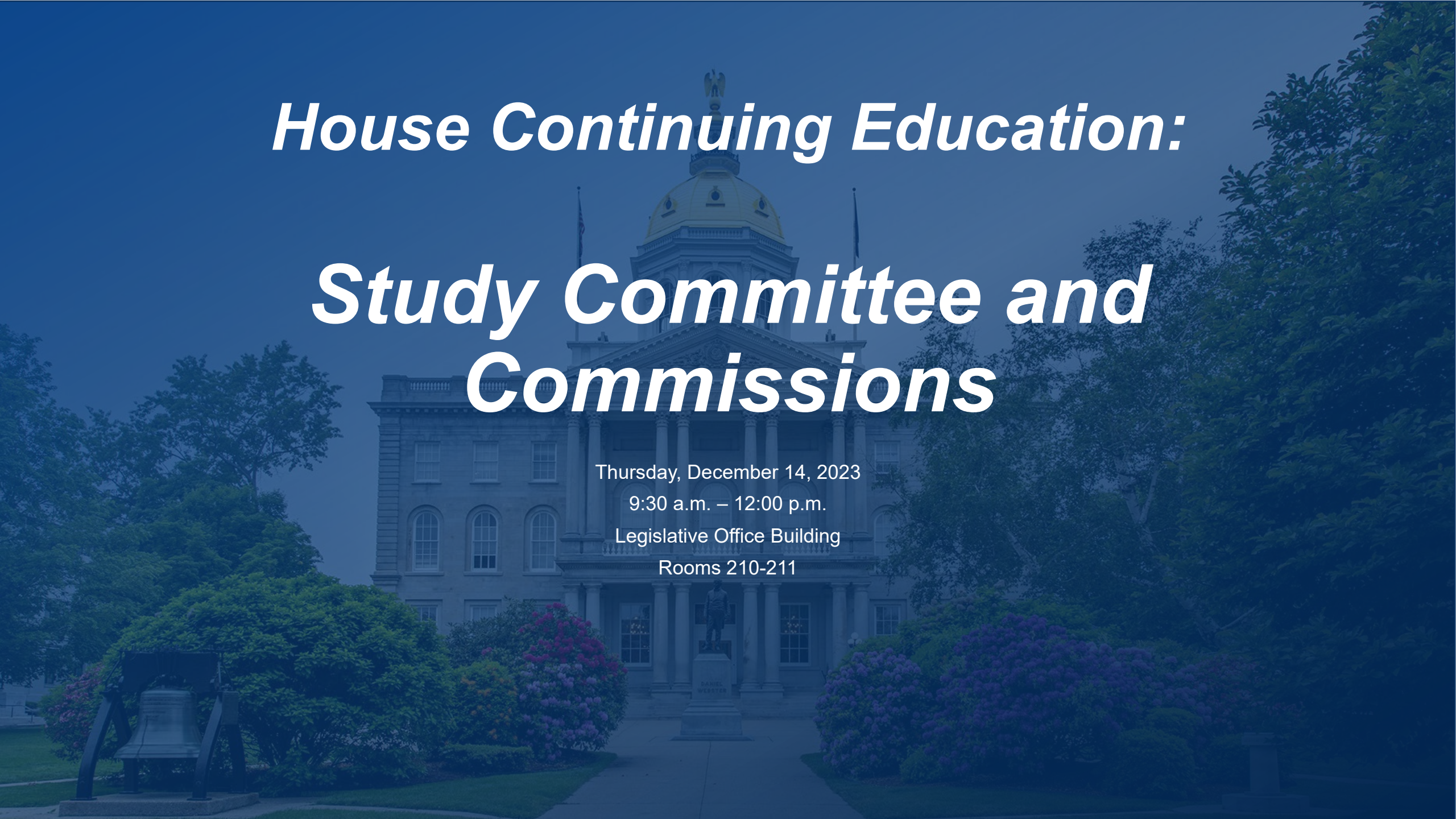




House Continuing Education: Study Committee and Commissions

Thursday, December 14, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Legislative Office Building

