

Senate Transportation Committee

Kirsten Koch 271-3266

HB 298, adding a member to the aviation users advisory board.

Hearing Date: March 16, 2021

Time Opened: 1:15 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:25 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Birdsell, Watters, Ricciardi, Ward and Sherman

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill adds a representative of the unmanned aircraft systems industry to the aviation users advisory board.

Sponsors:

Rep. Weyler

Rep. L. Ober

Rep. R. Ober

Rep. Torosian

Rep. Jack

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Daniels

Sen. Bradley

Who supports the bill: Senator Birdsell, District 19; Senator Gary Daniels, District 11; Tricia Lambert, Bureau of Aeronautics, NHDOT; Chris Nevins, Hampton, NH; Diane Schuett.

Who opposes the bill: Robin Vogt

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of Testimony Presented:

Senator Birdsell, District 19

- Senator Birdsell introduced the bill and testified in support of the bill.
- Senator Birdsell said, this bill adds a representative of the unmanned aircraft systems industry to the aviation users advisory board.

Tricia Lambert, Bureau of Aeronautics, NHDOT

- Ms. Lambert testified in support of the bill.
- Ms. Lambert said, the aviation users board delivers a report to Bureau of Aeronautics at NHDOT.
- Ms. Lambert said, the NHDOT is beginning to spend a lot of time on unmanned aircraft and needs someone with expertise to advise on the industry.
- Ms. Lambert said, drones are being used for regulatory work and used on highways.

Chris Nevins, Chair of the Aviation Users Board

- Mr. Nevins testified in support of the bill.
- Mr. Nevins said he requested this legislation.
- Mr. Nevins said, the board wants to add a person with technical competence in unmanned aircrafts (drones) to please their collaboration with the NHDOT.
- Senator Watters said, looking forward, I imagine there will be some federal action on vehicles with vertical takeoff and landing drone. Do you think there will need to be some state legislative action on this?
 - Mr. Nevins said, if we are doing all this for drones of 55lbs or less, I would think we would need to do something. Those vehicles, some can be referred to as an air taxi, others would call it a helicopter. I would guess, yes, it is going to happen and there is probably going to be a need to legislate when it comes to that.
- Senator Birdsell asked, any idea how far ahead we should be looking to start having to deal with legislation?
 - Mr. Nevins said, it is never too late. If you would like to get some information, then contact the board. We have a meeting coming up at the end of the week. We can add this topic to our agenda.

KNK

Date Hearing Report completed: March 17, 2021