



New Hampshire Senate

NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Rules Committee votes to consolidate bills *Bipartisan agreement will streamline legislation in 2021*

CONORD, NH — On a 6-0 vote, members of the Senate Rules Committee today agreed to consolidate all bills for the coming session into categories, clearing the way for better facilitation when public hearings are held remotely beginning in January. Senators called the bi-partisan accomplishment a “great collaboration”.

Chairman Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro) thanked all 24 senators for their willingness to participate in the process and staffers who worked so diligently to organize some 250 bills. He said, “We may not agree on the content of every bill, but I believe the process that the Select Committee on Legislation undertook to categorize all of the proposed legislation was fair and inclusive.” Bradley also thanked Senators Sharon Carson and Cindy Rosenwald as well as bipartisan senate staffers whose expertise was “indispensable in the process.”

Sen. Donna Soucy (D-Manchester) emphasized the collaborative process and thanked her fellow senators for their input by adding, “By consolidating bills, we will be able to move forward with an efficient session that focuses on the immediate and long-term needs of the state.”

The committee members agreed that senators will still have the option for a bill to be considered as a “stand alone” if that is their preference. However, due to consolidation, bills will have one designated sponsor, instead of individuals. The committee stressed they will work with the Office of Legislative Services to ensure that all senators who sponsored legislation that was consolidated are given credit for the bill.

Bradley also noted that there are approximately 40 confidential bills, and a few anticipated late ones, that must still be dealt with prior to the Rules Committee’s next meeting. In the meantime, he said Rules will develop guidelines for committee chairman to use when scheduling hearing and voting on consolidated bills. Bradley said, “I have tremendous, bi-partisan faith in all 24 of my fellow senators as we tackle these unprecedented logistical challenges.”

The Rules Committee members are Sen. Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro), Vice-Chair Sen. Kevin Avard (R-Nashua), Sen. Sharon Carson (R-Londonderry), Sen. Gary Daniel (R-Milford), Sen. Donna Soucy (D-Manchester) and Sen. Cindy Rosenwald (D-Nashua).

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