CONSENT CALENDAR

March 29, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs to which was referred SB 174,

AN ACT relative to veterans access to health care.

Having considered the same, report the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Lucy Weber

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs**
Bill Number:	**SB 174**
Title:	**relative to veterans access to health care.**
Date:	**March 29, 2023**
Consent Calendar:	**CONSENT**
Recommendation:	**OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill repeals two statutes; RSA 126-A:81 relative to access to health care for veterans and the navigator training program, and RSA 126-A:82, relative to access to mental health services for veterans. These two programs have never been funded or set up, and with the establishment of the new Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAV) in 2019, access to health care, both physical and mental, has taken a different route. We heard that because of the closer ties between the new Department, the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services and a wide range of service providers including the Veterans Administration and community mental health centers, setting up these two programs would actually disrupt health care services for veterans rather then enhance them. In addition, we heard that initiatives like Ask the Question and training for community health care providers on the specific issues that affect veterans have also resulted in better access to care. In addition to repealing these now redundant statutes, the bill requires a report from DMAV to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by November 1, 2023 on existing health care programs and services, the coordination of delivery of these services, and recommendations for future legislation, if needed.

Vote 14-0.

Rep. Lucy Weber
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs
SB 174, relative to veterans access to health care. **OUGHT TO PASS.**
Rep. Lucy Weber for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill repeals two statutes; RSA 126-A:81 relative to access to health care for veterans and the navigator training program, and RSA 126-A:82, relative to access to mental health services for veterans. These two programs have never been funded or set up, and with the establishment of the new Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAV) in 2019, access to health care, both physical and mental, has taken a different route. We heard that because of the closer ties between the new Department, the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services and a wide range of service providers including the Veterans Administration and community mental health centers, setting up these two programs would actually disrupt health care services for veterans rather then enhance them. In addition, we heard that initiatives like Ask the Question and training for community health care providers on the specific issues that affect veterans have also resulted in better access to care. In addition to repealing these now redundant statutes, the bill requires a report from DMAV to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by November 1, 2023 on existing health care programs and services, the coordination of delivery of these services, and recommendations for future legislation, if needed.

Vote 14-0.

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 174

BILL TITLE: relative to veterans access to health care.

DATE: March 29, 2023

LOB ROOM: 201-203

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Weber Seconded by Rep. Nagel Vote: 14-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Bill King, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/6/2023 12:36:33 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

Bill #: SB174 Motion: OTP AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 3/29/23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
MacDonald, Wayne D. Chairman	✓		
Layon, Erica J. Vice Chairman			✓
Cushman, Leah P.			✓
King, Bill C. Clerk	✓		
Kofalt, Jim	✓		
McLean, Mark			✓
King, Seth			✓
Mazur, Lisa R	✓		
Nagel, David J	✓		
Polozov, Yury	✓		
Weber, Lucy M.	✓		
MacKay, James R.	✓		
Freitas, Mary C.			✓
Cannon, Gerri D.	✓		
Nutter-Upham, Frances E.	✓		
Schapiro, Joe	✓		
Merchant, Gary	✓		
Murphy, James Michael	✓		
Palmer, William S	✓		
Tellez, Trinidad			✓
TOTAL VOTE:	14	0	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 174

BILL TITLE: **relative to veterans access to health care.**

DATE: **March 29, 2023**

LOB ROOM: **201-203** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** **9:32 AM**

Time Adjourned: **10:02 AM**

Committee Members: Reps. W. MacDonald, B. King, Kofalt, Mazur, Nagel, Polozov, Weber, MacKay, Cannon, Nutter-Upham, Schapiro, Merchant, J. Murphy and Palmer

Bill Sponsors:

Sen. Carson	**Sen. D'Allesandro**	**Rep. Massimilla**
Rep. Edwards	**Rep. Moffett**	

TESTIMONY

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

Senator Carson – District 14 – Prime sponsor

- Introduced the bill and deferred questions to Warren Perry and Wendi Aultman

Warren Perry – Dept. Military Affairs and Veterans Services – Supports
Wendi Aultman – DHHS – Supports

Warren:

- Working with Service providers to focus on veteran healthcare
- Have benefits and services handle outside work
- Here to clean up statutes

Wendi Aultman

- Supports Warren's work
- Collaborative efforts:
    - Partnerships with warm handoffs
    - Medicare services
    - Ongoing military cultural adjustment
    - Leadership and support

Q: Rep. Weber – Experience with delays in providing care?
A: Leveraging existing services
Q: Rep. Weber – Presence in Keene?
A: Yes, community outreach center
Q: Rep. Nagel – Current healthcare services are complex
Q: How is current system helping?
A: This bill does not solve the problem: 1. We are trying to leverage 2. Marketing is critical Healthcare navigators is not the way to run

***David Kenney – State Veterans Advisory Counsel (SVAC) – Supports**

- SVAC – meet once a month
- This will not negate any current services

Q: Rep. McKay – Does 10 year health care plan provided?
A: VA does offer mental health care
Q: Rep. McKay – Is this different than police and fireman

