CONSENT CALENDAR

November 15, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Finance to which was referred HB 614-FN,

AN ACT (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Maureen Mooney

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Finance**
Bill Number:	**HB 614-FN**
Title:	**(New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.**
Date:	**November 15, 2023**
Consent Calendar:	**CONSENT**
Recommendation:	**INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill appropriates funding for a Phase 3 Feasibility study to determine the effects of PFAS causing kidney cancer in the Town of Merrimack. Only two New Hampshire communities in the past 10 years have risen to the level of a Phase 3 study indicating the severity of PFAS pollution on the human body. The language of this bill is included in HB 2 (2023) section 79:429 which was signed into law by the Governor on June 20, 2023.

Vote 25-0.

Rep. Maureen Mooney
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Finance

HB 614-FN, (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Maureen Mooney for Finance. This bill appropriates funding for a Phase 3 Feasibility study to determine the effects of PFAS causing kidney cancer in the Town of Merrimack. Only two New Hampshire communities in the past 10 years have risen to the level of a Phase 3 study indicating the severity of PFAS pollution on the human body. The language of this bill is included in HB 2 (2023) section 79:429 which was signed into law by the Governor on June 20, 2023. **Vote 25-0.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 614-FN

BILL TITLE: (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.

DATE: November 14, 2023

LOB ROOM: 210-211

MOTIONS: **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

Moved by Rep. Mooney Seconded by Rep. Erf Vote: 25-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Joseph Pitre, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 614-FN

BILL TITLE: (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.

DATE: 11/14/23

LOB ROOM: 210-211

MOTION: (Please check one box)

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

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Mooney Seconded by Rep. ERF Vote: 25-0

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: _____

☐ **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

CONSENT CALENDAR: ✓ **YES** ____ **NO**

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

Respectfully submitted: _____

Rep Joseph Pitre, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2023 SESSION

11/14/2023 10:17:23 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

Finance

Bill #: HB 14 FN **Motion:** ITL **AM #:** _____ **Exec Session Date:** 14Nov23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Weyler, Kenneth L. Chairman	25		
Erf, Keith Vice Chairman	1		
McGuire, Dan	2		
Pitre, Joseph A. Clerk	3		
Emerick, Tracy	4		
Griffin, Gerald	5		
Mooney, Maureen C.	6		
~~Edwards, Jess C.~~ KATH	7		
Bean, Harry H.	8		
Hoell, J.R.	9		
Sweeney, Joe	10		
Cambrils, Jose E.	11		
Popovici-Muller, Daniel	12		
Wallner, Mary Jane	13		
Nordgren, Sharon L.	14		
Leishman, Peter R.	15		
Buco, Thomas L.	16		
Huot, David O.	17		
Heath, Mary	18		
Murray, Kate R.	19		
Ebel, Karen E.	20		
~~Telerski, Laura D.~~ SHAPIRO	21		
Hakken-Phillips, Mary A.	22		
Stringham, Jerry M.	23		
Grassie, Chuck W.	24		
TOTAL VOTE:	25	0	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Finance

DIVISION III WORK SESSION ON HB 614-FN

BILL TITLE: **(New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.**

DATE: **October 3, 2023**

ROOM: **210-211** **Time Work Session Called to Order: <<Start Time>>**

Time Adjourned: <<End Time>>

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Edwards, Mooney, Erf, Hoell, Wallner, Nordgren, Telerski and Stringham

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. N. Murphy	**Rep. Dunn**	**Rep. Meuse**
Rep. W. Thomas	**Rep. Rung**	**Rep. Lascelles**
Rep. K. Perez	**Rep. Rombeau**	**Sen. Watters**
Sen. Altschiller	**Sen. Carson**	**Sen. Chandley**
Sen. Ricciardi		

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. **Kofalt** replaced Rep. **Edwards** for this Work Session.
Rep. **Grassie** replaced Rep. **Stringham** for this Work Session
Rep. **Weyler** joined the Division for this Work Session.

