Bill as Introduced

HB 556 – AS INTRODUCED

2003 SESSION

03-1024
06/01

HOUSE BILL ***556***

AN ACT establishing a committee to study highway safety issues on New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene.

SPONSORS: Rep. Gibson, Hills 58; Rep. Slocum, Hills 47

COMMITTEE: Public Works and Highways

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study safety issues on New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

03-1024
06/01

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Three

AN ACT establishing a committee to study highway safety issues on New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study highway safety issues relative to New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene.

2 Membership and Compensation.

I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

(a) Four members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house.

(b) Three members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the committee.

3 Duties. The committee shall study safety issues relative to New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene and make recommendations to the department of transportation relative to improvements to the highway.

4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2003.

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

Speakers

10:15

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 556 Date Feb 11, 2003

Committee Public Works & Highways

** Please Print All Information **

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one) Pro	Con
Elisabeth Langby	Snow Hill Rd, Dublin	563-7043	Dublin		
Susan Peters	Old Common Rd.	567-7026	Dublin		

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 556

BILL TITLE: establishing a committee to study highway safety issues on New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene.

DATE: February 11, 2003

LOB ROOM: 201 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:15

Time Adjourned: 10:35

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. E. Smith, Leber, Gleason, Moore, Graham, Holland, Rausch, Tabir, Keans, Gilmet, Kenison, McConkey, O'Brien, Waterhouse, Cloutier, C. Bouchard, Benn, Norelli, Malloy and Vallone.

Bill Sponsors: Reps. Gibson, Slocum

TESTIMONY

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

Prime sponsor, Representative John Gibson, He lives in Merrimack and drives on Rt 101. Purpose of bill is to address short-term solutions, long term to be resolved by regional planning commission. He is concerned about today. He understands study committees are problematic and he requests we remember this is to help resolve a short-term solution. This bill is relative to Rt. 101 from Bedford to Keene

Representative Lee Slocum, sponsor - Rt 101 western section is a high-risk highway. He feels it needs safety improvements. Supports the study of this highway to improve safety.
Note: he submitted a written statement from the **Amherst Police Chief, Gary D. MacGuire**.

OPINION – NOT SPEAKING:

Elisabeth Langby, Snow Hill Rd., Dublin, 563-7043
Susan Peters, Old Common Rd., 563-7026

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. James B. Rausch, Clerk

Testimony

February 10, 2003

Rep. Edwin O. Smith, Chair
Public Works and Highways Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 201
Concord, NH 03301

NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION P.O. BOX 847 115 MAIN STREET NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03061 (603) 883-0366
FAX (603) 883-6572
www.nashuarpc.org

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) strongly opposes HB 556, "establishing a committee to study highway safety issues on New Hampshire 101 from Bedford to Keene." NRPC, Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC), Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) and the Town of Bedford have been studying this issue in detail for at least the past five years.

- In 1999, a comprehensive analysis of the highway from Keene to the Milford bypass was conducted jointly by NRPC and SWRPC.
- In 1999, NRPC expanded the analysis from the Milford bypass through Amherst.
- In 2001, the Town of Bedford obtained a Transportation and Community Systems Preservation (TCSP) Grant from the Federal Government to complete a detailed analysis of the highway through that town.
- In response to Bedford's grant, NRPC also in 2001 completed a detailed analysis of the 101 corridor from Wilton-Amherst-Milford, which was integrated into the findings of the Bedford study. I have attached a summary of that study.
- In 2001 NRPC also obtained a TCSP grant to study the environs of Route 101, and we are currently working on that process with the planning boards of Amherst, Milford and Wilton.

We have been using these plans to provide NHDOT with projects for inclusion in the State's Ten Year Plan. We are now at the point where we need to have the recommendations of the most recent studies brought forward into the design and implementation phases. Another study will undoubtedly cause further delays in making the needed improvements to this important corridor.

In sum, it is time to stop studying and start doing.

I hope you reject this bill. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Andrew Singelakis,
Executive Director

AS/srv
#370-37

TOWN OF MILFORD

Rec 2/01/03



OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

February 10, 2003

Rep. Edwin O. Smith, Chairman
Public Works and Highways Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 201
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Smith:

I am writing on behalf of the Milford Board of Selectmen concerning House Bill 556, which we understand proposes to form a study committee to look into safety issues on Route 101 from Bedford to Keene. While the Milford Board of Selectmen are appreciative of the recognition that there are safety concerns on Route 101 between Bedford and Keene, they are of the opinion that another study would only serve to postpone solutions to the safety issues that are being felt especially acutely in the Town of Milford.

The Milford Board of Selectmen entered into discussions directly with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation administrators last year after yet another senseless loss of life on the section of Route 101 that spans the Town of Milford. The history of fatal accidents is unacceptable on that stretch of highway. The Town has been doing everything in its power to insist that this be addressed right away. Several concrete suggestions have been made, some of which have been implemented and others which will hopefully be implemented this year. There remain other suggestions that the NHDOT seems reluctant to provide.

The Town would ask the Committee's support in seeing that these efforts are undertaken and continued, rather than that additional studies be made. Numerous studies have been done. Plans have been proposed. Action is required. We are grateful for the attention Milford has received, and would appreciate seeing the remainder of the steps taken to assure the safety of the traveling public through Milford as well as the other towns along the route you have identified.

Thank you for attention.

