

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Deb Chroniak 271-1403

SB 210, relative to certain positions in the insurance department.

Hearing Date: February 15, 2017

Time Opened: 10:00 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:06 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill clarifies certain positions within the department of insurance. This bill also changes the title of the director of operations to assistant commissioner.

This bill is a request of the insurance department.

Sponsors:

Sen. Carson

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Reagan

Rep. Hunt

Who supports the bill: Senator Sharon Carson, District 14; Senator William Gannon, District 23; Alex Feldvebel, Deputy Commissioner, New Hampshire Insurance Department, Marty Mobley, Legal Coordinator, New Hampshire Insurance Department

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Carson stated this bill was a request of the Insurance Department.

- Legislation seeks clarification of positions and changes titles to more accurately reflect the scope of duties and the titles in general usage in insurance regulation.
- Consideration of amendment #0453s updates the bill.

Alex Feldvebel, Deputy Commissioner and Marty Mobley, Legal Coordinator, New Hampshire Insurance Department (in support):

- Deputy Commissioner Feldvebel, in speaking to the amendment, stated the legislation is an effort to reorganize statutes that provide for unclassified employees.

- The bill places all of the unclassified into a single paragraph with the exception of the top three positions.
- This change was recommended by the Attorney General's Office.
- One section provides for the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and their present Director of Operations be retitled to Assistant Commissioner, which is what its previous title was.
- Reorganization of their statutes that list, in a consistent way, all of their unclassified positions.
- Also clarifies the standard for termination of these positions, making clear these positions are at-will employees.
- Existing language states these positions serve at the pleasure of the commissioner during good behavior. At the request of the Attorney General's Office, the recommendation was to remove the words "during good behavior" and replace that with "at the pleasure of the commissioner".
- Asking to update the titles of a number of positions to better reflect their duties.
- Title changes do not involve a change in labor grade.

Senator Reagan said in looking at the bill, it looks as if they have established four new jobs. Deputy Commissioner Feldvebel stated it was just retitling of existing unclassified positions.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: No one

Future Action: Ought to Pass with Amendment

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 17, 2017

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