



NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Passes Omnibus Health Care Legislation

CONCORD - Today, the Senate passed HB 1639, a bipartisan omnibus health care bill.

After the vote, Senator Tom Sherman (D-Rye) issued the following statement:

“As we continue to take steps to address the long term impacts of COVID-19, we must also look to our health care system as a whole. The public health crisis brought on by COVID-19 may very well act as a catalyst for increased reporting of additional crises we continue to face as a state -- such as our opioid epidemic. Careful study must be done so we as a state are able to gain a clearer picture of what works, and how we can expand treatment and recovery options. We need to keep in mind the impacts of tick-related illnesses as we continue to socially distance and spend more time outside. From our dental services to our “in and out” medical assistance policy, I am grateful to my Senate colleagues for their continued advocacy for New Hampshire’s health and safety, especially as we continue to navigate COVID-19.”

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On Background:

- HB 1639 includes text from the following bills:
 - SB 507 *relative to prescription medication for treatment or prevention of communicable disease*
 - SB 531 *relative to prior authorizations under group health insurance policies and managed care*
 - SB 619 *repealing the sunset provision for insurance coverage for oral anti-cancer therapies*
 - SB 447 *relative to pharmacy audit provisions*
 - SB 693 *allowing health maintenance organizations to write preferred provider organization products for Medicare Advantage*
 - SB 749 *relative to non-covered services under dental insurance plans*
 - HB 1639 *relative to “In and Out Medical Assistance”*
 - SB 718 *relative to the New Hampshire state health improvement plan and making an appropriation therefor*

- SB 546 *relative to management of chronic pain*
- HB 1287 *relative to the duration of antibiotic therapy for tick-borne illness.*
- SB 598 *adding physician assistants to the law governing advance directives*
- SB 597 *relative to licensure of physician assistants*
- SB 620 *relative to coverage for certain biologically-based mental illnesses*
- SB 744 *establishing a commission to review drug overdose fatality information and data*
- SB 762 *establishing an opioid abatement trust fund.*
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- SB 645 *relative to the New Hampshire granite advantage health care trust fund*
- SB 519 *relative to special health care services licenses*
- SB 476 *relative to certain procedures conducted in teaching hospitals*
- Language to ensure pharmacists can administer a COVID vaccine if it's developed.