Very truly yours,

Katherine E.L. Chambers
Town Administrator

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Town Hall · 1 Union Square · Milford, NH 03055-4240 · (603) 673-2257 · FAX (603) 673-2273
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 703 175 AMHERST STREET AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03031
603/673-4900 FAX 603/672-8477

GARY MacGUIRE
CHIEF OF POLICE

February 10, 2003

Committee on Public Works
House of Representatives
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, New Hampshire

Reference: HB556

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

I learned today, with great interest, of the hearing scheduled tomorrow on HB556. Unfortunately, a prior commitment will prevent me from appearing in person to present my thoughts. I do hope you would consider the following in lieu of my actual testimony on this vital subject.

As a police officer in the Town of Amherst for nearly 27 years, I have witnessed numerous changes within the Town and the area. One of the more troubling changes has been the growth of traffic volume, and the resultant increase in motor vehicle crashes on Route 101. This road has some inherent safety issues, as does any two-lane, undivided roadway, however the volume of traffic has, I feel, made this road unusually dangerous. The Town of Amherst has both a limited access portion of Route 101, as well the standard full access stretch. These two sections present different challenges to safety, and each would require different solutions. I feel it is critical that these solutions be found as soon as possible, so that attention may then be turned to funding, design, and construction within a reasonable frame of time. The problems on this road will not be corrected by increased enforcement of motor vehicle laws, as our officers do not see speeding issues as major contributors to our crashes. The problems with 101 are the design of the road in conjunction with the current volume. Without an effort to correct these problems, I am afraid we will continue to see tragedy on this roadway.

I strongly urge you to appoint a committee to study this corridor. Thank you for taking your time to consider my thoughts..

Sincerely,

Gary D. MacGuire
Chief of Police

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 556

BILL TITLE: **establishing a committee to study highway safety issues on New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene.**

DATE: February 12, 2003

LOB ROOM: 201

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

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

Moved by Rep. Benn

Seconded by Rep. Keans

Vote: 17-0 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, 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,

Rep. James B. Rausch, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 556

BILL TITLE: **establishing a committee to study highway safety issues on New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene.**

DATE: 2-12-03

LOB ROOM: 201

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

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

Moved by Rep. Benn

Seconded by Rep. Keane

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.) 17-0

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

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE:

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

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. James B. Rausch, Clerk

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK 2003 SESSION

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Bill #: HB 556 **Title:**

PH Date: / / Exec Session Date: 2/12/03

Motion: ITL Amendment #:

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Smith, Edwin O, Chairman	✓	
Leber, William E, V Chairman	✓	
Gleason, John P	✓	
Moore, Benjamin E absent		
Graham, John A	✓	
Holland, James E	✓	
Rausch, James B, Clerk	✓	
Tahir, Saghir A	✓	
Keans, Sandra B	✓	
Gionet, Edmond D	✓	
Kenison, Leon S	✓	
McConkey, Mark E	✓	
O'Brien, Lori J absent		
Waterhouse, Kevin K	✓	
Cloutier, John R	✓	
Bouchard, Candace C W	✓	
Benn, Bernard L	✓	
Norelli, Terie	✓	
Malloy, Chris S absent		
Vallone, Matthew J	✓	
ITL	17	0
TOTAL VOTE:		

Printed: 1/21/2003

Committee Report

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Public Works and Highways**

BILL NUMBER: **HB 556**

TITLE: establishing a committee to study highway safety issues on New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene.

DATE: February 12, 2003 CONSENT CALENDAR YES ☒ NO ☐

☐ OUGHT TO PASS

☐ OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

☒ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

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

STATEMENT OF INTENT
(Include Committee Vote)

The committee heard testimony regarding serious safety concerns relative to Route 101 from Bedford to Keene. Several previous studies by the towns of Bedford, Amherst, Milford and others by the Nashua and the Southern Regional Planning Commission, clearly setout both long and short-term improvement recommendations for this road segment. It was unanimously agreed that another study would not improve safety, and that only implementation of prior recommendations should be pursued.

Vote 17-0.

Rep. Bernard L. Benn
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public Works and Highways

HB 556, establishing a committee to study highway safety issues on New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

Rep. Bernard L. Benn for Public Works and Highways: The committee heard testimony regarding serious safety concerns relative to Route 101 from Bedford to Keene. Several previous studies by the towns of Bedford, Amherst, Milford and others by the Nashua and the Southern Regional Planning Commission, clearly setout both long and short-term improvement recommendations for this road segment. It was unanimously agreed that another study would not improve safety, and that only implementation of prior recommendations should be pursued. **Vote 17-0.**

HB 556 ITL 17-D CONSENT

~~WHILE~~ THE COMMITTEE HEARD TESTIMONY REGARDING SERIOUS SAFETY CONCERNS RELATIVE TO ROUTE 101 FROM BEDFORD TO KEENE. SEVERAL PREVIOUS STUDIES BY TOWNS OF BEDFORD, AMHERST, MILFORD AND OTHERS BY THE NASHUA & THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, CLEARLY SET OUT BOTH LONG AND SHORT TERM IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS ROAD SEGMENT. IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT ANOTHER STUDY WOULD NOT IMPROVE SAFETY AND THAT ONLY IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE PURSUED.

BERNIE BENN
DIST. 17

E 05

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Public Works and Highways**

BILL NUMBER: **HB 556**

TITLE: establishing a committee to study highway safety issues on New Hampshire Route 101 from Bedford to Keene.

DATE: {Type DATE} CONSENT CALENDAR YES ☒ NO ☐

☐ OUGHT TO PASS

☐ OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

☒ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

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

STATEMENT OF INTENT
(Include Committee Vote)

Vote {Type VOTE}. 17-0

BENN
Rep. {Type NAME}
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT