

# Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

*Deb Chroniak 271-1403*

**SB 13**, relative to statutes governing the security force at the New Hampshire technical institute.

**Hearing Date:** January 11, 2017

**Time Opened:** 10:00 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:11 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Carson, Reagan, Gannon, Soucy and Woodburn

**Members of the Committee Absent:** No one

**Bill Analysis:** This bill repeals certain obsolete statutes relating to the New Hampshire Technical Institute's security force.

**Sponsors:**  
Sen. Bradley

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**Who supports the bill:** Senator Bradley, Jeanne Herrick, Legal Counsel, Community College System-NH

**Who opposes the bill:** No one

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

Senator Bradley was asked by the Community College System of New Hampshire to file this legislation on their behalf. He stated the legislation is to modernize the Community College system's security force and how the statute deals with their security force. This legislation potentially will create a cost savings to the Community College system.

- Language taken out of statute is obsolete language and no longer needed.
- Bill creates a comprehensive approach of the security needs of the Community College system.
- Retirement section in this legislation will assure that the security force members for the community college system, stay in GROUP I under the New Hampshire Retirement System, and are NOT TRANSFERRED out of the New Hampshire Retirement System or transferred into GROUP II.

**Senator Carson** asked about the information which Ms. Reid submitted to the ED & A Committee members, and which states that participants are required to

purchase or provide a firearm or ammunition. Will there be forthcoming language that they will need to have a legal permit, or be qualified. Senator Bradley said those who followed could answer that question.

**Jeanne Herrick, Legal Counsel, Community College System of New Hampshire (in favor)**

**Attorney Herrick** mentioned Mr. John Stevens was present from the Department of Safety, member of their Board of Trustees for the Community College system; and, Chair of the Community College Safety and Risk Management Committee. She pointed out that Mr. Stevens is a retired State Trooper with experience in law enforcement.

Sections that are proposed to be deleted are obsolete and should have been removed in 2007 with the transition to self-governance. The Board of Trustees has authority over operational issues, including assuring the Community College system has appropriate security on all college campuses.

Language in statute pertained specifically to NHTI and was included in statute because NHTI was utilizing part-time Concord police officers for part-time campus security officers. The system was part of a state department at that time and the system was not working as well as it could. At the time, specific statutory language providing authority to NHTI was required and still exists, but no longer makes sense for the way the Community College system operates today.

Specific language in statute for security officers to detain and specific language relating to the Police Academy, is causing unnecessary and additional expense, but was included because of the power to detain.

There is no special legislative authority to have a Community College security officer, if that officer has no police powers. This is where the Community College system would rather be. They have good relationships with local law enforcement. The NHTI campus is presently covered by State Police.

The Community College system is taking a comprehensive approach to campus security by looking at everything, including emergency response. They need to look at campus security in a more holistic way.

In answer to Senator Carson's questions regarding Group I retirement, when the statute was enacted, folks wanted to make clear that Community College employees who were campus security officers would not be considered as part of the New Hampshire Retirement System's Group II. Then language in this legislation makes it very clear they will remain in Group I. Eliminating language does not change anything in the system because presently employees who are campus security officers are in Group I under the NH Retirement System. This remains the same with this legislation.

Regarding the question on purchasing firearms and ammunition, this was included to point out the mismatch between requiring the NHTI attend the part-time academy you need to be equipped so you could be a police officer. The part-time academy requires instruction that does not match what the campus security officers do, but requires them to purchase equipment they will never use. The campus security officers are not police officers; they do not carry firearms. All of this would increase costs. This is what the import language is about within the legislation.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None

**Future Action:** Senator Reagan motioned “Ought to Pass”, seconded by Senator Gannon. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Motion was made by Senator Soucy for Consent Calendar, seconded by Senator Reagan. The vote was 5-0 in favor and Senator Gannon will move this bill out of Committee.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 13, 2017