a need, there were 68 people who signed in to support this bill and 0 opposed.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Archived: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 1:37:15 PM
From: [JOHN HUNT](#)
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 12:14:57 PM
To: [Carrie Morris](#)
Cc: [Pam Smarling](#)
Subject: SB 107
Importance: Normal

SB107

This bill provides that new businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible for federal relief funds. The intent of the bill was to make sure that the new businesses that were started after March 2020 can now be allowed to receive funds going forward. The Mainstreet program which was based on looking back to 2019 has ended so there is no need for this legislation since all business, new or old, can qualify for any new money assuming that they comply with the new Federal rules

SB107

Minority Report

The Commerce Committee heard from several new businesses that were left out of the previous Main Street Relief Fund because they were established after May 26, 2019. As anyone who has opened a new business knows, the first year is the most vulnerable and planning and financing a new business doesn't start on that first day. Months of planning and sacrifice are invested before that door opens. The NH Legislature says they support businesses and entrepreneurs in our State, yet, have voted against allowing these businesses to be covered. This bill is a "shall" for the new money that is forthcoming to support businesses affected by the pandemic, if they qualify, based on the federal guidelines. The Minority would like to be sure that those new businesses that have survived this pandemic year and need some help to continue, will be eligible for the new funds. In case there is any doubt that there is a need, there were 68 NH voters who signed in to support this bill and 0 opposed.

Rep Christy Dolat Bartlett

5/25/21

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 107

BILL TITLE: relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

DATE: May 25, 2021

LOB ROOM: Zoom

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Ham

Seconded by Rep. Potucek

Vote: 11-7

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Keith Ammon, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION ON SB107 _____

BILL TITLE: relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

DATE: 5/13/21

LOB ROOM: 306-308

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP 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: _____

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, Rep. _____, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/22/2021 9:55:55 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2021 SESSION

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Bill #: SB107 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: MAY 25, 2021

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Hunt, John B. Chairman	11		
Potucek, John M. Vice Chairman	1		
Osborne, Jason M.	2		
Ammon, Keith M. Clerk	3		
Abramson, Max	4		
Ham, Bonnie D.	5		
Depalma IV, Joseph	6		
Greeson, Jeffrey	7		
Johnson, Dawn M.	8		
Terry, Paul A.	9		
Bartlett, Christy D.		1	
Abel, Richard M.		2	
Herbert, Christopher J.	10		
Van Houten, Constance		3	
Fargo, Kristina M.		4	
Weston, Joyce		5	
Beaulieu, Jane E.			
Burroughs, Anita D.		6	
McAleer, Chris R.		7	
TOTAL VOTE:	11	7	

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 107

BILL TITLE: relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

DATE: March 23, 2021

LOB ROOM: Remote **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 11:21 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 12:02 p.m.

Committee Members: Reps. Hunt, Potucek, Ammon, Osborne, Abramson, Ham, Depalma IV, Greeson, Johnson, Terry, Bartlett, Abel, Herbert, Van Houten, Fargo, Weston, Beaulieu, Burroughs and McAleer

Bill Sponsors:

Sen. Perkins Kwoka
Sen. Watters
Sen. Prentiss
Rep. Griffith
Rep. Wilhelm

Sen. D'Allesandro
Sen. Sherman
Sen. Soucy
Rep. Kenney

Sen. Rosenwald
Sen. Cavanaugh
Rep. McBeath
Rep. DiLorenzo

TESTIMONY

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

Sen Perkins Kwoka *

(She read her written testimony.)

Rep Hunt: So you're expecting more money is going to be funded, but this doesn't say what the parameters are, just that they should get something.

A: Yes. Rulemaking would go to GOFER.

Rep Bartlett

Q: Were the limitations to the covid relief funds set by the state or federal government?

A: The date of May 26, 2019 was imposed on businesses by the state.

Q: What kinds of requirements would you see that would be reasonable for businesses to prove what revenue they've lost due to covid?

A: I appreciate this would impose some challenges. The banks and lenders that lend to these businesses project income streams based on market research or receipts. There is industry data from around the country that could help our businesses provide data.

Sen Jeb Bradley

I second the remarks of my colleague. When someone purchased an existing business, they were treated as a new business and they didn't have access to main street funds. It makes sense to all of us in the senate to apply the same rules to new businesses as existing businesses. There will be new federal money coming to New Hampshire and it makes sense to apply the same rules.

Doug Clark

I have a couple restaurants in downtown Durham. We applied for main street relief and we were told we should have known better than open a business in 2020. Our story fell on deaf ears. We formed our LLC in 2018. We hired our General Manager in 2019 and started payroll. We acquired our property in 2019. Began construction in 2019. Hired our chef in August 2019. We completed construction in March just to find out our fabricator in RI shut down because of covid. We weren't able to open until June 2020. Capacity restrictions were limited to 30-35% capacity. We had eleven outdoor tables. We saw our revenues get cut in half from the summer. We don't have years of profits in our history. Keep money locally instead of big chain restaurants.

Rep Herbert

Q: There's a \$1.9T bill that's been passed. Will you be able to access some of the federal money coming to the state? \$400 million is expected to land on the governor's desk. Would like your opinion.

A: For us, it's all about this bill. If the criteria don't change, then we won't qualify. My frustration, a lot of the old businesses went into hibernation after they received relief funds and didn't maintain payroll. We've hired 45 people and kept them on the payroll.

Q: If this legislation passes, would that change the calculus for you?

A: It depends on how much money we receive. We're hanging on and have had to make changes because of covid. HEPA filters, cleaning systems, masks. We literally rebuilt the sidewalk in front of our restaurants.

Patrick Kelly

Representing Strike 9 Brewing. We purchased a 5,000 space to convert into a brew pub. We went through licensing, purchasing, etc. We opened in Sep. 2019. We were closed March 2020 per governor's order. We did not have take out as part of our business model. We reopened in April 2020 attempting to try the takeout model. Our revenue fell more than 50% quarter over quarter. For businesses that were open for part of the year, you could use previous quarters as a proxy for lost revenue. Nobody could really foresee the pandemic in the risk assessment as part of opening the business. Working capital reserves are stressed in the first year of startup. New businesses were more severely impacted. Why fund a business that may fail? Businesses looking for any funds should be able to provide a P&L and balance sheet to prove they can survive on a long-term basis.

Lizabeth Tompkins

I became the owner of Putting on the Glitz in downtown Portsmouth. I'm in favor of passing SB107. It takes 2 or 3 years to open a business. I took classes through SCORE then went to Small Business Development Association as a client. By November 2020 I knew we weren't out of this pandemic. I have records of the last quarter of 2019. The formula worked. We based our numbers on the previous owner's numbers.

Rep Maria Perez

Milford. Now more than ever, I see our small businesses around Milford suffering. I see people supporting the small businesses. I've been visiting small businesses in my town to bring awareness that supporting small businesses is helping our community to grow.

Valerie Rochon *

President of Chamber of Commerce of Portsmouth. (Read her written testimony.)

Kevin Dwyer

I echo what Doug Clark said. I purchased a Thai restaurant in Portsmouth. Tourism accounts for a lot of restaurant industry in Portsmouth. Large chains don't have as much concern for the local economy. I employ people from the local area. I'm from Portsmouth. This bill would help protect main street businesses. I'm 29 yo and I would like to grow this business for the next several decades and be a part of the local economy.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEARING on Bill # ___SB107_____
BILL TITLE: relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

DATE: March 23, 2021_____

ROOM: Zoom **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** _11:21 AM_____

Time Adjourned: __12:02 AM_____

(please bold if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Hunt, Potucek, Ammon, Osborne, Abramson, Ham, Depalma IV, Greeson, Johnson, Terry, Bartlett, Abel, Herbert, Van Houten, Fargo, Weston, Beaulieu, Burroughs and McAleer

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House Remote Testify

Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill SB107 on 2021-

Support: 68 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 6

[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>S</u>
Kelly, Patrick	Dover, NH patrick@stripinebrewing.com	A Member of the Public	Stripe Nine Brewing	Support	Yes (5m)	3
Perez, Maria	Milford, NH mariaeli63@gmail.com	An Elected Official	District 23	Support	Yes (5m)	3
Perkins Kwoka, Senator Rebecca	Portsmouth, NH rebecca.perkinskwoka@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself (SD 21)	Support	Yes (3m)	3
Dwyer, Kevin	Portsmouth, NH Dwyersportsmouth@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (2m)	3
Rochon, Valerie	Portsmouth, NH valerie@portsmouthcollaborative.org	A Member of the Public	Portsmouth Chamber Collaborative	Support	Yes (0m)	3
Tompkins, Lizabeth	Newmarket, NH puttinontheglitz@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	3
Almy, Susan	Lebanon, NH susan.almy@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	3
Telerski, Laura	Nashua, NH Laura.Telerski@Leg.State.NH.US	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 35	Support	No	3
Weber, Jill	NH, NH jill@frajilfarms.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Kelly, Fran	Amherst, NH Fr.kelly@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Johnson, Susan	Lebanon, NH susanj1511@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Torpey, Jeanne	Concord, NH jtorp51@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Dontonville, Anne	Enfield, NH adontonville@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Bouchard, Donald	MANCHESTER, NH donaldjbouchard@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	3
Fordey, Nicole	Litchfield, NH nikkif610@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Moccia, Lianne	LEBANON, NH lianne.moccia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Lindpaintner, Lyn	Concord, NH lynlin@bluewin.ch	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Hampton, Doris	Canterbury, NH dandmhamp38@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Vincent, Laura	Loudon, NH lvlauravincen5@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Hamer, Heidi	Manchester, NH heidi.hamer@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	3
Watters, Senator David	Dover, NH david.watters@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself (SD 4)	Support	No	3
Rosenwald, Cindy	Concord, NH cindy.rosenwald@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	SD 13	Support	No	3

Cannon, Gerri	Somersworth, NH gerri.cannon@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	3
Tucker, Katherine	Wilmot, NH katherine.s.tucker@valley.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Pidgeon, Dawna	Enfield, NH dawna.pidgeon@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Hackmann, Kent	Andover, NH hackmann@uidaho.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Blanchard, Sandra	Loudon, NH sandyblanchard3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Brennan, Nancy	Weare, NH burningnan14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Mercer, Melissa	Nashua, NH mis.morreale@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Billingham, Carla	Salem, NH billingham2@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Platt, Elizabeth-Anne	CONCORD, NH lizanneplatt09@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Gordon, Laurie	Weare, NH Lmgord23@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Petruccelli, Maxine	Webster, NH maxinepet@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Petruccelli, Charles	Webster, NH chasmxpet@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Gordon, Margaret	Weare, NH Megordon98@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Clark, Denise	Milford, NH denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Toll, Amanda	Keene, NH Electamanfanh@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	3
Hope, Lucinda	Tilton, NH lmhope46@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Graham, Nancy	West Lebanon, NH nancygraham806@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
DeMark, Richard	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Larson, Ruth	Alton, NH ruthlarson@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Perencevich, Ruth	Concord, NH rperence@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Horrigan, State Rep. Timothy	Durham, NH timothy.horrigan@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Stafford 6	Support	No	3
Schuett, Dianne	Pembroke, NH dianne.schuett@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Merr. County, Dist. 20	Support	No	3
Lane, Connie	Concord, NH connie.lane@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Merrimack 12	Support	No	3
Lieberman, Sheryl	Merrimack, NH saml54@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Reed, Barbara D.	N. Swanzey, NH moragmcp83@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Hamblet, Joan	Portsmouth, NH joan.hamblet@leg.state.nh.us	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Dontonville, Roger	Enfield, NH rdontonville@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	3

McNamee, Brigid	Concord, NH brigidmcnamee@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Zaenglein, Barbara	Amherst, NH bzaenglein@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Zaenglein, Eric	Amherst, NH henley11@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Levesque, Cassandra	Barrington, NH cassandra.levesque@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	3
Daniels, John	Dover, NH John@StalkRestaurant.com	A Member of the Public	Stalk (Restaurant)	Support	No	3
Corell, Elizabeth	Concord, NH Elizabeth.j.corell@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
BERK, BRUCE	Pittsfield, NH bruce.berk.nh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Damon, Claudia	Concord, NH cordsdamon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Jachim, Nancy	Newport, NH nancyjachim@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Taylor, Gale	Concord, NH galeforcefacilitators@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Goldwater, Catherine	Milford, NH cathy.goldwater@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Keeler, Margaret	New London, NH peg5keeler@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Spielman, Kathy	Durham, NH jspielman@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Burr, Emily	Canterbury, NH revemilyburr@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Lewis, Elizabeth	Nashua, NH ecop.lewis@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Kovacs, Miriam	Franklin, NH feedme@brokenspoonnj.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Carter, Lilian	Deering, NH lcarter0914@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3
Harriott-Gathright, Linda	Nashua, NH linda.HarriottGathright@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	3
Rettew, Annie	CONCORD, NH abrettew@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	3

Testimony

Archived: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:02:05 PM

From: [Doug Clark](#)

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 11:05:16 AM

To: ~[House Commerce Committee](#)

Subject: NH House Remote Testify: 11:00 am - SB107 in House Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Importance: Normal

Attachments:

[House Committee.docx](#) 

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Archived: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:02:06 PM
From: Valerie Rochon
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:41:01 PM
To: ~House Commerce Committee
Cc: Rebecca Perkins Kwoka
Subject: SB107 - Copy of 3.23.2021 Testimony
Importance: Normal

Dear Chairman Hunt...

Per your request, please find the copy of my testimony earlier today re SB107.

Thank you.

Valerie



SB 107 – COM – 11:00 AM – 3/23/21

Good morning Chairman Hunt, and Members of the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee:

My name is Valerie Rochon and I am the President of the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth. We represent close to 800 businesses in the greater Portsmouth area. Small businesses of less than ten employees comprise 80% of our membership.

I am here to testify in support of SB107, – relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The intentions of the Main Street Relief Fund allocated from the Cares Act funds were good, in that the need for financial support necessary to shore up our businesses was recognized, and action taken.

However, some of our small businesses who desperately needed – and still need – the financial support provided to others, have been left to fend for themselves.

SB107 proposes that entrepreneurs who started businesses shortly before and during the pandemic, and those who purchased pre-existing businesses during the same period, will be eligible for federal relief funds.

There is nothing more Main Street than our locally owned, small, entrepreneurial businesses, who employ our local residents. Those who started businesses during this time agonized over business plans and financial projections, which were sufficient in most cases to bring to the banks to get the funds for their startups. Why then, would they not also be accommodated in the Main Street Fund program?

What of new owners who purchased existing businesses with years of financial data? They have proven track records of successful revenue generation and net profits, yet they were also denied access to these critical funds.

And yes, there was an appeals process, which was difficult if not impossible to navigate, with business owners frustrated in their attempts to speak with a real human being.

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee, I urge you not to let these small businesses, who are the backbone of our communities and our economy, fall by the wayside yet again when new relief packages are funded.

Please vote to pass SB107, which ensures that new businesses and new business owners will be eligible for federal relief funds.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Valerie Rochon, President, the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth

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A mask is all we ask! Thank you for helping us keep YOU and our staff safe.



Archived: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:02:06 PM

From: [Carla Billingham](#)

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:04:35 AM

To: ~House Commerce Committee

Cc: [Chuck Morse](#); [Fred Doucette](#); [Everett McBride](#); [Bob Elliott](#); [Betty Gay](#); [John Sytek](#); [Daryl Abbas](#); [John Janigian](#); [Joe Sweeney](#); [Susan Vandecasteele](#)

Subject: NH House Remote Testify: 11:00 am - SB107 in House Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Importance: Normal

Honorable Members:

I support this bill to ensure that new small businesses have the same access to federal COVID relief funds as other businesses.

Thank you,

Carla Billingham

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Bill as
Introduced

SB 107 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-1057
/10

SENATE BILL **107**

AN ACT relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPONSORS: Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13;
Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Sen.
Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Rep. McBeath, Rock. 26; Rep. Griffith, Hills.
18; Rep. Kenney, Straf. 6; Rep. DiLorenzo, Rock. 17; Rep. Wilhelm, Hills. 42

COMMITTEE: Commerce

ANALYSIS

This bill provides that new businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible for federal relief funds.

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 relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

1 1 COVID-19 Federal Funds; Assistance for Newly Formed Businesses. To the extent permitted
2 by federal law, federal relief funds received by the state of New Hampshire to assist businesses
3 affected by the COVID-19 pandemic shall be made available to businesses that were not eligible for
4 grants from the Main Street Relief Fund because the businesses were established after May 26,
5 2019. Eligibility criteria for the financial assistance shall not include business filings from 2019 or
6 similar requirements that would disqualify businesses that began operation on or after May 26,
7 2019.

8 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.