REGULAR CALENDAR

January 25, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Public Works and Highways to which was referred HB 412,

AN ACT re-establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements. Having considered the same, report the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. John Cloutier

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Public Works and Highways**
Bill Number:	**HB 412**
Title:	**re-establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements.**
Date:	**January 25, 2023**
Consent Calendar:	**REGULAR**
Recommendation:	**OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill would re-establish a legislation study commission on revenue alternatives to the road toll, popularly known as the gas tax for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges. A commission originally established by HB 1040 became law last year. Unfortunately, the commission did not have enough time to properly explore alternatives to the road toll for electric-powered, hybrid, and fuel-efficient vehicles, and may study other emerging vehicle fuels and technologies, for funding improvements to the state's highways and bridges, ensuring that all motor vehicles contribute proportionally to their impact on New Hampshire's highway infrastructure. This bill would take effect upon its passage.

Vote 18-0.

Rep. John Cloutier
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Public Works and Highways

HB 412, re-establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. John Cloutier for Public Works and Highways. This bill would re-establish a legislation study commission on revenue alternatives to the road toll, popularly known as the gas tax for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges. A commission originally established by HB 1040 became law last year. Unfortunately, the commission did not have enough time to properly explore alternatives to the road toll for electric-powered, hybrid, and fuel-efficient vehicles, and may study other emerging vehicle fuels and technologies, for funding improvements to the state's highways and bridges, ensuring that all motor vehicles contribute proportionally to their impact on New Hampshire's highway infrastructure. This bill would take effect upon its passage. **Vote 18-0.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 412

BILL TITLE: re-establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements.

DATE: January 25, 2023

LOB ROOM: 201

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Cloutier Seconded by Rep. B. Boyd Vote: 18-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep David Milz, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PW & H

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # HB 412

BILL TITLE: ...

DATE: 1/25/23

LOB ROOM: 201

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☒ ~~OTP~~ ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. CLOUTIER Seconded by Rep. BOYD Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ *(if offered)*

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: ____ **YES** ☒ **NO**

Minority Report? ____ Yes ☒ No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: _____

Rep. MICZ, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2023 SESSION

1/6/2023 12:37:56 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

Public Works and Highways

Bill #: HB 412 Motion: OTP AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 1/25/23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
McConkey, Mark E. Chairman	18		
Cloutier, John R. Vice Chairman	1		
Milz, David E. Clerk	2		
Fedolfi, Jim L.	3		
Newton, Clifford A.	4		
Kaczynski, Thomas L.	5		
Beaudoin, Richard B	6		
Boyd, Bill	7		
Melvin, Charles R.	8		
Bogert, Steven T	9		
Connor, James	10		
Jack, Martin L.	11		
Abbott, Michael D.	12		
Edgar, Michael A.	13		
Faulkner, Barry	14		
Newman, Sue A.	15		
Eaton, Daniel A.			1
Pedersen, Michael P.	16		
Vallone, Mark A	17		
Juris, Louis C.			2
TOTAL VOTE:	18	0	2

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 412

BILL TITLE: **re-establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements.**

DATE: **January 25, 2023**

LOB ROOM: **201** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** **1:00 pm**

Time Adjourned:

Committee Members: Reps. McConkey, Cloutier, Milz, Fedolfi, Newton, Kaczynski, R. Beaudoin, B. Boyd, Melvin, Bogert, Connor, Jack, Abbott, Edgar, Faulkner, S. Newman, Eaton, Pedersen and Vallone

Bill Sponsors:
Rep. McConkey **Rep. Ebel**

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. McConkey - Bill sponsor

Introduced bill and explained the necessity for reestablishing the commission that expired last year. And the goals for the commission

Q: Rep. Faulkner - Asked for overall goal of commission and was answered
Q: Rep. Fedolfi asked if weights of vehicles are being considered. A: Was affirmative.
Q: Rep. Jack -Inquired of the make up of the committee and was answered.
Q: Rep. Vallone - Asked if current road tolls were included. A: was negative.

***John Graham- Support**

Spoke of efforts of past commissions. Also highlighted the fact that electric vehicles currently pay no road use fees at all. Also questioned the expiration date of bill

Q: Rep. Newton - Need to know how long the commission has been in place
A: 1 year
Q: Rep. Bogart - asked if mileage fees have been considered
A. Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. David Milz, Clerk

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill #: HB412 Date: 1/25/23

Committee: Public Works & Highways

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

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	Pro	Con
Rep Doug Thomas	Londonderry		Rock 16	X	
Nicholas Alexander			NHDOT	X	
Jasen Stock	Concord	224-9699	NH Timberland owners	X	
Jackson Bouley			NH Auto Dealers Association	X	
Rep Timothy Horrigan			Strafford 10	X	