Rep. **Hoell** moved ITL, seconded by Rep. **Erf**. Motion adopted 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Kenneth Weyler
Acting Clerk, Division III

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/24/2023 2:50:37 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Finance - Division III

Bill #: HB 614 **Motion:** ITL **AM #:** _____ **Exec Session Date:** 10/3/23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Edwards, Jess C. Chairman Kofalt	✓		
Mooney, Maureen C. Vice Chairman	✓		
Erf, Keith	✓		
Hoell, J.R.	✓		
Wallner, Mary Jane	✓		
Nordgren, Sharon L.			✓
Telerski, Laura D.	✓		
Stringham, Jerry M. Grassie	✓		
TOTAL VOTE: Wallner	✓		

8-0

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Finance

BILL NUMBER: HB 614-FN

BILL TITLE: (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.

DATE: March 28, 2023

THE COMMITEE HAS VOTED TO RETAIN THIS BILL.

Rep. Weyler, Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 614-FN

BILL TITLE: (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.

DATE: March 28, 2023

LOB ROOM: 210-211

MOTIONS: **RETAINED**

Moved by Rep. Edwards Seconded by Rep. Mooney Vote: 24-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Joseph Pitre, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 614-FN

BILL TITLE: (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.

DATE: 3/28/23

LOB ROOM: 210-211

MOTION: (Please check one box)

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

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. EDWARDS Seconded by Rep. MJONEY Vote: 24-0

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: _____

☐ **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

CONSENT CALENDAR: ____ **YES** ✓ **NO**

Minority Report? ____ Yes ✓ No If yes, author Rep: _____ Motion_____

Respectfully submitted: _____

Rep Joseph Pitre, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/24/2023 2:48:27 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Finance FN

Bill #: HB614 **Motion:** Retain **AM #:** _____ **Exec Session Date:** 28 March 23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Weyler, Kenneth L. Chairman	24		
Erf, Keith Vice Chairman	1		
McGuire, Dan	2		
Pitre, Joseph A. Clerk	3		
Emerick, Tracy	4		
Griffin, Gerald	5		
Mooney, Maureen C.	6		
Edwards, Jess C.	7		
Bean, Harry H.	8		
Hoell, J.R.	9		
Sweeney, Joe	10		
Cambrils, Jose E.	11		
Popovici-Muller, Daniel	12		
Wallner, Mary Jane	13		
Nordgren, Sharon L.	14		
Leishman, Peter R.	15		
Buco, Thomas L.	16		
Hatch, ~~William A.~~ Weber	17		
Huot, David O.			
Heath, Mary	18		
Murray, Kate R.	19		
Ebel, Karen E.	20		
Pelerski, Laura D.	21		
Hakken-Phillips, Mary A.	22		
Stringham, Jerry M.	23		
TOTAL VOTE:	24	6	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Finance

DIVISION III WORK SESSION ON HB 614-FN

BILL TITLE: **(New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.**

DATE: **March 6, 2023**

ROOM: **210-211** **Time Work Session Called to Order: <<Start Time>>**

Time Adjourned: <<End Time>>

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Edwards, Mooney, Erf, Hoell, Wallner, Nordgren, Telerski and Stringham

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. N. Murphy	**Rep. Dunn**	**Rep. Meuse**
Rep. W. Thomas	**Rep. Rung**	**Rep. Lascelles**
Rep. K. Perez	**Rep. Rombeau**	**Sen. Watters**
Sen. Altschiller	**Sen. Carson**	**Sen. Chandley**
Sen. Ricciardi		

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. **Weyler** participated in this Division III work session.

Rep. **Doucette** replaced Rep. **Hoell** for this Division III work session.

*Amended FN 3/6/23

*Written testimony submitted by Patricia **Tilley**, Director, Division of Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

$650,000 and $200,000/year

Michele **Roberge**, Bureau of Prevention Services, DHHS; Abby **Rogers**, Bureau of Healthcare Access Equity and Policy, Legislative Liaison, DHHS; Wendy **Hairman**; Dr. Kathleen **Bush,** DHHS.

