

Senate Transportation Committee

Kat Bourque 271-3091

SB 203-FN, requiring the department of transportation to alleviate safety issues at an intersection in Ossipee.

Hearing Date: February 7, 2017

Time Opened: 1:02 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:21 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Birdsell, Gannon, Watters and Ward

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator McGilvray

Bill Analysis: This bill requires the department of transportation to address safety concerns at a certain intersection in Ossipee.

Sponsors :

Sen. Bradley

Rep. Avellani

Rep. McConkey

Rep. Nelson

Rep. W. Marsh

Rep. Knirk

Who supports the bill: Rep. McConkey

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: Kelley Achenbach (DOS), Bill Cass (DOT)

Summary of testimony presented in support :

Senator Bradley

Prime Sponsor

- This bill requires the Department of Transportation to address safety concerns at the certain intersection in Ossipee.
- There are individuals from the Department present who will speak to the fact that they are working with the Ossipee select board and police in the area to alleviate the problem.
- There is a difficult four-way intersection in Ossipee that is hard to navigate and drops suddenly. This legislation was filed to keep the pressure on the select board and police to solve this issue.
- Senator Bradley further suggested that signage instructing individuals to turn off their directional signal may be needed.
- Senator Bradley believes that interim signage, a traffic light, or a rotary may be adequate solutions depending on what stakeholders decide.
- Senator Bradley asked the committee to hear the testimony, send the bill to the floor, and hold the bill until later in the Session to potentially put it in the Capital Budget. He

believes that the Capital Budget is the proper avenue because this is a significant safety concern.

- It is Senator Bradley's understanding that the stakeholders are working towards an agreement.
- Senator Gannon asked why a bill is needed on this issue if stakeholders are currently working on the issue. Senator Bradley stated that this is a safety issue that has caused death and is not a simple traffic problem. The stakeholders are working on their own, but this legislation forces the issue to be dealt with.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition : N/A

Neutral Information Presented:

Kelly Achenbach

Department of Safety

- DOS is neutral on this legislation.
- On lines 4 and 5 of the bill, a fiscal note was prepared for this bill on the assumption that the state highway safety plan was referencing a department within DOS, the Department of Highway Safety.
- The Department would not be able to provide funding for this as they have deemed it is not proper use.

Commissioner Cass

Department of Transportation

- DOT stated that they have been working with the town for some time to come up with a solution.
- This has come to their attention as a safety concern.
- With regard to DOS's comments about the language in the bill regarding the highway safety program, DOT is working within its highway safety improvement program within a federal program to use funds that are available. The Department is looking to use these funds and they believe that this is the correct reference in the bill.
- The Department typically evaluates short, medium, and long-term solutions. They have currently taken part in short-term solutions like clearing brush from the area. They have not yet come to a consensus as to what an appropriate long-term solution would be.
- The DOT stated that this intersection does not meet signal requirements in order to install a light. A roundabout may be a good solution.
- A full roundabout is likely to cost \$800,000 to \$1 million dollars.
- As a result of the recent fatality, DOT has met with state police, town police and DOS to look at interim measures of advanced signing and beacons to help alleviate the issue.
- Senator Birdsell asked if the Department could give a timeframe on the work that

may be done to fix this issue. Commissioner Cass stated that they have looked at a smaller scale solution of widening the lane to include a right turn lane that would slow cars down and make clear at the intersection that individuals are making a right turn. This was proposed to the town, who thought it was fine but did not think the plan was enough. The Department was ready to begin the right turn lane this spring, but it has been put on hold to look for a more appropriate long-term solution.

- Senator Watters, in terms of the difficulty of language in lines 4-5, asked if the committee could strike those lines and still move forward. Commissioner Cass stated that this would be fine.

Future Action: Ought to Pass with Amendment

KAB
Date Hearing Report completed: February 8, 2017