

# Senate Ways and Means Committee

*Sonja Caldwell 271-2117*

**HB 134**, repealing certain inactive dedicated funds.

**Hearing Date:** March 15, 2021

**Time Opened:** 9:00 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:13 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Giuda, D'Allesandro, Daniels, Hennessey and Rosenwald

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill deletes certain inactive dedicated funds and adds others to the list of dedicated funds in RSA 6:12. The bill also changes the reporting year for the office of professional licensure and certification.

The bill is a request of the joint committee on dedicated funds established pursuant to RSA 6:12-i.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Major

Rep. Almy

Rep. Weber

Sen. Giuda

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**Who supports the bill:** Rep. Almy, Rep. Major

**Who opposes the bill:** No one

**Who is neutral on the bill:** No one

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Rep. Almy**

- This bill was brought forward last year but did not make it through the legislative process due to the pandemic.
- It is the result of both the 2019 and 2020 meetings of the Joint Committee on Dedicated Funds.
- In 2020 they found very little that needed to be added to change the law because agencies weren't able to answer questions the committee had until things returned to normal.
- Section one repeals four funds whose usefulness has passed, or which never got off the ground.
- Section two adds two forestry funds that needed to have their own separate identities.
- Section 3 corrects language of the alcohol abuse and prevention treatment fund so it won't be orphaned when the current direction of Medicaid money through it is reversed.

- Sections 4-6 repeal a program that resulted in small funds being sent by telephone companies to a fund with no purpose and it lapses the \$11,600 to the PUC, which oversaw the program.
- Section 7-8 repeal an attempt to create more meat inspectors. The Dept. of Agriculture never had the money for this.
- Section 9 repeals fund set up to create the statue of Governor John Winant. It does leave language in the statute to allow for the raising of money for any future repairs that may be needed.
- Sections 10-11 moves the OPLC from year 4 of the committee's rotating calendar to year 5 to give them time to have performance audits done.
- This was done together with the agencies in question and with their approval.

**Sen. Rosenwald** said the two public payphones were getting subsidies through the budget and were considered important for public safety because of a lack of cell service, the police depended on them. She asked if they have been made obsolete.

**Rep. Almy** said she did not know. They were only told of one phone. The fund never paid for that phone.

**Sen. D'Allesandro** asked if the Winant fund will continue to accept donations for care of the statue.

**Rep. Almy** said that Rep. Shurtleff said the best thing to do was to remove the fund. They are not seeking donations. They used all of the money. With the statutory language that is left in the legislation, they would be able to reconstruct the commission and find small amounts of money to do the repairs without a dedicated fund process.