Rep. Rosemary **Rung**, co-sponsor, served as Chair of Commission - PFAS, operation in Merrimack. Cancer registry for PFAS "feasibility", PFAS exposure on human health. Bill passed 19-0 out of Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs committee.

Questions from Rep. **Telerski** and Rep. **Erf**.

Ms. **Hairman** - reviews the budget:

Ø1 Request - concern. Cursory lock (97% end there)
Ø2 Cancer Registry - any pattern.

Ø3 Expanded - other risk factors/residential history.
Ø4 Epidemiological study. Case Control Analysis.

Rep. **Weyler**: Where are Ø1 and Ø2?

Ans: Cancer program website under DHHS. Concern about fire fighters - state wide. Dr. **Bush** - track occupational work.

Rep. **Mooney**: How frequently do Ø2 become Ø3?
Ans: 40 - Ø1; 4 - Ø2 (2 in 10 years); .4 - Ø3

Rep. **Rung**: High incidence for other cancers. Stronger link to kidney cancer.

Rep. **Stringham**: Two to six months to get a contract.

Rep. **Edwards**: No required reported. HB 737 Commission meets monthly.

The Division voted 8-0 to Retain the bill with the intent to insert in HB 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Jerry Stringham
Clerk, Division III

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/24/2023 2:50:37 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Finance - Division III

by Duette/Erf to Retain with intent to insert In HB 2

Bill #: 614 **Motion:** — **AM #:** _____ **~~Exec~~** Work **Session Date:** 3/6/23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Edwards, Jess C. Chairman			
Mooney, Maureen C. Vice Chairman	X		
Erf, Keith	X		
~~Hoell, J.R.~~ Duett.	X		
Wallner, Mary Jane	X		
Nordgren, Sharon L.	X		
Telerski, Laura D.	X		
Stringham, Jerry M.	X		
TOTAL VOTE: Weyler	X		

Discussion: Mooney

8 0

Lori Weaver
Interim Commissioner

Patricia Tilley
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301
603-271-4524 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4524
Fax: 603-271-8705 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964
www.dhhs.nh.gov

Testimony for HB614, An Act relating to making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study
House Finance Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 210-211
Monday, March 6, 2023

Dear Representative Edwards and Members of the Committee.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services ("Department"), through this testimony, is providing information relative to HB614, *An Act relating to making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study*. The Department would like to thank the sponsors of this bill for their interest in supporting next steps in the Department's Kidney Cancer Incidence Investigation and is in support of HB614.

HB614 is a culmination of collaborative efforts by the bill's sponsor, Representative Nancy Murphy, the HB737 Commission (which was established in 2019 to study the environmental and public health impacts of PFAS substances in Merrimack and surrounding communities), the Department and Representative Erica Layon, Vice Chair of the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee, who cosponsored amendment #2023-0533h to HB614 with Representative Murphy that passed the Committee 19-0 on February 15th.

The legislation would provide a necessary appropriation to support the Department's recommendation to conduct a Phase 3 Feasibility Study for Merrimack, after identifying a statistically significant higher number of kidney cancer cases in the community. This study would be completed through a contract with an academic or research organization and would inform next steps in the investigation. As proposed, the funds would be nonlapsing and would be subject to prior review by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services to ensure that the Department uses any available grant funding or any other non-state funds which may be used for this purpose before requesting the proposed appropriated state funds. At this time, the Department does not have any dedicated federal funding or other funding sources that would support cancer concern investigations at the state level. As part of standard practice, the Department works with federal partners to identify eligible grant opportunities and is committed to continue to look for grant opportunities to support this work.

The Feasibility Study will support evaluation of potential risk factors and environmental exposures that may be associated with the excess number of kidney cancer cases observed in Merrimack. Conducting a full epidemiological study is time and resource intensive. Before deciding to pursue such a study, it is important to determine if an epidemiological study (Phase 4) is warranted and if so, identify appropriate cancers and health outcomes for inclusion in the study. In order to design an epidemiological study and secure funding for such research, preliminary data on potential risk factors needs to be gathered and evaluated. The Phase 3 Feasibility Study could provide valuable information to inform a Phase 4 study, should the feasibility study determine that a full epidemiological study is warranted.

