

**Senate Executive Departments and Administration
Committee**
Cameron Lapine 271-2104

HB 301, relative to the compensation appeals board.

Hearing Date: March 17, 2021

Time Opened: 9:45 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:49 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Reagan, Ricciardi, Cavanaugh and Prentiss

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires that the per diems paid to compensation appeals board members shall be prorated to an hourly rate for other board-related work not involving a hearing.

Sponsors:
Rep. Seaworth

Who supports the bill: Representative Brian Seaworth (Merrimack – District 20) and Rudolph Ogden (New Hampshire Department of Labor)

Who opposes the bill: Robin Vogt.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Brian Seaworth

Merrimack – District 20

- Representative Seaworth said HB 301 passed House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services unanimously. He said HB 301 was a Department of Labor request.
- Rep. Seaworth said it was revealed in an audit by the Legislative Budget Assistant that a change was needed. He said the statute indicates that the pay should be per diem, but in practice pay is per diem for most things.
- Rep. Seaworth said that there is no change in policy or practice in HB 301 but simply bringing what is written in statute in line with what is actually paid out.

Rudolph Ogden

Deputy Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Labor

- Mr. Ogden said he was available to answer questions.
- Mr. Ogden said that the intent of HB 301 was not to change practice but to have the statute better reflect reality. He said that for the 30 years the Compensation Appeals Board has been in place, this is how pay has been handled.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 18, 2021