Bill as Introduced

SB 342- AS INTRODUCED

2000 SESSION

00-2739
05/09

SENATE BILL ***342***

AN ACT extending the reporting date of the committee studying the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20

COMMITTEE: Public Institutions, Health and Human Services

ANALYSIS

This bill extends the reporting date of the committee studying the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire, to January 31, 2000.

This bill was requested by the committee established in 1999, 94.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

SB 342- AS INTRODUCED

00-2739
05/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand

AN ACT extending the reporting date of the committee studying the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Committee to Study the Impact of Federal Welfare Reform on the Cities and Towns of New Hampshire; Reporting Date Extended. Amend 1999, 94:6 to read as follows:

94:6 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before [~~November 1, 1999~~] ***January 31, 2000***.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Speakers

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # SB342 Date 3-8-00

Committee HHS

**** Please Print All Information ****

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one) Pro	Con

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 342

BILL TITLE: extending the reporting date of the committee studying the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire.

DATE: March 8, 2000

LOB ROOM: 205 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:20 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 10:35 a.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Emerton, Batula, Chabot, Manning, Case, Berkins, Dawe, P. Katsakiores, Feuerstein, Pilliod, Dalrymple, Wendelboe, Martel, Ruffner, Copenhaver, Kane, Haettenschwiller, Burnham, French, Donovan, Seldin and Potter.

Bill Sponsors: Sen. D'Allesandro

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

SEN. LOU D'ALLESANDRO (Sponsor): was not at this hearing.

REP. JOSEPH MANNING: Rep. Ruffner and I were a part of the subcommittee and we feel this bill is unnecessary. He then made a motion to table the bill. Rep. Peter Batula seconded this and the vote of the committee was in affirmative.

There were questions and comments made in regard to the tabling motion. The meeting was adjourned to March 15 at 10:00 a.m.

CHAIRMAN LARRY EMERTON: I suggest that a "thumbnail sketch" be given of the subcommittee report.

The committee gave their recommendation and stressed affordable housing and childcare are important. It included available funding for rental deposits and for post-secondary education funding.

REP. FRANCINE WENDELBOE: She made the motion to remove the bill from the table. This was seconded by Rep. Manning.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Case

Rep. Margaret Case, Clerk

Testimony

DRAFT 1

THE GENERAL COURT
OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONCORD 03301

BEVERLY A. HOLLINGWORTH
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

DONNA SYTEK
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Governor of New Hampshire
State House, Room 208
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Beverly A. Hollingworth
President of the Senate
State House, Room 302
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Donna Sytek
Speaker of the House
State House, Room 308
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Shaheen, Senate President Hollingworth, and Speaker Sytek:

Re: **The Committee to Study the Impact of Federal Welfare Reform on the Cities and Towns of New Hampshire, SB 14, Chapter Law 94, Laws of 1999**

Pursuant to SB 14, Chapter Law 94, Laws of 1999, enclosed please find the final report of the study committee.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, Chair
The Committee to Study the Impact of
Federal Welfare Reform on the Cities and
Towns of New Hampshire

mmk

cc: Comm. Donald Shumway, Dept. of Health & Human Services
Gloria M. Randlett, Senate Clerk
Karen O. Wadsworth, House Clerk
Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian
Members of the Committee

Final Report of the Chaptered Study Committee on the

Impact of Federal Welfare Reform on the Cities and Towns of New Hampshire
SB 14, Chapter Law 94, Laws of 1999

January 31, 2000

Members of the Committee
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro
Sen. Rick A. Trombly
Sen. Burton J. Cohen
Sen. James W. Squires
Rep. Christine M. Konys
Rep. Joseph P. Manning
Rep. Marilyn A. Fraser
Rep. Walter D. Ruffner
Rep. O. Alan Thulander

Committee Staff
Laurel Gallant-Hanlon, Senate Secretary
Megan Konys, Senate Legislative Aide

The Committee to Study the Impact of Federal Welfare Reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire (SB 14, Chapter 94, Laws of 1999) met seven times, August through December of 1999. In accordance with the charge of Chapter 94, the committee has studied the impact of federal welfare reform including, but not limited to, RSA 165, relative to aid to assisted persons; RSA 167, relative to public assistance to blind, aged, or disabled persons and to dependent children; and any other relevant issues that arose in the course of the committee's deliberations. Specifically, the committee;

I. Projected the future financial and other impacts of welfare reform on the 234 towns and cities in the state
II. Analyzed the anticipated financial impact on communities of the policy of terminating state welfare benefits after 60 months of state support, and the impact of the relocation of clients from neighboring states to New Hampshire due to its longer benefits period
III. Identified the federal welfare reform options available to New Hampshire, and to our state department of health and human services, that would minimize the financial impact of welfare reform on New Hampshire municipalities
IV. Suggested policy alternatives to deal with identified unfavorable or undesirable impacts upon communities

The committee members sought input from the department of health and human services. The department made available staff and information that was requested by the committee. The committee also sought input from other knowledgeable sources including

I. The New Hampshire Local Welfare Administrators Association
II. The Department of Employment Security
III. New Hampshire Legal Assistance, and
IV. The New Hampshire Municipal Association

Committee Discussions

In their discussions, the committee has reviewed many issues including:

- TANF Program
- TANF Time limits, hardship & exemptions
- The NH Employment Program
- The NH Welfare to Work Program
- TANF surplus
- Economic Impact
- Affordable Housing
- Transportation
- Education
- Childcare
- Legislative Initiatives for the 2000 Session

Committee Findings

TANF Program

Through Block Grant legislation from the federal government, the AFDC was replaced with the new TANF program. The TANF program includes both incentives and penalties, and establishes new measures for success. With a high performance rating, the state may receive a TANF bonus, however, if the work participation rate is not met, the state may be penalized by a reduction of 5%-21% of the block grant. Through the Block Grant Program, NH requested and was granted a waiver for longer job searches and job readiness, secondary education, training programs, barrier resolution, assistance for high school students through age 19, and cosmetic dental care.

TANF Time limits, hardship & exemptions

TANF does, have a 5-year time limit, beginning from October 1, 1996. It is a lifetime-limit, per individual adult for the 60 months that federal TANF funding may be provided. After the 60 months (5 years), federal TANF funds are no longer available to

that individual. The primary goal of the TANF program is to help individuals obtain a high school diploma, GED or enter a school to work program. If needed, DHHS is able to screen recipients for learning disabilities and can therefore provide more effective assistance according to an individual's needs.

Under the provisions of RSA 165, absent other assistance, individuals are the responsibility of the cities and towns of NH. This locally based "safety net" provides the ability for municipalities to create innovative solutions to broader client issues through community partnerships and collaborations, and to address individual client problems and needs through personalized attention and a level of case management which is rarely possible beyond the local level. Few other relief agencies or programs can operated with the discretion granted to local welfare officials.

Currently, there are 234 families classified as being at risk, as the first TANF recipients to meet their 5-year limit for assistance. Agencies are tracking and focusing on these families, trying to give them whatever assistance they can to improve their situation before their time limit is reached. Provisions for TANF extensions are possible. TANF provides hardship exemptions for approximately 20% of recipients, who are able to receive assistance beyond the five-year limit.

In addition, states that have stricter and shorter time limits than NH also have exemptions. Therefore, NH is not receiving an influx of out-of-state welfare recipients looking for additional coverage. Also, immigration has not been a problem in NH as it relates to public assistance. Instead, immigrants have been receiving help through the Refugee Resettlement Office.

NH Employment Program

In NH, TANF is distributed through the NH Employment Program and the Family Assistance Program. The NH Employment Program has a work requirement, however it does allow exemptions for pregnant women, disabled family members, and for a parent with a child under the age of 2 years. The Family Assistance Program has no work requirements. Local employment teams provide assistance by conducting assessments and orientations, supplying support services and monitoring, and holding monthly meetings with advisors for individuals receiving TANF. It is important to note that as working individuals begin receiving wage increases, less money is available to them in the way of assistance and fewer services may be provided.

The NH Employment Program has contracts with the NH Department of Education to help individuals receive a basic education, either a high school diploma or a GED. The Employment Program also helps individuals gain work experience through training. The program has several support services available to those in need, including a childcare program, and mileage for traveling to and from work or school, assistance for public transport, books, and training courses.

NH Welfare-to-Work Program

The Welfare to Work Program also provides funds from the U.S. Department of Labor. There are strict criteria used to determine those individuals who may be served through this program. Funding is provided by both the state and federal government. For every $1 put forth by the state, the federal government contributes $2. The Welfare to Work Program focuses on job retention, enhancement, and barrier resolution.

The primary program goal is to enable and assist hard-to-employ low-income individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency, through the provision of a comprehensive and integrated array of services, focusing primarily on job retention supports and other post-employment services, stabilization, barrier resolution, and other support services. The initial focus of the program has been on TANF recipients identified as needing assistance with 'barrier resolution.' Most are 'hardest-to-employ', with multiple and difficult obstacles to employment that need to be addressed. Over time, the emphasis will shift to job retention and post-employment services for participants who are employed.

TANF Surplus

Currently, NH has a $9 million TANF surplus. The surplus is being held by the federal government until the state submits a request and statement of purpose for use of the funds. There are many proposals for the allocation of these surplus funds. One suggestion posed was to use part of the surplus to expand the Emergency Assistance Fund and to provide funds for cities and towns to reduce the impact of their responsibility to provide for individuals once they have reached the maximum 5-year time limit for assistance. Other ideas for use of the $ 9 million surplus include a rainy day fund, providing more affordable childcare, and providing more affordable housing.

Economic Impact

The last time the state's economy faced a downturn, local municipalities had to pick up a significant percentage of the funding for assistance pursuant to RSA 165. Currently, NH is experiencing a strong economy, with about 18.2% of TANF recipients approaching their 5-year limit for assistance. As the hardship exemption covers only 20% of recipients, municipalities could be adversely effected if the NH was to suffer another economic downturn. The hardship exemption would cover most recipients immediately, however, as the number of individuals reaching their 5-year limit increases, the cities and town of NH will have to assume those additional financial burdens. As the municipalities are effected, there will be an increasing need for affordable housing, which is already a major issue in the state.

Affordable Housing

NH has a serious lack of affordable housing. This issue was raised numerous times by a variety of state and local agencies, and was determined to be one of the most crucial issues facing welfare recipients. It was also noted that many of the 30-year Section 8 housing subsidies will soon run out, and the federal government has not yet determined whether it will renew its contracts for subsidies. If the federal government does not continue to provide Section 8 housing subsidies, many NH residents could face

significant rent increases. Some, especially the elderly living on fixed incomes, may not be able to afford these rent increases, may be forced to find another place to live, and could possibly end up homeless.

Transportation

Many TANF recipients are in need of reliable transportation. The NH Department of Transportation sponsors a ride-share program. Currently, most rides are needed to areas such as Manchester or Boston. The service is underutilized and there are areas for improvement within the ride-sharing program that could be addressed through the nine regional planning commissions within the state.

Since the transportation challenges of every community are different, transportation programs need to be flexible. With the growth of industry and housing in NH over the past ten years, the transportation needs have changed as well. It is important to coordinate the locations of available jobs with the location of the people who are employed there. By sharing information and coordinating this data, ride-sharing schedules can be redesigned to accommodate the need and demand for transportation. NH can vastly improve its available transportation if additional resources were available. NH is one of only seven states that does not provide local matching funds for transportation.

Childcare

NH has approximately 1,200 licensed childcare facilities, providing slightly more than 39,000 slots for children. The estimated need for childcare slots is unknown. The bulk of childcare facilities are located in highly populated areas, with fewer facilities in the north country The role of licensing in maintaining quality levels is essential to the quality of childcare. There are a significant number of children in license-exempt programs, and licensed childcare is more expensive than unlicensed. There is not enough childcare in NH for school age children, or enough care for mildly sick children. Second and third shift childcare is also especially difficult to find. There is an Infant and Toddler Task Force in place working to improve the quality and quantity of infant, toddler, and school age childcare. Presently, DHHS is looking into changing the current steps for income eligibility and the amount of payment that must be provided by the family to a sliding scale, so as to reduce the effects of a drastic change in the amount parents must pay for childcare as their income increases.