To provide some background information and a timeline for the Committee, in December of 2021, the Department updated the analysis of cancer incidence in Merrimack using the most current data available (2009 to 2018) and presented a report to the HB737 Commission on December 10, 2021. The Department held a community meeting for the residents of Merrimack, Litchfield, Bedford and Londonderry on January 28, 2022 to share findings. The updated analysis showed a statistically significant higher number of kidney cancer cases (19 more cases than would be expected) in Merrimack. No other cancers had a statistically significant excess in Merrimack.

Further analysis of kidney cancers in Merrimack and surrounding towns was subsequently performed to provide information about kidney cancer diagnoses and identify any unusual patterns, for the purpose of making a decision about whether to continue further investigation and whether to include additional towns in next steps. On January 13, 2023, the Department presented the *Cancer Incidence Report Merrimack, New Hampshire* to the HB737 Commission. The Department serves on the Commission as a resource to the communities represented by the Commission, which includes Merrimack.

Based on the findings in the January 13th report, the Department recommends that the investigation move to Phase 3, in accordance with NH's *Cancer Concern Investigation Protocol*, which includes a feasibility study. The feasibility study would require additional funding and partnership with an academic or research organization. The Phase 3 Feasibility Study would determine if an epidemiological study (Phase 4) is warranted and would identify appropriate cancers and health outcomes for inclusion in such study.

If the legislation becomes law, the Department intends to contract with an academic or research institution to complete the proposed feasibility study as the Department does not have the technical expertise or resources to complete this work. The majority of the costs associated with the $500,000 appropriation would support two positions at an academic or research institution for a 2-year period. The first position would be a full-time Statistical Research Analysist (salary range in NH of $79,000 to $119,000) to lead the project and be responsible for conducting a scientific literature review, developing a study design, study implementation, data analysis, report generation and developing recommendations for next steps in the investigation. Benefits for this full-time position are calculated at 35% of the salary amount. Considering the higher end of the salary range allows for more successful recruitment of candidates with expertise in cancer epidemiology. The salary and benefits for this position per year are estimated at $160,650, for a total amount of $321,300 for the 2-year period. The second position would be a part-time community engagement specialist with a salary projection of $30,000 per year for a total amount of $60,000 for the 2-year period.

In addition, the appropriation would provide $50,000 per year to support community engagement activities related to outreach and education, study recruitment, coordination with stakeholders, community meetings, data collection and dissemination of results. During the first year, these activities would be focused on education and outreach, participant recruitment, community meetings and coordination with stakeholders including impacted individuals, families, community members, local officials, partner agencies (federal, state, local), Commissions and elected officials. The second year would focus on dissemination of results and continued engagement with impacted individuals, families and stakeholders on findings and next steps.

This estimate also includes an amount for equipment needs and indirect costs for a total of $20,000. It is important to note that the indirect cost estimates could change based on the vendor and this would impact the amount of funding available for community engagement.

As a public health agency, the Department is focused on using best practices for public health response including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance related to responding to potential cancer clusters. As a part of the CDC Guidance there is considerable emphasis placed on community engagement and communication

throughout the investigation process. The CDC recommends that a cancer and environmental health communication plan be developed at the onset of this phase of the investigation and that risk communication principles be implemented throughout the entire investigation process. This work takes expertise and dedication to build community trust. The need for a skilled communicator who is trained in risk communication strategies is important so that individuals, families and community members understand what the goals and expectations are for this phase of the investigation and are willing to participate in the study. Without community support and participation, any future epidemiological study (Phase 4) would not be possible. The Department has been committed to working with stakeholders and policy makers and in order for this investigation to move forward to Phase 3, the Department will need additional resources to develop and conduct the study and effectively engage with impacted individuals, communities and other stakeholders.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee on this bill. I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional information.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Tilley, MS Ed
Director
Division of Public Health Services
NH Department of Health and Human Services

LBA
23-0256
Amended 3/6/23

HB 614-FN FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2023-0533h)

AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.

