State of New Hampshire

GENERAL COURT

CONCORD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: **October 1, 2024**

TO: **Honorable Sherman Packard, Speaker of the House**
Honorable Jeb Bradley, President of the Senate
Honorable Paul C. Smith, House Clerk
Honorable Tammy L. Wright, Senate Clerk
Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor
Honorable Wayne MacDonald
Chairman – House Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs
Vice Chairman – Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Honorable Erica Layon, Vice Chairman
House Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs
Honorable Regina Birdsell, Chairman
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Kevin Avard, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Mark Pearson, Chairman
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Michael York, State Librarian

FROM: **Honorable Jess Edwards, Chairman**

SUBJECT: **Annual Report of the Joint Committee on Emerging Medical Technologies**
RSA 126-A:15-b (HB 323, Chapter 128:2, Laws of 2023)

Pursuant to RSA 126-A:15-b (HB 323, Chapter 128:2, Laws of 2023), enclosed please find the inaugural Annual Report of the Joint Committee on Emerging Medical Technologies. If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you to the members of the committee who participated in the committee's inaugural meeting and weighing in on the scope of this report. I would also like to acknowledge those who contributed during the inaugural meeting.

Enclosures

cc: Members of the Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

Joint Committee on Emerging Medical Technology

RSA 126-A:15-b (HB 323, Chapter 128:2, Laws of 2023)

October 1, 2024

Representative Jess Edwards, Chairman
Representative Katelyn Kuttab
Representative James Murphy
Representative William Palmer
Senator Suzanne Prentiss
Senator Regina Birdsell, Alternate

Committee Charge and Study Purpose:

Pursuant to RSA 126-A:15-b (HB323, Chapter 128:2, Laws of 2023), the Committee shall solicit information and testimony from the public, state agencies, the attorney general, industry representatives with a special focus on medical and technical knowledge and challenges, health care providers and their associations, insurance companies, patient and consumer advocacy groups and any others who have an interest in emerging medical technologies and shall:

(a) Review topics of public interest surrounding the availability of emerging medical technologies including but not limited to:

(1) Expanding access to clinical trials in both academic and community settings;

(2) The role of biomarkers;

(3) Pursuing access through compassionate care programs for medically appropriate patients; and

(4) Removing barriers to access for emerging medical technologies.

(b) Review safety of emerging medical technologies including but not limited to:

(1) Working with the board of medicine to find appropriate ways to identify safety risks of emerging technologies, and in particular implantable medical devices, including an early warning system for surgeons or interventionalists who experience higher than expected adverse events or implant failures in order to facilitate remediation or other efforts to protect the health and safety of the public;

(2) Identifying safety signals in available data which warrant investigation, and identification of the appropriate body to conduct such an investigation; and

(3) Policies, laws or administrative rules which impact the public disclosure or withholding of safety concerns surrounding emerging medical technologies.

(c) Study barriers to expanding the presence of emerging medical technology companies and their suppliers in New Hampshire.

(d) Other issues surrounding emerging medical technology, as deemed relevant by the committee.

(e) Make specific recommendations regarding legislation or investigation relative to emerging medical technologies. The committee may make such recommendations as needed.

Process and Procedures:

The committee met and organized on September 17, 2024 and elected Representative Jess Edwards as Chair. The Chair retained the role as committee clerk until the committee is reconstituted in 2025.

Findings:

The committee determined that there is a broad range of medical technologies which can impact the cost, quality, and access to care while making a positive impact on jobs. It found that the state may be able to identify long-term opportunities and recommend approaches to allow those medical technologies to improve the lives of the residents of New Hampshire.

Recommendations:

Continue with the committee with the goal of next meeting late February 2025. The objective will include identifying thought leaders to help educate the committee on high potential emerging medical technologies. The charge and study purpose will likely be a topic for future legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Representative Jess Edwards, Chairman

Enclosure (Draft Minutes 17 September 2024)

DRAFT v21 MINUTES – Not for Comment Until Next Public Meeting

Committee on Emerging Medical Technologies - House Bill 323 (Laws of 2023)

This was the inaugural meeting and began at 1pm on 17 September in the House Finance meeting room of the LOB per the House Calendar. No virtual meeting was offered. Those in attendance included:

Rep Katelyn Kuttab (member), Rep William Palmer (member), Rep Jess Edwards (member), Rep Gary Merchant (invited), Rep Jerry Stringham (invited), Mr. John Williams (invited), Commissioner Denis Goulet (invited), Mr. Kirk Williamson (invited), Ms. Jody Grimbilas, (invited), Mr. Shaun Thomas (invited), Mr. Ben Bradley (invited), and others

Members unable to attend included Sen. Suzanne Prentiss, Sen Regina Birdsell, Rep James Murphy

Meeting opened with a discussion of the statutory and informal purpose and value of the Committee with the view of deciding if the committee ought to meet again next term with the election results reflected. The vote was 5-0 among the legislators to recommend that the committee meet next year with the understanding that the committee automatically is set to expire in 2028 if insufficient value is contributed.

We had a quorum of members and elected Rep Edwards to chair on a 3-2 vote of the legislators present regardless of official capacity on the committee.

We discussed thought leaders that would be important to bringing emerging technology information to the committee for consideration. Those leaders discussed, without eliminating other potential thought leaders, included:

- UNH, Dartmouth, Tufts?
- NH Department of Insurance
- NH Department of Health and Human Services (POC Dr. Ballard)
- DOIT (POC Mr. Goulet)
- Prescription Drug Affordability Board (POC Mr. Williamson)
- US Army Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center
- MDMA
- MassMedic
- Bio
- Pharma
- NH Life Science of Manchester (POC Andrea Hechavarria)
- Mass General

- ReGen Valley Tech Hub (look at their five pillars) (POC Jennifer MacDonald (jmacdonald@armiusa.org))

We reviewed the statutory purposes of the committee and generally agreed without any action recommended to tweak the legislative purposes if appropriate not sooner than the 2026 session.

We agreed that the informal vision for this committee may be to look at the broad spectrum of "technologies", understanding that the medical capability and patient delivery will be different 5-10 years from now. Our goal is to bring thought leaders into telling this committee what those highest potential technologies are so that we can make NH a leading state for healthcare innovation. The purpose is to manage the four-legged stool of access, quality, cost and job growth.

We noted potentially related legislation related to a study of private plans to replace all copper infrastructure with fiber over a three-year project plan.

Topics to be looked at as “technologies” include but are not limited to AI, Cybersecurity, Biomarkers, Genetic engineered “personal” pharmaceuticals, and biomedical devices.

We agreed that a “less is more” first annual report should be published NLT 1 October 2024 and distributed per statute. Rep Edwards will draft and it will be reviewed one on one so that a final version is ready by the due date.

After discussing the steps needed for the new Speaker and Senate President to appoint members in the new term, we agreed to aim at the end of February 2025 for our next official meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:10pm.