

Senate Transportation Committee

Kat Bourque 271-3093

SB 31, authorizing decal plates for the University of New Hampshire.

Hearing Date: January 17, 2017

Time Opened: 2:48 p.m.

Time Closed: 3:00 p.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill authorizes the University of New Hampshire Foundation to issue decal plates.

Sponsors:

Sen. Watters

Sen. Fuller Clark

Sen. Innis

Sen. D'Allesandro

Rep. Burton

Rep. Horrigan

Rep. Wall

Rep. Spang

Rep. Horgan

Who supports the bill: Representative Horgan, Tom Cronin (UNH), Pat Closson (UNH), Senator Fuller Clark, Representative Spang, Representative Burton.

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Watters

Prime Sponsor

- A bill (HB 280-2016) was passed last session that provides solutions for creating a decal plate. A process and fee is clearly laid out under current law. It also authorizes the non-profit to charge those who may wish to have a decal plate.
- If someone wishes to use a decal plate, they may go to the Department of Motor Vehicles, pay a certain fee, obtain the decal plate from their organization and put it in use.
- The purpose of this bill is to authorize the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Foundation to issue decal plates.
- The UNH Foundation must be designated as such because this organization must be a non-profit and be clearly for charitable purposes.
- Senator Gannon asked if decals on plates provided any difficulties for law enforcement. Senator Watters explained that there will be 3 x 3 inches of blank space on the plate where a decal can be affixed. Senator Watters added that most

questions on this issue were resolved last session.

Representative Wayne Burton

- As a former college president, Rep. Burton is aware of the incredible power that a college foundation has in aiding a university.
- He believes that any advertising of UNH is helpful for the state.
- Rep. Burton believes that UNH is an incredible institution and shared his personal experience while there.

Tom Cronin & Pat Closson
University of New Hampshire

- Written testimony was submitted in support of the bill.
- Mr. Closson stated that the UNH Alumni Association is in support of this legislation.
- The Alumni Association keeps alumni connected and develops a spirit of loyalty and affinity for their school. License plates are frequently asked about and this legislation would help to address that interest.
- Like in other states, this program would serve two purposes. First, the money raised through the sale of decals will be directed to the Fund for New Hampshire Students. Second, in celebrating its 150th anniversary program, this decal program would help UNH further support their anniversary and provide awareness.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition : N/A

Neutral Information Presented: N/A

Future Action: Ought to Pass

KAB
Date Hearing Report completed: January 17, 2017