FISCAL IMPACT: [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local [ ] None

	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
STATE:	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**
Appropriation	$0	$500,000	$0	$0
Revenue	$0	$0	$0	$0
Expenditures	$0	$250,000	$250,000	$0
Funding Source:	[X] General [ ] Education [ ] Highway [X] Other - Grants or other available sources of non-state funding.			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill appropriates $500,000 for the FY24/25 biennium to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of contracting with an academic or research organization to complete a NH Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study for the town of Merrimack. The bill requires that prior to any general funds being used, the Department shall first use any available grants or other non-state funding sources. The Department states that the appropriation would be used as follows:

- One contracted, full-time statistical research analyst (estimated salary and benefits of $160,000 per year, or $320,000 over the two-year period);
- One contracted, part-time community engagement specialist (estimated salary of $30,000 per year, or $60,000 over the two-year period);
- Community engagement activities ($50,000 per year, or $100,000 over the two-year period); and
- $20,000 for equipment needs and indirect costs.

$500,000

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Health and Human Services

HB 614-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

22Feb2023... 0533h

2023 SESSION

23-0256
08/05

HOUSE BILL ***614-FN***

AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.

SPONSORS: Rep. N. Murphy, Hills. 12; Rep. Dunn, Rock. 16; Rep. Meuse, Rock. 37; Rep. W. Thomas, Hills. 12; Rep. Rung, Hills. 12; Rep. Lascelles, Hills. 14; Rep. K. Perez, Rock. 16; Rep. Rombeau, Hills. 2; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Chandley, Dist 11; Sen. Ricciardi, Dist 9

COMMITTEE: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study.

- - - -

HB 614-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

22Feb2023... 0533h

23-0256
08/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.

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

1 Findings. The general court finds that given the statistically significant excess in the number of cases of kidney cancer in Merrimack, New Hampshire found by the department of health and human services, the known detection of environmental contaminants that have been associated with kidney cancer, and a trend of increasing incidence of kidney cancer over time, the department recommends that a feasibility study as determined by the New Hampshire Cancer Concern Investigation Protocol, Phase 3 be conducted. The general court further finds that a Phase 3 feasibility study would determine if an epidemiological study (Phase 4) is warranted and would identify appropriate cancers and health outcomes for inclusion in such study.

2 Appropriation; Department of Health and Humans Services; Phase 3 Feasibility Study.

I. There is hereby appropriated the sum of $500,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, to the department of health and human services to enter into a contract with an academic or research organization to complete a New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study for the town of Merrimack to further understand potential exposures that may contribute to the excess of kidney cancer incidence in Merrimack and identify any next steps warranted. Such funds shall be nonlapsing and appropriated to the department for the purposes of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

II. In order to provide funding for said appropriation, and subject to prior review by the joint legislative oversight committee on health and human services established in RSA 126-A:13, the department shall first use any available grant funding or any other non-state funds which may be used for this purpose.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

LBA
23-0256
Amended 3/6/23

HB 614-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2023-0533h)

AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund the Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility study.

FISCAL IMPACT: [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local [ ] None

	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
STATE:	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**
Appropriation	$0	$500,000	$0	$0
Revenue	$0	$0	$0	$0
Expenditures	$0	$250,000	$250,000	$0
Funding Source:	[X] General [ ] Education [ ] Highway [X] Other - Grants or other available sources of non-state funding.			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill appropriates $500,000 for the FY24/25 biennium to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of contracting with an academic or research organization to complete a NH Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study for the town of Merrimack. The bill requires that prior to any general funds being used, the Department shall first use any available grants or other non-state funding sources. The Department states that the appropriation would be used as follows:

- One contracted, full-time statistical research analyst (estimated salary and benefits of $160,000 per year, or $320,000 over the two-year period);
- One contracted, part-time community engagement specialist (estimated salary of $30,000 per year, or $60,000 over the two-year period);
- Community engagement activities ($50,000 per year, or $100,000 over the two-year period); and
- $20,000 for equipment needs and indirect costs.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Health and Human Services