House Remote Testify

Public Works and Highways Committee Testify List for Bill HB412 on 2023-01-25

Support: 10 Oppose: 1 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

Name	City, State Email Address	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Non-Germane	Signed Up
Hamer, Gary	Manchester, NH grhamer@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2023 7:27 PM
Benham, Linda	Greenland, NH benhamblab@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2023 9:12 AM
Kroll, Heidi	Concord, NH kroll@gcglaw.com	A Lobbyist	Aggregate Manufacturers of NH	Support	No	No	1/24/2023 12:49 PM
LeClerc, Daniel	Amherst, NH djl91862@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2023 2:14 PM
BALDWIN, HEATHER	Thornton, NH hpbaldwin48@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2023 2:32 PM
Spier, Carry	Nashua, NH carry.spier@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2023 3:47 PM
Almy, Susan	Lebanon, NH susan.almy@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2023 7:46 PM
Muns, Chris	Town, NH chris.muns@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2023 11:33 AM
Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2023 11:46 AM
Lane, Connie	Concord, NH connie.lane@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Constituents	Support	No	No	1/25/2023 6:11 PM
Schuett, Rep. Dianne	Pembroke, NH schuettforrep@yahoo.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2023 8:39 PM

HB412

#1

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

As many of you know I have supported and sponsored similar legislation in a previous life. In fact I was involved in both of the studies (2010 and 2012) mentioned in the bill.

This study is key to the future of our highway system funding. Make no mistake alternative fuels, primarily electric in the near term, will continue to lessen highway funding through the current road toll which relies on a gas/diesel tax. Simply stated fully electric vehicles contribute virtually nothing to the maintenance and upkeep of our existing road system. Yet the NHDOT is posed to spend millions of dollars (some $17 million in the last Ten Year Plan alone) in establishing a network of vehicle electrical charging stations across the state. While the vehicle owner may pay for the electricity used not a single penny of that charge currently goes to the state's highway fund. This commission must determine a way to ensure that our highway fund stays solvent into the future.

I know some of you may have signed a pledge concerning new or even raising current taxes or fees. I would point out that this is a study, and the opportunity to look at and perhaps find solutions to the current problem is now. I urge to support this bill and see what if any recommendations come from it.

One final note, I would consider changing the date of the final report to Nov. 1, 2024, with an interim report due this November. Veteran members realize that if HB412 is signed into law it will be summer before it become effective. Take out the House precedent of not having meetings in August it leaves very little time to actually study the issue.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts

Hon. John A. Graham
Bedford

HB 412 - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0321
09/10

HOUSE BILL ***412***

AN ACT re-establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements.

SPONSORS: Rep. McConkey, Carr. 8; Rep. Ebel, Merr. 7

COMMITTEE: Public Works and Highways

ANALYSIS

This bill re-establishes a study commission on revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to state highways and bridges.

- -

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.

23-0321
09/10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT re-establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements.

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

1 Commission to Study Revenue Alternatives to the Road Toll. RSA 21-J:49 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

21-J:49 Commission to Study Revenue Alternatives to the Road Toll

I. There is established a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements to the environment.

II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) 6 members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives: 2 of whom shall be members of the house public works and highways committee; one of whom shall be a member of the house science, technology and energy committee; and one of whom shall be a member of the house ways and means committee.

(b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

(c) The commissioner of the department of revenue administration, or designee.

(d) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee.

(e) The commissioner of the department of environmental services, or designee.

(f) The commissioner of the department of transportation, or designee.

(g) One member from the New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association, appointed by that association.

(h) One member representing an energy and transportation related non-profit organization, appointed by the governor.

(i) One member of the public, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

III. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

IV. The commission shall:

(a) Study alternatives to the road toll for electric-powered, hybrid, and fuel-efficient vehicles, and may study other emerging vehicle fuels and technologies, for funding improvements to the state's highways and bridges, ensuring that all motor vehicles contribute proportionally to their impact on New Hampshire's highway infrastructure, including vehicles registered out of state that may no longer be subject to the road toll.

(b) Study the impact the various fuel-efficient technologies have on the environment.

(c) Consider the interim report of the commission on taxation of alternative fuel and electric-powered motor vehicles of November 1, 2012, and the final report of the commission to study future sustainable revenue sources for funding improvements to state and municipal highways and bridges, dated November 1, 2010.

(d) Track current road toll revenues and, as it deems appropriate, analyze related programs developed in other states and recommend legislation.

(e) Consider the 2019-2020 federally-funded study of a prior road usage fee in New Hampshire.

(f) Evaluate the future funding needs for the operation and maintenance of, and improvements to, state and municipal roadways.

V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Seven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2023.

2 Repeal. RSA 21-J:49, relative to the commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements to the environment, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2023.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.