

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Griffin Roberge 271-2878

SB 124, establishing a commission to study municipal regulation and incentives for solar energy.

Hearing Date: February 2, 2017.

Time Opened: 2:18 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:22 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Avard, Bradley, Innis, Fuller Clark and Feltes.

Members of the Committee Absent: None.

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes a commission to study municipal regulation and incentives for solar energy.

Sponsors:

Sen. Fuller Clark

Sen. Feltes

Rep. Backus

Rep. S. Harvey

Rep. Oxenham

Who supports the bill: Senator Martha Fuller Clark (District 21), Senator Dan Feltes (District 15).

Who opposes the bill: N/A.

Who is neutral on the bill: N/A.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Martha Fuller Clark

Senate District 21

- As prime sponsor, SB 124 would establish a commission to examine municipal regulations and incentives for solar energy.
- There is an ever increasing interest in expanding solar as a source of energy in New Hampshire.
- The study commission would examine what barriers exist at the municipal level, and also to see if there are incentives that have been put in place. Line 20 to 25 on SB 124 address the objectives of the committee.
- While solar is not as abundant in New Hampshire as it is in Florida, New Hampshire is a better producer of solar in regards to how much can be obtained in certain seasons.
- Based on certain reports, New Hampshire is only tapping 5% of its full

development of solar. New Hampshire can do more.

- Senator Innis asked if the state would step in to impose its will on municipalities if certain regulations were found to be more restrictive than others. Senator Fuller Clark said the study commission serves as a way to educate communities on where municipalities have been more successful, and where they have not in regard to solar regulations/incentives. Senator Fuller Clark does not view the study commission as a way to bring state power down on municipalities.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: N/A.

Neutral Information Presented: N/A.

Future Action: Ought to Pass

GJR

Date Hearing Report completed: February 2, 2017