

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Chantell Wheeler 271-1403

HB 1681-FN, relative to the state building code and the state fire code.

Hearing Date: March 23, 2022

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Reagan, Ricciardi and Prentiss

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Cavanaugh

Bill Analysis: This bill:

I. Revises the definition of the state building code.

II. Addresses the version of the building code applicable immediately following adoption of an updated edition, and clarifies the role of the state building code review board.

III. Requires municipalities to submit local building ordinances to the state building code review board for informational purposes.

IV. Revises the definition of the New Hampshire fire code.

V. Ratifies amendments to the state fire code.

Sponsors:

Rep. McGuire
Sen. Carson

Rep. Pimentel
Sen. Cavanaugh

Sen. Reagan
Sen. Prentiss

Who supports the bill: Senators Cavanaugh, Reagan and Carson, Rep. McGuire, Adam Schmidt (N.H. Association of Fire Chiefs), Rowan Ferrier (Home Builders), Steven Paquin (N.H. Building Officials), Sean Toomey, State Fire Marshall, Kelly Buchanan (Clean Energy N.H.), Gary Abbott (Associated General Contractors), Natch Greyes (N.H. Municipal Association), Steven Rancourt (Electrical Contractors Business Association)

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative McGuire:

- Strongly supports this bill that updates the state fire and building code and provides a 6-month grace period for constructions projects in progress at the time of the code update.
- This bill includes all the amendments adopted by the review boards.

Senator Carson asked if this bill would bring N.H. up to one code cycle behind. Rep. McGuire confirmed this is accurate.

Sean Toomey, N.H. State Fire Marshall

- Marshall Toomey explained that the 2021 codes are out and are being reviewed.
- Marshall Toomey reported that SB 398 was amended to be effective upon passage and suggested that this bill could be amended to match SB 398.

Gary Abbott, Associated General Contractors of N.H.

- Mr. Abbott stated his strong support for this bill as a priority.
- The 6-month grace period is greatly appreciated.
- Agreed with the suggestion to amend the effective date to match prior bills.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 24, 2022