

Senate Judiciary Committee

Matthew Schelzi 271-3266

SB 420, relative to requiring an additional report from the legislative study committee concerning the long-term impact of the New Hampshire adult parole system.

Hearing Date: February 1, 2024

Time Opened: 10:01 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:05 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Gannon, Whitley and Chandley

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Abbas

Bill Analysis: This bill requires an additional report from the legislative study committee concerning the long-term impact of the New Hampshire adult parole system.

Sponsors:

Sen. Whitley

Sen. Watters

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Avarad

Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Soucy

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Chandley

Rep. Meuse

Rep. Wheeler

Who supports the bill: Sen. Whitley (SD-15), Commissioner Helen Hanks (NHDOC), Sen. Perkins Kwoka (SD-21), Sen. Fenton (SD-10), Claudia Damon, David Holt, Claudia Istel, Louise Spencer, Richard DeMark, Sandy Blanchard, Alrieda Englund, Margaret Keeler, Ann Sweet, Andrew Jones, Gary Devore, Susan Moore, Susan Richman, Ann Rettew, Dexter Keegan, Sen. Watters (SD-4), Maura Willing, Ruth Perencevich, Kim Marie Fudge, Nancy Brennan, Karen Campbell, and Michael Fraysse.

Who opposes the bill: Daniel Richardson.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Becky Whitley said SB 420 is a bill that would continue the work of the SB 251 Study committee that the Legislature passed last session. She said the Committee to Study the Long-Term Impact of the New Hampshire Adult Parole System conducted extensive work and heard from a variety of stakeholders where they learned a lot of information. The issues facing the parole system are quite complex. The Committee

feels as though there is more work to be done, and that they had only just scratched the surface. She said the Committee has heard that the Council for State Government is doing great work with the Governor's Advisory Commission on the Corrections System, and she would like to maintain legislative involvement in that work.

Senator Carson asked if the SB 251 Committee is still in existence.

Sen. Whitley said there was no sunset on the committee, so this bill would require another report. This bill was the Office of Legislative Service's legal recommendation as to how they can continue the committee.

Sen. Carson didn't understand how the Committee could issue a report if it wasn't still together. She would like to see an extension of the reporting date in this legislation.

Sen. Whitley said the Committee did not have a sunset date, but there was no legislative authority to report back to the Legislature.

Sen. Carson said she would also like to see an ending date to the Committee.

Sen. Whitley said she would agree.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.