Rooms 210-211



Welcome

Speaker Sherm Packard



Introduction

Rep. Karen Ebel, Facilitator



Agenda

Study Overview and Methods –

Staff Panel

Member Panel

Q&A

Conclusion – Rep. Karen Ebel

Study Overview and Methods

Staff Panel

House Legal Counsel Jim Ciani

House Clerk Paul Smith

Legislative Services Director Dave Alukonis

House Deputy Chief of Staff Debra Childs

House Committee Services Director Ann FitzGerald



House Legal Counsel and House Clerk

- Overview of RSA 14:49

TITLE I THE STATE AND ITS GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 14 LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS AND PROCEEDINGS Legislation Impacting Local Revenues and Expenditures

Section 14:49

14:49 Legislative Study Committees and Commissions. –

- I. (a) For the purpose of this paragraph, " study committee " shall mean a committee, commission, task force, council, or any other similar entity established by the general court in chapter law to study or otherwise address a specified issue, and shall not include any similar entities that are codified in statute.
- (b) Every study committee which is established by the general court shall be repealed either upon the filing of a final report or on November 1 in the even-numbered year prior to the beginning of the subsequent biennial session, whichever is earlier.
- (c) The membership of a study committee established by the general court shall be limited to members of the general court only.
- (d) The chairperson of a study committee established by the general court shall, in addition to any other reporting requirements, electronically file the final report with the clerk of the house of representatives and the clerk of the senate, and the clerks of the respective bodies shall post the report on the general court website. The clerks of the respective bodies shall then send a copy of the report to the standing committee of each body with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the report.
- II. (a) For the purpose of paragraph II, " commission " shall mean a committee, commission, task force, council, or any other similar entity established by the general court and codified in the Revised Statutes Annotated for a specific term to study or otherwise address a specified issue, and shall not include any similar entities that are not a study committee as defined in paragraph I.
- (b) The term of the commission shall be specified and the commission's statutory authorization shall be repealed no later than 5 years after the date it becomes effective, unless subsequent legislation is passed to extend the commission's existence.
- (c) No commission shall have more than 15 members and may include appointees who are not members of the general court. The legislative members of the commission shall constitute a majority of the commission. The term of members of the general court who serve on a commission shall be coterminous with their term in office, unless they are appointed in a capacity other than their legislative office.
- (d) In addition to any other reporting requirements, the chairperson of each commission established by the general court shall electronically file the final report with the clerk of the house of representatives or clerk of the senate, and the clerks of the respective bodies shall post the report on the general court website. The clerks of the respective bodies shall then send a copy of the report to the standing committee of each body with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the report.
- (e) House and senate committee services staff shall jointly prepare an updated index of all commissions with relevant information annually. This list shall be provided to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the standing committee chairs with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the commissions by January 15 of each year.

Source. 1993, 343:1. 2010, 232:1. 2011, 163:1, eff. Aug. 13, 2011. 2022, 323:31, eff. Sept. 6, 2022.



House Legal Counsel *and House Clerk*

- Review legislation
- Communication with appointing authorities
- System input and maintenance
- Upcoming legislation

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Office of Legislative Services

- Bill drafting process
 - No formal process to follow for creating Commissions¹
 - Confidentiality
 - “Notwithstanding”
- 2024 Filings

Some Commissions are created after they leave OLS.



Appointments



- Notification of Appointments
- Review RSA
- Solicit/ receive interest and recommendations
- Review with Speaker
- Speaker makes decision
- Approve mileage
- Receive Reports

We all receive a lot of Commission-related questions.



House Committee Services

- First named Member schedules Organizational meeting with HCS
- Committee Assistants support Commission clerically
- Researchers staff or monitor Commissions
- Chair elected at first meeting if quorum exists
- Researchers assist in preparation of final report, distributed by administrative staff



House Committee Services

Report Library: 1981-Present



Study Overview and Methods

Member Panel

Deputy Speaker Steve Smith

Chairman Greg Hill

Speaker Emeritus Steve Shurtleff

Chairman John Hunt

Representative Marjorie Smith



Deputy Speaker Steve Smith

- Something Needs to be Studied
- Bill Sponsor Obligations
- Standing Committee Process





Chairman Greg Hill

- First Named Member Responsibilities
- Chair Obligations
- Reporting Deadline
- Working with Agencies
- Legislative Administration

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Speaker Emeritus Steve Shurtleff

- Serving as a Member of a Study
- Example: John G. Winant Memorial Commission



Chairman John Hunt

- Effective use of Subcommittees to perform a Study

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Representative Marjorie Smith

- Utilizing the right Study vehicle and members to accomplish goal
- QR Code tutorial

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Q & A

Conclusion