

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Sonja Caldwell 271-2117

SB 103-FN, relative to nexus provisions for certain disaster-related or emergency-related work performed in the state.

Hearing Date: February 8, 2021

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill waives certain business registration, licensing, and taxation requirements for out-of-state businesses temporarily performing work in New Hampshire during a declared state of emergency.

Sponsors:
Sen. Bradley

Who supports the bill: Sen. Bradley, Owen Smith (AT&T), Maura Weston (The New England Cable and Telecommunications Assoc.), Stacey Briggs (T-Mobile), Bruce Berke (Verizon)

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented:

Sen. Bradley

- This bill pertains to disaster or emergency related work done by utilities or telecommunications companies that help each other out in emergencies to restore service.
- They have to bring in resources into NH, which have previously not had any connection to NH, to try to get power back on or restore communication services. This happens countless times during storms.
- There are issues that come up with licensing and unemployment provisions and tax provisions and that slowdown can undermine the ability to restore services quickly.
- This bill would waive certain business registration licensing and tax requirements to expedite that recovery.
- Gas taxes and rooms and meals tax would not be exempt under SB103. It would apply to things not related to NH like BPT or BET.

Sen. D'Allesandro stated that we have had many emergencies in the past where we brought in utility contractors. He asked if we have never dealt with this problem in the past, or what brought this up now.

Sen. Bradley said that would be better answered by others who testify after him. When you have an emergency, people just make it happen, but then after the fact there are consequences. This seeks to streamline processes and procedures.

Owen Smith

- He is the AT&T State President for NH and they support the bill.
- AT&T has been providing communication services in all 50 states for over 100 years.
- This bill would be effective in their planning and response. It requires coordination between the public and private sector of government.
- The 911 Commission created the FirstNet Authority and AT&T was awarded that contract. They are building a public safety network across the country and in NH that brings public safety into the 21st century. First responders rely on the FirstNet network.
- What brought this to the surface is the costly and active hurricane season that just occurred. The ability to bring resources into the state quickly to restore services is vital.
- They focus more on pre-deployment in anticipation of a storm. Their network employees came to them and said there were roadblocks and legal requirements that were really in place for normal business operations that slow down their ability to bring employees or assets into NH.
- There is a lot of prep work and back end work as a result of what is required in NH. This will get rid of roadblocks and streamline the process.
- This legislation has passed in 32 other states.

Sen. Giuda said the fiscal note states it will be an indeterminable decrease in revenue to the state. He asked Mr. Smith if he could quantify what the amount of such revenues might be.

Mr. Smith said he did not have those figures. In states that have an income tax, it is more of an impact. This is more about them being able to get a streamlined process. This would only be during a declared state of emergency.

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 9, 2021