

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

SB 421, relative to the membership and duties of the trauma medical review committee.

Hearing Date: January 14, 2026

Time Opened: 9:30 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:40 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Altschiller

Bill Analysis: This bill amends the membership of and adds an additional duty to the trauma medical review committee.

Sponsors:

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Lang

Sen. Watters

Sen. Carson

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Avard

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. McGough

Sen. Birdsell

Who supports the bill: Senator Tim McGough, Senator Howard Pearl, Senator Donovan Fenton, Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Dr. Rajan Gupta

Who opposes the bill: No one.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Sue Prentiss

- Senator Prentiss' career has been focused on emergency medical care and advancing trauma systems in America.
- It has been a long time since this committee related to trauma care and other such issues has been updated (1999)
- Trauma is the leading cause of death, age adjusted. Yet, there is a lot we can do to prevent trauma

- All four levels of trauma centers should be represented on this committee. Currently the committee make up is tilted heavily to one level, rather than capturing the full range.
- Also, we would include a survivor of trauma and an injury prevention representative.
- Additionally, we would like to look at the annual reporting requirement. It does not yet get the light of day it deserves. We are focused on traffic safety currently, so we should buttress this by getting more data to the Governor and relevant officials. There are currently data sets but are spread between DHHS and DOS.
- Brought forward Amendment 0081s
 - This would also include a physician or physician designee (e.g. nurse practitioner) on the committee.
 - Specific to treatment of physical injuries from trauma.
 - As well as a representative from the NH Office of Highway Safety.

Dr. Rajan Gupta (Elliot Hospital Trauma Director)

- I have lived in New Hampshire for 15-20 years, previously at Dartmouth as Trauma Director. I have served on this committee 2010-2014 as well as numerous other boards with national experience in trauma journals and study.
- In the 1970's-1980's the medical community focused on survivability and trauma center development.
- Today, survivability is significantly better. We have to expand our goals to help people who survive trauma to get back into being full members of communities. There are many factors that go into trauma care that are not yet represented. Trauma treatment has changed over the years which is why we should change the make-up of the committee.

Senator Gannon asked what having Highway Safety expert would bring to the committee, if they have no medical knowledge.

Senator Prentiss says that actually is the benefit. There is a gap on the committee which is full of medical professionals. Safety is an important and relevant part of the process, which needs a voice on the committee.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.