A: Yes, trauma is similar to these (three) No – each are district
Q: Rep. Murphy – What is the impact in white river junction?
A: Facilities at White River Junction are good augment

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Bill King, Clerk

House Remote Testify

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill SB174 on 2023-03-29

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

Export to Excel

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill #: SB174 Date: 3/29/23

Committee: HHS & EA

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

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	Pro	Con
Paula Minnehan	125 Airport Rd Concord NH	6034154254	NH Hospital Assc	X	
WARREN PERRY	4 PEMBROKE ROAD CONCORD	603-221-1302	DMAVS	X	
JESS EDWARDS	ROCK DIST 31			X	
Tim Lang	Senate Dist 2			X	

State Veterans Advisory Committee
New Hampshire

March 28, 2023

Honorable Wayne MacDonald
Chairman, Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs
107 North Main St.
Concord, NH 03301

Testimony on SB174: relative to veterans' access to health care.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished committee members. I'm here today to proxy for our SVAC Legislative Chairman, Kevin Grady, who is traveling.

This bill was requested jointly by DHHS and DMAVS and is essentially cleaning up some leftover issues from when Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services was created. The original concept required the Veterans Service Officers to essentially be "navigators" to assist veterans in accessing health services from DHHS. While well intended, the Office of Veterans Services are not adequately staffed for this specific requirement and no allocation of funding or new positions were provided to support this requirement. Essentially, this creates an unfunded mandate which is beyond the current capacity of the Office of Veterans Services. However, the VSOs and DMAVS in general have already established coordination methods with HHS that make this requirement generally unnecessary. This bill seeks to remove that requirement language from the RSA and is unanimously supported by the SVAC Committee.

In light of the support from both affected agencies and the reasonable result it would yield, we ask this committee to support this legislation and recommend it be deemed as "Ought to Pass"

This concludes my testimony and I remain at your service to take any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

David J. Kenney
Chairman Emeritus

The State Veteran Advisory Committee is comprised of senior leadership from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America Chap 41, Military Order of Purple Heart, Reserve Officers Association, The National Guard Enlisted Association, Military Officers Association of America, The Air Force Association of New Hampshire, Air Force Sergeants Association, The National Guard Association of New Hampshire, Marine Corps League, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Assoc., Rolling Thunder, Korean War Veterans Association, Catholic War Veterans, Association of US Army Col Cross Chapter, NH Veterans Association, and the New Hampshire Army Retiree Council.

E: nhsvac.chair@gmail.com

SB 174 - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0861
06/05

SENATE BILL ***174***

AN ACT relative to veterans access to health care.

SPONSORS: Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Rep. Massimilla, Graf. 1; Rep. Edwards, Rock. 31; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4

COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services

ANALYSIS

This bill repeals 2 unfunded statutes related to health care and mental health services for veterans. The bill also instructs the department of health and human services and the department of military affairs and veterans services to report to the oversight committee on health and human services regarding veterans' access to health care and mental health services.

The bill is a request of the department of health and human services and the department of military affairs and veterans services.

- -

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.

23-0861
06/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to veterans access to health care.

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

1 Legislative Findings and Purpose.

I. The general court finds that New Hampshire's veterans deserve effective and meaningful access to health care including behavioral health services. With the establishment of the department of military affairs and veterans services pursuant to 2019, 273:1 et seq., the adjutant general and the commissioner of the department of health and human services continued to collaborate in leveraging available resources and coordinating interagency efforts to promote greater access by veterans to health care and behavioral health programs available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and through New Hampshire's network of health care providers and behavioral health services.

II. The general court also finds that the isolated provisions of 2020, 34:4, codified at RSA 126-A:81 and RSA 126-A:82, lack sufficient funds for implementation and do not align with current and evolving effective procedures and best practices that focus on optimizing veterans access to health care including behavioral health services.

III. Therefore, the general court finds that these obsolete provisions of law should be repealed.

2 Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services; Report on Veterans' Access to Health Care and Mental Health Services. On or before November 1, 2023, the department of health and human services, in collaboration with the department of military affairs and veterans services, shall report to the joint legislative oversight committee on health and human services, established in RSA 126-A:13, on veterans' access to health care and mental health services. The report shall include, but is not limited to, a review and overview of existing programs enabling veterans to access health care and mental health services; a description of coordination of efforts for the access and delivery of these programs and services between federal and state agencies and providers; and making findings and recommendations for future legislation as appropriate.

3 End Veteran's Homelessness Program; References Removed. Amend RSA 110-B:73-c, II(e) to read as follows:

(e) Connecting veterans experiencing homelessness to health, mental health, employment, entrepreneurship, and training resources through the services described under [~~RSA 126-A:81, RSA 126-A:82,~~] RSA 162-A:9-b, RSA 282-A:117-b, RSA 282-A:117-c, RSA 110-B:73-a, RSA

110-B:73-b, RSA 153-A:20, XXV, RSA 187-A:20-d, RSA 188-F:16-b, RSA 326-B:9, XIII, and RSA 328-D:10, I(j).

4 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 126-A:81, relative to access to health care for veterans and the navigator training program.

II. RSA 126-A:82, relative to access to mental health services for veterans.

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