RSA 126-A:13
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
February 22, 2019
LOB 205

Present: Representatives Weber, Campion, MacKay, McMahon, Nordgren; Senator Rosenwald
Absent: Senators Fuller-Clark and Bradley

1. Call to Order

Rep. Weber called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

She asked the committee to nominate a committee chair for the 2019-2020 session. Rep. Campion nominated Rep. Weber, and was seconded by Senator Rosenwald. Rep. Weber was elected on a voice vote.

Rep. Weber asked the committee to nominated a vice-chair. Rep. McMahon nominated Rep. MacKay and was seconded by Senator Rosenwald. Rep. MacKay was elected on a voice vote.

Rep. Weber asked who might be willing to serve as the committee clerk, and Rep. Campion volunteered.

2. Committee Overview: John Williams, DHHS Director of Legislative Affairs

Mr. Williams distributed RSA 126-A:15 outlining the duties of HHS Oversight and reviewed it with the committee.

3. Subcommittee Request: Representative Mark Pearson

Rep. Pearson explained that in the previous session he had chaired the Study Commission on Environmentally-Triggered Chronic Illness. In the course of that work he found that the Department of Health and Human Services had data on unusual illnesses, and that the Department of Environmental Services had data on areas with unusual toxicity, but that unless there is a major issue, the data sets are not correlated. He sponsored a bill in 2018 to facilitate closer collaboration between the departments on environmental health issues, and had received feedback from the departments that a small subcommittee of HHS Oversight would be a useful way for the departments to have ongoing communication with the legislature around these issues.

Rep. Campion asked if any pilot projects were currently ongoing, as referenced in HB 736. Rep. Pearson explained that there were not, although Senator Sherman had submitted a bill (SB 81) to fund new environmental health related positions at DHHS.

Senator Rosenwald asked how the subcommittee would differ in its focus from the Commission to Study Environmentally-Triggered Chronic Illness, which HB 736 seeks to re-establish. Rep. Pearson explained that that depended on where the members of that study commission chose to focus. John Williams explained that the House HHSEA committee would need to decide what to do with HB 736. The Department testimony at the hearing on HB 736 was that they would prefer a subcommittee of HHS

Oversight. Rep. Weber suggested that the subcommittee might differ in that it would be smaller, nimbler and have the latitude to dissolve if the members felt its work was completed.

After discussion it was agreed that Rep. Pearson would draft a formal proposal outlining the scope and membership of the subcommittee for consideration at the next meeting. By that point the HHSEA committee will have determined its recommendation on HB 736, which may be a consideration.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM. The next meeting will be held on March 22nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Polly Campion,
Grafton District 12