

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Daley Frenette 271-3042

SB 370-FN, allowing the university system and community college system to be municipal host electric customer generators.

Hearing Date: January 11, 2022

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Avar, Giuda, Gray, Watters and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill amends the definition of municipal host to include the university of New Hampshire and community college systems.

Sponsors:

Sen. Perkins Kwoka	Sen. Watters	Sen. Avar
Sen. Cavanaugh	Sen. Prentiss	Sen. Sherman
Sen. Rosenwald	Sen. Kahn	Sen. Soucy
Sen. Whitley	Sen. D'Allesandro	Rep. M. Smith
Rep. Somssich	Rep. Wall	

Who supports the bill: Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Senate District 21, Kelly Buchanan, Clean Energy New Hampshire, Rob Werner, League of Conservation Voters, Tom Cronin, University of New Hampshire, Representative Janet Wall, Strafford District 6, Senator David Watters, Senate District 4, Senator Kevin Cavanaugh, Senate District 16, Senator Kevin Avar, Senate District 12, Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Senate District 13, Senator Tom Sherman, Senate District 24, Senator Donna Soucy, Senate District 18, Heidi Kroll, Brookfield Power, Paul Worsowicz, Granite State Hydropower Association.

Who opposes the bill: None.

Who is neutral on the bill: Josh Elliot, Department of Energy.

Summary of testimony presented: Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka

- Senator Perkins Kwoka explained that the bill would allow the New Hampshire university system, community college system, and Pease Development Authority to be political subdivisions.
- She clarified that SB 370 is submitted at the request of the University of New Hampshire in collaboration with eh Pease Development Authority.

- Senator Perkins Kwoka brought forward an amendment to the bill that names the Pease Development Authority as a government entity that would be able to take advantage of the exception to net metering that the bill provides.
- Senator Watters questioned Senator Perkins Kwoka about the language of the amendment on lines 17-18 regarding entities funded by the government. Senator Perkins Kwoka clarified that consideration was given to this language due to the Pease Development Authorities status as government entity. She explained that the language of the amendment is to clarify that any state public entity would qualify under this bill. Senator Perkins Kwoka clarified she would be open to changes to the language.
- Senator Bob Giuda shared his concerns that the bills current language may be too expansive. Senator Giuda, Senator Perkins Kwoka, and Senator Watters agreed that if changes to the language were made it may ease their concerns.

Kelly Buchanan, Clean Energy New Hampshire

- Ms. Buchanan expressed support for the bill explaining that it reflects the nature of the university system in New Hampshire as well as the other entities mentioned in the bill more clearly.
- She explained that the University of New Hampshire is interested in participating however, they were told that they were ineligible. She sees this as a confusion in regards to the definition of a political sub division because the University of New Hampshire is a higher education entity.

Tom Cronin, Director of Government Relations, University System of New Hampshire,
Matt O'Keefe, Director of Energy and Utilities at the university of New Hampshire.
Provided Written Testimony.

- Mr. Cronin invited his colleague, Matt O'Keefe to speak with him. Mr. O'Keefe is the Director of Energy and Utilities at the University of New Hampshire.
- Mr. Cronin asked the committee to specifically call out the University System of New Hampshire and the Community College System of New Hampshire in the language of the SB 259 and SB 370-FN.
- Mr. O'Keefe came forward and explained that the University of New Hampshire is looking forward to participating in the program.
- Senator Avard asked how this will benefit the town of Durham. Mr. O'Keefe responded by explaining that Durham and the University of New Hampshire share a number of utility systems including Durham's wastewater system that the University of New Hampshire uses. The University of New Hampshire operates a water treatment facility that provides the drinking water for Durham. They operate these facilities through a shared cost system.

- Mr. Cronin added that they hope that this bill will help bring down the cost of energy at the University of New Hampshire and across the university and community college system.

Josh Elliot, Director of Policy and Programs, Department of Energy.

- Mr. Elliot pointed out it may be prudent to combine SB 370-FN and SB 259. The bills amend the same section of statute, and they may interfere with each other as separate bills.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 14, 2022