

Town Councilors:

I am unable to attend the November 7 meeting, but I want to provide an update, as the bills that I will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring have been signed off and will soon be assigned to a committee to begin the legislative process. I want you to know why I support these bills.

Title: requiring food service establishments to establish food allergy awareness procedures. Sponsors: (Prime) Rosemarie Rung, Janice Schmidt, Dan Feltes, Joseph Guthrie, William Marsh, Cam Kenney

This bill came at the request of a Merrimack constituent whose family member died from an allergic reaction from food served at a NH restaurant. I worked on this after consultation with the NH Restaurant and Lodging Association and the NH HHS department. It essentially extends new NH food safety food code to restaurants that are not under the state's authority (i.e., cities that have jurisdiction for restaurant licensing/inspection), will require restaurants to include menu language to instruct patrons to notify the server of any food allergy (required language now warns of raw or undercooked meat), and will allow restaurants to voluntarily be designated "food allergy friendly" if they meet national standards.

Title: Establishing a committee to study the labeling of products containing PFAS.
Sponsors: (Prime) Rosemarie Rung, Betty Gay, Deborah Hobson

Following conversations with Eileen and Sarita about PFAS waste entering the treatment plant from car washes, I talked with Clark Freise about how to control PFAS discharge to municipal systems. He said most users don't even know PFAS is in the materials they use. We talked about labeling requirements and reporting to DES and municipal waste systems, but there are potential unintended consequences to businesses and interstate commerce. He supports a study committee to examine this topic in more detail.

Title: establishing the per and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination remediation and mitigation revolving loan program and fund.
Sponsors: (Prime) Robert Renny Cushing, Martha Fuller Clark, Michael Edgar, Nancy Murphy, Rosemarie Rung, David Meuse

This bill would allow municipalities and public water districts to access funds to help pay for PFAS remediation. MVD could use this fund to pay for the bonds passed in March. A similar bill is being filed in the Senate by Sen. Watters. It is a heavy lift as it requires money and the dedication of settlement funds, but the NH Municipal Association is behind it. A component I tried to get in would also allow funds for water pipe extensions to address contaminated private wells, but it will have to be part of an amendment as the consensus was to make the original text as simple and straightforward as possible.

Title: relative to the re-release of a person on bail.

Sponsors: (Prime) Steven Beaudoin, Linda Massimilla, James Gray, Rosemarie Rung

Pete Albert has expressed to me his frustration with the consequences of the bail reform law passed in the last biennium. It is a frustration shared by many. The Strafford County Attorney wrote a bill to fix its flaws and a colleague of mine is serving as the prime sponsor. I've had Pete review this. I also sent it to Chief Roy.

Title: requiring schools to update documents and software to include the option of identifying a student as non-binary.

Sponsors: (Prime) Stephen Woodcock, Edward Butler, David Doherty, Tamara Le, Anita Burroughs, Harrison Kanzler, Rosemarie Rung, Arthur Ellison, Gerri Cannon, Sue Mullen

A constituent concern prompted me to sign onto this bill as she has a child who is transgender and, although she has worked successfully with MMS and MHS on the student's situation, the student registration forms do not presently allow this information to be captured. By allowing it, teachers and staff have this information available to them and can better meet student needs.

Title: relating to compensation of the legislature. Providing that members shall receive mileage for attendance on veto days and when voting on a budget following a continuing resolution.

Sponsors: (Prime) Andrew Renzullo, Henry Parkhurst, Rosemarie Rung, Michael Gunski

Many state reps have to travel long distances to cast their votes and currently, mileage reimbursement is not allowed on days where votes on vetoes or continuing budgets are cast. I believe mileage reimbursement should be available for all days the NH House is required to vote, not just when they have to vote on bills.

Title: relative to cannabis use during pregnancy.

Sponsors: (Prime) William Marsh, John Reagan, Patrick Abrami, Karel Crawford, Jerry Knirk, Jeffrey Salloway, Mark Pearson, Rosemarie Rung, Dennis Acton

One of my colleagues (a medical doctor) asked me to cosponsor this bill to require warnings to pregnant women that cannabis use during pregnancy creates a high risk for premature birth. I agreed as more pregnant women are using cannabis to lessen nausea and other pregnancy-related symptoms and they need to be aware of the documented risks.

Title: urging Congress to declare per-fluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) a superfund chemical and provide sufficient programming and funding for education, treatment, and remediation of the effects of PFAS.

Sponsors: (Prime) Suzanne Vail, Timothy Horrigan, Michael Pedersen, Liz McConnell, Nancy Murphy, Rosemarie Rung, Kathryn Stack, Wendy Thomas, Bruce Cohen, Sherry Dutzy

This is a resolution. If passed, it informs the US Congress to regulate PFAS. Presently, states have to assume the response to PFAS contamination when it is more effective coming from EPA.

Title: raising the minimum age for marriage.

Sponsors: (Prime) Cassandra Levesque, David Watters, Timothy Smith, Skip Berrien, Dan Feltes, Joshua Adjutant, Mary Jane Mulligan, Ellen Read, Tom Sherman, Francesca Diggs, Rosemarie Rung, Safiya Wazir, Cindy Rosenwald, Dennis Ruprecht

Children under 18 are not permitted to enter legally binding contracts and marriage should be considered a legally binding contract.

Title: relative to baseload renewable generation credits for biomass energy facilities.

Sponsors: (Prime) Joshua Adjutant, Kat McGhee, Timothy Josephson, Catherine Sofikitis, Rosemarie Rung, Dennis Ruprecht

The biomass industry enables NH to source some of its energy from its own renewable resources, while implementing forest management practices that keep our forests healthy and sustainable. It creates a market for low value lumber, has an overall carbon footprint less than oil or gas (which requires pipelines from other states), and provides good jobs for 900 workers in the most economically depressed areas of the state. Without these jobs, state human service costs increase and collateral businesses suffer. This bill passed earlier this year by both the Senate and the House but was vetoed by the governor.

Title: proclaiming March 2 Reading in New Hampshire Day.

Sponsors: (Prime) Joshua Adjutant, Robert Renny Cushing, Timothy Josephson, Catherine Sofikitis, Jerry Stringham, Rosemarie Rung, Bruce Cohen, Dennis Ruprecht

March 2 is Dr. Seuss' birthday and National Read Across America Day. This bill would make it NH focused to acknowledge Dr. Seuss' history in NH. With the frequency of screen use by children and adults, it's a good idea to promote reading as much as we can.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Rung
NH State Representative