



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

August 8, 2023

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 337

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on August 8, 2023, I have vetoed House Bill 337, relative to directing the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification to provide notice of public meetings and an opportunity for comment from the public and creating a new attorney II position.

This bill creates different standards for the boards administratively attached to the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) than other public bodies subject to RSA 91-A. Currently, public bodies are required to post a public notice 24 hours in advance and records become available for public inspection after the completion of the meeting. This bill would require OPLC to notice meetings 14 days in advance and provide materials pertaining to those meetings seven days prior to the meeting. This bill would essentially require a legal review for every document this would need to be released in advance.

While I believe more transparency is important in state government, House Bill 337 would be unreasonable and burdensome for OPLC to implement, especially while the office is still working on implementing the major legislative achievements we've passed this session.

Additionally, there is no justification for singling out OPLC and holding them to a different standard than every other public entity in New Hampshire. This bill would open the door for carve-outs for other state agencies, eroding the uniformity among state and local governments that follow RSA 91-A.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 337.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor