Committee Minutes

Date: **February 9, 2000**
Time: **9:50 a.m.**
Room: **105-A SH**

The Senate Committee on **Education** held a hearing on the following:

SB 321 **relative to a pupil's right to learn.**

Members of Committee present:

Senator McCarley
Senator J. King
Senator Eaton
Senator D'Allesandro
Senator Disnard
Senator Gordon
Senator Johnson
Senator Larsen
Senator Squires

The Chair, **Senator Caroline McCarley,** opened the hearing by calling on the prime sponsor of the bill, Senator Krueger, as the first speaker.

Senator Patricia Krueger, D. 16: This particular bill, as you can see from its language, doesn't interfere with what's already been determined as adequate publication so far in current RSA's.

But, what it does do is add three more sections to what's already in statute.

What it adds, I believe, is it sort of expands what is already there and looks at a different type of student. It sets up teacher mentoring and it sets criteria and bars so that students will excel.

I remember quite a while ago when one of my children was in school in a junior high and there was the initial parent conference. As we went in there,

the teacher in question stood there with a totally straight face and said, "well, all the parents in this room need to know that I will be teaching to the bottom of the class." Well, for those parents in the room – whether they had students that had trouble learning, or students who were in the middle or students who excelled, they were quite upset with that statement.

This legislation, I would hope, would encourage teachers to do the very opposite.

If you go through **section 2** – and, I hope that you will, you will see that all it asks is that an appropriate, intellectual challenge will.....that students will be *"educated in a curriculum consisting of essential academic knowledge in order to provide each pupil with a fundamental preparedness to reach each student's individual potential."*

I remember a study one time where students were divided into sections and in the old days, there was the (A), (B) and (C) section. And, your child knew if they were smart, medium or dumb. And, what this study did was move the students around. Move students into another school that had been in a lower section into the middle and the high section and vice versa.

As you can imagine, the results of this were that the students who had not done very well who were in the bottom section – when moved to a higher section, did exceedingly well.

Sometimes teachers have a tendency – even through the unspoken word, to encourage mediocrity. Sometimes, everyone encourages that because it puts sometimes the least stress on the student. This one would actually affect the opposite.

The next part would put back in the **State Board of Education's** hands, the ability to identify the components an academic curriculum that would encourage this.

And, lastly, almost the obvious – but, nonetheless, I felt it important to be included in the statute, *"higher academic standards of learning assessment should be constructed upon a foundation of academic competencies. Pupils shall be given progressively challenging tests....."* Again, coming from the philosophy of encouraging students to their highest level of performance as opposed to us in our hope to solve the Claremont decision, I would like to

move us even further the other way. And, that pupils will.....that we will be able to establish a base line and then, in fact, we will be able to track students and we will be able to see how they have moved.

The onus in this piece of legislation is on the teacher. And, the teacher, in fact, can be encouraged to encourage their own students along these lines and to mentor other teachers when you find that these teachers that have had student improvement.....Boy, you can tell that I'm sick! I have had so much *Sudafed* I think I don't know what I'm talking about.

But, if you get what I'm trying to say.....all I'm trying to do with this piece of legislation is encourage improved learning and encourage improved teaching.

I did meet for a minute with **Dennis Murphy** and he was in support of this legislation.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: I congratulate you on wanting to improve a teacher's performance. I didn't notice any fiscal note, but I noticed, "a pupil shall be given in service training and other educational improvement settings." What will be the cost of this?

Senator Patricia Krueger, D. 16: Remembering my days in academe, many schools already have tests. This would encourage them to have tests where a baseline is created. This would encourage schools to use the data in a little bit different way – as opposed to matching out with state standards. This would, in fact, demand that the tests were individualized. That you were actually tracking students. It's a little bit different than what is going on right now.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: I'm happy to see you now endorsing accountability.

Senator Patricia Krueger, D. 16: Oh, I encourage accountability – from the local level.

Senator Caroline McCarley, D. 6: I have to ask, **Senator Krueger**, have you had a chance.....and, I don't mean to sound flip, to read **Senate Bill 219**?

Senator Patricia Krueger, D. 16: Yes.

Senator Caroline McCarley, D. 6: Well, perhaps you should track your last 3 points with **Senate Bill 219.**

Further questions or discussion? (No response). Thank you, **Senator Krueger.**

We will now close the hearing on **Senate Bill 321.**

Hearing adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosalie Brooks Patch, secretary

Speakers

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Date 2/9/00 Time 9:30 A.M. Public Hearing on SB 321-FN

Appearing in FAVOR: (Please print) Please check box at left to speak.

Speaking?	Name	Address	Representing
☐	Sen Kruger		
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Appearing in OPPOSITION: (Please Print) Please check box at left to speak.

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Committee Report

Date: February 9, 2000 Time: 9:50 a.m.

The Senate Committee on Education held its hearing in Room 105-A - SH, Concord, New Hampshire.

BILL NO.: SB 321 TITLE: relative to a pupil's right to learn.

Members of the Committee present:

Senator McCarley
Senator J. King
Senator Cohen
Senator D'Allesandro
Senator Disnard
Senator Gordon
Senator Johnson
Senator Larsen
Senator Squires

Those appearing in favor:

Name and Address	Representing
See Attached.	

Those appearing in opposition:

Name and Address	Representing
See Attached.	

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE:

- ☐ Ought to Pass
- ☐ Ought to Pass w/ Amendment
- ☒ Inexpedient to Legislate
- ☐ Rereferred
- ☐ Interim Study
- ☐ Continued Hearing
- ☐ Postponed Hearing

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date:

THE COMMITTEE ON **Education**

to which was referred **Senate Bill 321**

AN ACT **relative to a pupil's right to learn.**

VOTE: 6-0

Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution:
Resolved, that it is: **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Senator Lou D'Allesandro
For the Committee