

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Kirsten Koch 271-3266

HB 157, relative to the state health improvement plan and the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council.

Hearing Date: April 21, 2021

Time Opened: 9:33 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:49 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Bradley, Gray, Avard, Sherman and Whitley

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill revises components of the state health improvement plan and revises the membership and duties of the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council.

Sponsors:

Rep. Edwards

Rep. M. Pearson

Who supports the bill: There are 46 names signed in support of this bill. To view the sign in sheet please contact Kirsten Koch at kirsten.koch@leg.state.nh.us

Who opposes the bill: Robin Vogt

Who is neutral on the bill: Tyler Brannen, NH Department of Insurance; Edward Shanshala, Ammonoosuc Community Health Services.

Summary of Testimony Presented:

Note: The speakers referred to two phrases in their testimony by using acronyms. The acronyms used in the testimony are defined here:

- *State Health Assessment (SHA)*
- *State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)*

Representative Jess Edwards, Rockingham 4

- Rep. Edwards said, the original bill intended to terminate SHA SHIP efforts. The chair and vice chair amended the bill. A small task force made up of Rep. Marsh, Rep. Pearson, Sen. Sherman, Patricia Tilley, John Williams, and I worked on this. When we ended task force everybody was aligned.
- Sen. Bradley said, this bill was on your consent calendar.

- Sen. Sherman offered to speak on the bill. He said, this was a great task force that also rounded up the Josiah Bartlett Center to create a balancing prospective.

Representative William Marsh, Carroll 8

- Rep. Marsh said, HB157 began as a repeal bill. It became clear that important stakeholders felt disenfranchised by the process developing the state health assessment and state health improvement plan.
- Rep. Marsh said, the HHS&EA committee thanks Sen. Tom Sherman who orchestrated a meeting between stakeholders and DHHS, resulting in amendment 2021-0270h.
- Rep. Marsh said, the amendment instead revises the charge to council and adds members to the council such that the previously disenfranchised stakeholders feel their concerns have been addressed. Highlights include an increased scrutiny on access to critical services including maternity cost of health care and health insurance fiscal stability and sustainability sufficient and equitable access and an emphasis on public health.
- Rep. Marsh said, a new goal is to plan on ways to reduce the cost of health care both to individuals and the system overall.
- Rep. Marsh said, the work product is to be a resource for centralized and decentralized decision making, recognizing that many key decisions get made not by government, but by the various hospitals and service providers across NH.
- Rep. Marsh said, the council's recommendations are to include both costs and benefits. This bill passed HHS&EA 20-0 and passed the House on consent.

Representative Jerry Knirk, Carroll 3

- Rep. Knirk said he is the vice chair of SHA SHIP.
- Rep. Knirk, said this bill expands membership and will bring a diversity of opinions to develop a better program.

Patricia Tilley, Deputy Director of the Division of Health, DHHS

- Ms. Tilley testified in support of the bill.
- Ms. Tilley said this bill establishes new membership and addresses gaps.

Edward Shanshala, Ammonoosuc Community Health Services

- Mr. Shanshala said he is on the commission for SHA SHIP.
- Mr. Shanshala said, to have the Business Industry Association engaged in the health and wellness would be an interesting construct to be involved with. Some businesses are provided for by tourism. New colleagues will provide perspectives from areas where we have struggled to get access to their voices.

Joan Ascheim, NH Public Health Association

- Ms. Ascheim testified in support of the bill.
- Ms. Ascheim said the NH Public Health Association helped developed two SHA SHIPs before.
- Ms. Ascheim said, these are used and helped to focus resources on important needs. The amendment made in the House is important. Having a plan is a national standard.

KNK

Date Hearing Report completed: April 23, 2021