



NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

June 11, 2020

Contact Name: Sara Persechino

Phone: (603) 271-3479

Email: Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us

Senator Cavanaugh Shepherds Protections for New Hampshire Workers Through Commerce Committee

CONCORD - Today, the Senate Commerce Committee passed Amendment #1346s to HB 1494, a workers' omnibus bill, sponsored by Senator Kevin Cavanaugh (D-Manchester).

After the committee vote, Senate Commerce Chair Kevin Cavanaugh (D-Manchester) issued the following statement:

"Our state employees have been on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic and have risen to the occasion. They have taken our emergency calls, prepared the state for the possibility of a surge, and put themselves at risk for the protection of New Hampshire citizens. That work has been lauded and steps have been taken to support our public employees but these measures are temporary. It is time that we put long term benefits in place including health and safety standards, a state death benefit, clarified workers' compensation, and support for our unions, to show our public employees that their work is crucial and valued by the state."

###

On Background:

- Amendment #1346s to HB 1494 includes text from the following bills:
 - HB 1113 *relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters*
 - HB 1171 *relative to the application of federal Occupational Safety and Health Act standards to public employees*
 - HB 1494 *relative to death benefits for public works employees killed in the line of duty, and relative to workers' compensation offsets for certain retirement system benefits*
 - SB 448 *relative to certification of employee bargaining units*
 - SB 417 *relative to negotiations by individual public employee bargaining units*