



State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community, and Transparency
Concord, NH 03301
July 1, 2020

Dear Members of the LEACT Commission,

Attached, for your information, please find a copy of HB 1645, an omnibus criminal justice reform bill passed week by both the House and Senate. The bill is now on its way to the governor for his consideration and signature.

Several sections of HB 1645 may be relevant to the work of the commission. Those include: Sections 7-10 prohibiting prison privatization; Section 16 requiring police officers to report misconduct; Sections 20-24 requiring screening for all law enforcement officers for psychological stability prior to assuming their duties as certified officers; and Section 25 prohibiting use of chokeholds by law enforcement.

I feel compelled to share with you that I was shocked and saddened yesterday when during House debate on HB 1645, a few House members booed me after I said the words "Black Lives Matter" when, as Chairman of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I urged passage of the omnibus bill. While those voices were a tiny minority of the House of Representatives, they represent the ongoing challenge all institutions face when confronting racism and inequity in our state.

I look forward to speaking before the Commission.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renny Cushing".

Representative Renny Cushing, Chair
House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee