



NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

June 30, 2020

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House Concurs with Senate Omnibus Bill to Protect Granite State Workers, Sends Package to Sununu for his Action

CONCORD - Today, the House concurred with the Senate's recommendation of Ought to Pass as Amended on HB 1494 in a vote of 202-127. As amended, HB 1494 covers a variety of workers' protections including health and safety standards and a state death benefit. HB 1494 will next be enrolled with the Secretary of State's office and then go to the governor's desk for his action at which time he will have five days to act.

After the vote, Senator Kevin Cavanaugh (D-Manchester) issued the following statement:

"Throughout the coronavirus crisis, Granite State workers and state employees have been on the front lines. They have risked their own personal safety in order to keep New Hampshire running, despite the governor's rejection of the contracts approved by the various state employee bargaining units. As amended, HB 1494 goes beyond words of thanks for these essential workers. It codifies long-term benefits including health and safety standards, a state death benefit, clarified workers' compensation, and support for our unions. New Hampshire workers have helped guide us through this crisis and their work will continue long after the state of emergency has been lifted. I thank my House colleagues for their vote today to protect our workers' health, families, and right to collective bargaining."

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On Background:

- HB 1494 as amended 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*