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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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.

Committee Minutes

Date: January 11, 2000
Time: 1:00 pm
Room: LOB 102

The Senate Committee on Public Institutions/Health Human Services held a hearing on the following:

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

Members of Committee present: Senator Squires
Senator Wheeler
Senator Gordon
Senator Krueger

The Chair, Senator James Squires, opened the hearing.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: Thank you very much Senator Squires. I appreciate this. Senators, Senate Bill 14 passed the House and Senate and it had to do with the study committee. This study committee was to report the impact of federal welfare reform on the cities and towns of New Hampshire and what we're asking for is an extension, until the end of this month, to the 31st of January, to do our report. We've had a series of meetings. I think they've gone extremely well. We've gathered a lot of information and we're in the process of bringing that information together in developing our final report. It will be ready for the 31st. We just need that extra time.

Senator James W. Squires, D. 12: I'm just curious, Senator D'Allesandro, overall has it been beneficial, neutral or deleterious to the cities and towns? Or more importantly to the citizens?

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: I think in the long run if the economy goes sour it will have a deleterious effect on the communities because under our statutes the communities must assume the total responsibility and they are the court of last resort for people who are asking for welfare. In that particular situation it would be an extremely serious situation. On the other hand, every indication is that the things are going well, people are getting

employment. The negative aspects are housing is becoming an extremely serious problem, availability of affordable housing. A very, very serious problem. The ability to gain education beyond the certificate level, the Associate and the Baccalaureate level, that seems to be a problem. What we're looking for is an immediate situation where a certificate can be obtained and you get into the workforce and you get in at a basically an entry level position. The real job creation that we've seen and we've had Employment Security come in and testify about what would be available as we move forward. It seems a more highly educated person will be needed to fill these job openings of the future. So, that's something that we have to deal with.

On the other hand, on a positive note, there's about $9 million left in TANF money that hasn't been extended. It appears that we might be able to put together a housing plan whereby that money could be used to support some kind of affordable housing. I think the communities are working with State Government and there seems to be good rapport and a good exchange of information. We found that those things to be in affect and seem to be working out well at this point.

Senator James W. Squires, D. 12: I was asked, Senator D'Allesandro, about those funds. As I understand it the Government, HCFA, essentially made a block grant based on a projected number and because the actual number is below the projected number is this $9 million. The question is where is it?

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: The answer to that question, Senator, the money is in Washington. It's on a draw down basis. That money has been allocated to the State of New Hampshire but it remains in the control of the Federal Government. The Health and Human Services must draw down on that as needs arise, hence the plan to take some of that money and use it for the housing is now in the process of being put together. Mary Ann Brochek from Health and Human Services was the person who was here at almost every one of our meetings, who was working with us on that as well some people from Legal Assistance who are interested in the housing situation. The money itself is in Washington and we get it on a draw down basis.

Senator James W. Squires, D. 12: And is the existence limited to certain amount of year, five years, ten years or is it there as long as Congress says it is?

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, D. 20: I'm not sure of the answer to that question. As I understand it there have been attempts by the Congress to withdraw the excess money that hasn't been used. Those have failed at this point in time. It seems logical that, the State plan is in place and it's a five

year period, that once that's gone I think that money possibly would disappear. It seems logical that that might be the conclusion but we'll have better information on that and we'll have that in our final report.

Senator James W. Squires, D. 12: Thank you. Are there any other questions? Senator D'Allesandro is the only person signed up to speak. Also, signed up in favor is Judy Silva.

Hearing closed at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Merideth Chandler,
Committee Secretary

Speakers

SENATE PI-HHS COMMITTEE

Date 01/11/00 Time 1:00 PM Public Hearing on SB 342

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

Speaking?	Name	Address	Representing
NO	Judy Silva	PO Box 617 Concord	NH Municipal Assoc.
YES ✓	LOU D'ALLESANDRO	332 ST. JAMES AVE	MANCHESTER, NH
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Appearing in OPPOSITION: (Please Print) Please check box at left to speak:

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Committee Report

Date: January 11, 2000 Time: 1:00 PM

The Senate Committee on Public Institutions/Health Human Services held its hearing in Room LOB 102, Concord, New Hampshire.

BILL NO.: 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.

Members of the Committee present: Senator Squires
Senator Wheeler
Senator Gordon
Senator Krueger

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: January 11, 2000

THE COMMITTEE ON Public Institutions/Health Human Services

to which was referred 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.

VOTE: 3-0

Having considered the same, report the same without amendment and recommend that the bill: **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Senator James Squires
For the Committee