

Greetings!

When you read this, the 2007 legislative session will be well underway. For me, much of December and January was focused on orientation - to the State House, the committees upon which Representatives serve, and Sullivan County. It was a thorough orientation, but I know that I will continue to learn much more "on the job".

And I am excited for that to begin. I have been assigned to the Commerce Committee, which deals with matters such as insurance, banking, securities, and business in New Hampshire in general. For example, two such bills already scheduled for hearings concern the licensing of property and casualty appraisers, and health insurance coverage for unmarried children. I understand that the Commerce Committee will be addressing many bills this year! The Commerce Committee was one of the committees upon which I had asked to serve not only because of the range of subject matter covered but also because of the impact this type of legislation has on both consumers and business in the State.

As many of you likely know, when bills are proposed, they are first directed to the committee which covers the relevant topic area that the bill addresses. Often, a bill will go to more than one committee, and if the bill has any proposed spending implications it will also go to the Finance Committee. The committee then either recommends the bill be passed by the entire House, or recommends that it is "inexpedient to legislate" (ie, that it should not be passed). The House then acts on that recommendation.

I have received several emails from people in Sullivan County District 1, and I thank you for that. While the deadline has passed for new bills to be introduced this session, I am always receptive to having conversations about proposed bills for next year's session.

I hope everyone's new year is off to a happy, healthy start!

Regards,

Matthew Houde