

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
Tricia Melillo 271-3077

HB 332, relative to deadlines for consideration of developments of regional impact by planning boards.

Hearing Date: April 26, 2021

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill clarifies the date upon which planning boards begin formal consideration of plats relating to developments of regional impact.

Sponsors:

Rep. Seaworth

Sen. Birdsell

Who supports the bill: Senator Regina Birdsell, Rep. Brian Seaworth, Cordell Johnston

Who opposes the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Brian Seaworth

- HB 332 makes a simple change to the law that will create an even playing field when there is a finding of development of regional impact.
- Development of Regional Impact is a situation when a planning board application impacts communities outside the boards jurisdiction.
- The RSA's that govern the Regional Planning Commission specify the procedure for what follows.
- Each of the impacted communities and the Regional Planning Commission itself are formally notified.
- Next, each community is given the equivalent of abutter status in a public hearing.
- When this happens, it delays the evaluation of the application and typically that is about a month.
- This bill adds 30 days to the allowed time for a decision when the DRI process is invoked.
- It will automatically give the planning board and all the participants in the review back the time lost going through the DRI process.
- This change will smooth the process all around and allow both applicants and the board to focus on the merits of the application and less on administrative compliance with the RSAs.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 29, 2021