

# Senate Transportation Committee

*Peter O'Neill 271-4151*

**HB 412**, re-establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements.

**Hearing Date:** April 4, 2023

**Time Opened:** 1:41 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 1:49 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Ricciardi, Watters, Ward, Gendreau and Fenton

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill re-establishes a study commission on revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of improvements to state highways and bridges.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. McConkey

Rep. Ebel

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**Who supports the bill:** Rep. McConkey, Dan Bennett; NH Auto Dealers Association, Sam Evans-Brown; Clean Energy NH, Jennifer Smith

**Who opposes the bill:** Mark Caton

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None

**Summary of Testimony Presented:**

**Rep. Mark McConkey**

- Rep. McConkey said HB 412 established a commission to analyze revenue alternatives to the road toll.
- Additional funding for highways and bridges would help to improve the environment.
- He said with the introduction of electric vehicles, going forward, there is no way to capture the loss of revenue.

- A house bill came out from last year, HB 1040, to help deal with this issue. However, when the House was able to appoint people to commissions, there was only time for two meetings and a final report.
- The commission would also want a member from the Senate this time.
- Senator Watters said the commission on EV infrastructure a number of years ago had its duty was to keep looking at the EV issues. Would there be a way to consult with EV infrastructure about the loss of revenue.
  - o Rep. McConkey asked if Sen. Watters was asking about the federal issues.
  - o Sen. Watters said no and that he was referring to the New Hampshire Transportation Council. Part of the duties that him and Rep. Smith put in there would be the hand off of working on electric vehicle infrastructure and issues with it. He wondered if this had already been done.
  - o Rep. McConkey said didn't know but could find out.
  - o Sen. Watters said if Rep. McConkey talked with Jim Jalbert, it might make sense to have a member of the transportation council on the commission to help with coordination.
  - o Sen. Watters said this was an important issue. There is a senate bill of a \$100 surcharge covering roughly the same topic. Sen. Watters asked if there was a conflict if this bill passed and the Senate bill passed.
  - o Rep. McConkey said there would not be a conflict.

**Sam Evans Brown, Executive Director of Clean Energy New Hampshire**

- Mr. Evans Brown said Clean Energy New Hampshire was in support of the bill and came to present information.
- ISO New England helps with electricity and electric load in the region.
- There is a projection of a 10 fold increase in electric vehicles in New Hampshire and 50 fold of New England states. Gas taxes are important to keep.
- He said he was glad to see the commission. Clean Energy New Hampshire is trying to have the taxes set up for revenue as well.
- Sb 191 is a good first step to transition to electric vehicles. The important part would be to not shortchanging the institutions in the interim of the transition.