HOUSE BILL 484

AN ACT establishing a commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.


COMMITTEE: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics**. Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough]. Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.
AN ACT establishing a commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

197:1 Statement of Intent.

I. The general court recognizes that the department of health and human services found on February 2, 2016 the existence of the first cancer cluster ever identified in the state of New Hampshire. Specifically, the department found higher than expected incidences of 2 forms of pediatric cancer, rhabdomyosarcoma and pleuropulmonary blastoma, in a 5-town area of the seacoast.

II. Therefore, the general court hereby establishes a commission to investigate and analyze the findings and related materials, develop prioritized governmental and community actions, and report recommendations for proposed legislation.

197:2 New Subdivision; Commission on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation. Amend RSA 126-A by inserting after section 72 the following new subdivision:

Commission on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation

126-A:73 Commission on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation Established; Membership; Duties.

I. There is established the commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.

II. (a) The members of the commission shall be as follows:

(1) Five members of the house of representatives, 3 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and 2 appointed by the minority leader.

(2) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the president of the senate.

(3) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.

(4) The commissioner of the department of environmental services, or designee.

(5) A representative from each of the towns and cities of Portsmouth, Greenland, New Castle, Hampton, North Hampton, and Rye appointed by the governing body of such town or city.

(6) Three residents of the seacoast, appointed by the governor.

(7) The New Hampshire remedial project manager, United States Environmental
Protection Agency, or designee.

(8) A hydrogeologist, appointed by the New Hampshire chapter of the United States Geological Survey.

(9) A toxicologist or environmental health professor from Boston University or the university of New Hampshire, appointed by the governor.

(b) Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

III.(a) In response to the department of health and human services' findings on February 2, 2016, the commission shall:

(1) Develop a common understanding of the key definitions and concepts of cancer clusters and environmental investigation.

(2) Review the progress made by state and federal agencies and their partners.

(3) Delineate the potential roles and responsibilities for municipalities, state agencies, and their partners.

(4) Provide informed communication about the cancer cluster investigation to their constituencies.

(5) Calibrate and utilize the Seacoast New Hampshire Groundwater Availability Study developed by the United States Geological Survey in 2003 to assess localized groundwater flow and contaminant migration from sites selected by the commission.

(b) The commission shall solicit information from any person or entity the commission deems relevant to its study.

IV. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Eleven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

V. The commission shall make 2 interim reports, one on or before November 1, 2017, and one on or before November 1, 2018, and issue a final report on its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the oversight committee on health and human services, and the state library on or before June 30, 2020.

197:3 Repeal. RSA 126-A:73, relative to the commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation, is repealed.

197:4 Contingent Renumbering. If HB 511 of the 2017 legislative session becomes law, then RSA 126-A:73 as inserted by section 2 and repealed by 3 of this act shall be renumbered as RSA 126-A:74.

197:5 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2020.
II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: July 05, 2017
Effective Date:
I. Section 3 effective June 30, 2020
II. Remainder effective July 5, 2017