Committee Recommendations

In addressing the problems of those in NH who are in need of assistance, the most effective approach is one that involves a combination of programs such as TANF, Welfare to Work, and Family Assistance. TANF does not cover everyone, so other services such as soup kitchens and shelters are an important part of the state's effort to address this segment of the population. It was stressed that affordable housing is one of the single most crucial issues facing the people of NH, as is the availability and affordability of quality childcare.

The committees suggested recommendations focus on the obstacles faced by those on welfare and include the following:

- increase available funding for security deposits for rental units
- increase availability of assistance in obtaining affordable housing
- increase accessibility to postsecondary educational opportunities
- focus on adult literacy
- provide additional funding or options for childcare
- provide additional funding or options for transportation

Legislative Initiatives for the 2000 Session

In addition to the recommendations, the committee would like to recognize several important welfare-related bills that have been introduced for the 2000 legislative session, including:

HB 1199 – establishing a study committee on funding for affordable housing

HB 1441 – relative to establishing a pilot welfare-to-work program in rural communities and making and appropriation therefor

SB 313 – establishing a commission to study the relationship between postsecondary education and recipients of TANF

SB 422 – relative to the housing security guarantee loan program

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,

Senator Lou D'Allesandro
Senate District 20

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 342

BILL TITLE: **extending the reporting date of the committee studying the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire.**

DATE: March 8, 2000

LOB ROOM: 205

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Re-Refer, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Joseph Manning

Seconded by Rep. Walter Ruffner

Vote: 16-0 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Re-Refer, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: Yes

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Case

Rep. Margaret A. Case, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 342

BILL TITLE: **extending the reporting date of the committee studying the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire.**

DATE: 3-8-00

LOB ROOM: 205

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Re-Refer, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Manning

Seconded by Rep. Ruffner

Vote: 16-0 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Re-Refer, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: Y

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Margaret A. Case, Clerk

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2000 SESSION

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & ELDERLY AFFAIRS

Bill #: 342 **Title:** _____

PH Date: ___/___/___ **Exec Session Date:** 3/8/00

Motion: ITL **Amendment #:** _____

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Emerton, Lawrence A, Chairman		
Batula, Peter L, V Chairman	✓	
Chabot, Robert F	✓	
Manning, Joseph P	✓	
Case, Margaret A, Clerk	✓	
Perkins, Paul R		
Dawe, Eileen P		
Katsakiores, Phyllis M	✓	
Feuerstein, Martin	✓	
Pilliod, James P	✓	
Dalrymple, Janeen A		
Wendelboe, Francine	✓	
Martel, Andre A		
Ruffner, Walter D	✓	
Copenhaver, Marion L		
Kane, Cecelia D	✓	
Haettenschwiller, Alphonse A	✓	
Burnham, Daniel M	✓	
French, Barbara C	✓	
Donovan, Thomas E	✓	
Seldin, Gloria	✓	
Potter, Frances D	✓	
TOTAL VOTE:	16	0

Printed: 12/30/1999

Committee Report

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 342**

TITLE: extending the reporting date of the committee studying the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire.

DATE: March 8, 2000 CONSENT CALENDAR YES ☒ NO ☐

☐ OUGHT TO PASS

☐ OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

☒ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

☐ RE-REFER

☐ REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

STATEMENT OF INTENT
(Include Committee Vote)

At the time the bill was filed, the study committee needed more time to finish its report. However, the report was finished before this bill was heard in the house committee. Therefore, the sponsor withdrew the bill.

Vote 16-0.

Rep. Joseph P. Manning
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

CONSENT CALENDAR

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

SB 342, extending the reporting date of the committee studying the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Rep. Joseph P. Manning for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: At the time the bill was filed, the study committee needed more time to finish its report. However, the report was finished before this bill was heard in the house committee. Therefore, the sponsor withdrew the bill. Vote 16-0.

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 342**

TITLE: extending the reporting date of the committee studying the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire.

DATE: 3-8-00 CONSENT CALENDAR YES ☒ NO ☐

☐ OUGHT TO PASS

☐ OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

☒ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

☐ RE-REFER

☐ REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

STATEMENT OF INTENT
(Include Committee Vote)

over.

Vote 16-0

Rep.
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

The study committee needed more time to finish its report. At the time the bill was heard the report was not finished. However the sponsor withdrew the bill, therefore it was finished before this bill came out of committee.

In the house committee.

Manning