

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Kevin Condict 271-7875

HB 214-FN, relative to the regulation of recreational therapists and respiratory care practitioners.

Hearing Date: April 9, 2025

Time Opened: 9:20 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:23 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Gannon

Bill Analysis: This bill clarifies the rulemaking authority of the executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification (OPLC) with regards to the regulation of recreational therapists and respiratory care practitioners and adds sections relating to criminal history records checks and privileged communications to the chapters on the regulation of recreational therapists and respiratory care practitioners to be more consistent with other OPLC-related chapters.

This bill is at the request of the OPLC.

Sponsors:

Rep. C. McGuire

Who supports the bill: Rep. Carol McGuire (Merr. 27), Rep. Jaci Grote (Rock. 24), Karina Bonilla (NASWNH), and Sarahlynn Williams.

Who opposes the bill: Daniel Richardson.

Who is neutral on the bill: Dir. Dee Jurius (OPLC), Nik Frye (OPLC), and Sarahlynn Williams.

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Carol McGuire, Merrimack 27

- Rep. McGuire introduced House Bill 214-FN.

- Rep. McGuire explained this bill was a request of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC). She said the intent is to align the statute of recreational therapists and respiratory care therapists with other similar statutes.
- Rep. McGuire stated this bill completes the elimination of the Allied Health Board, which was repealed in HB 2 two years ago.
- Rep. McGuire said the only difference is that the criminal record check has new language because they found out from the Department of Safety (DOS) that the existing language was not what they and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) preferred. She said the intent of that background check was the same.

Nik Frye, Office of Professional Licensure and Certification

- Mr. Frye explained that the Allied Health Board is now an advisory board under OPLC. He said OPLC wants to make the language in this statute mirror what other advisory boards and health boards look like.
- Mr. Frye said they worked with the DOS on the language for criminal background checks.
- Sen. Pearl asked if the criminal record check would satisfy what the FBI wants.
 - o Mr. Frye said they looked at what the Department of Education had done recently, drafted language, and had the language reviewed by the DOS.

KC
Date Hearing Report completed: April 11, 2025