SB 434: AN ACT relative to school nurse certification

History/Context:
There are approximately 500 school nurses in New Hampshire, serving 618 public and private schools. The role of the professional school nurse is currently defined by New Hampshire School Nurse Certification Law (RSA 200:29, II), with the current rules approved by JLCAR (Ed 306.12). Certification ensures a professional level of qualification for the position of school nurse, which will support a minimal standard of care for students with acute and chronic health needs in school. New Hampshire school nurses are members of a unique discipline of professional nursing and are often the sole healthcare providers in their districts. They are both an independent clinician and manager of school health services. It is imperative that school nurses are prepared for and practice at the same level as their colleagues, such as teachers who are certified, as well as other adjunct therapists who are prepared with Masters Degrees, for example occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech therapists. (Prepared by Pamela DiNapoli, PhD, RN, CNL)

NHNA’s Commission on Government Affairs is in favor of the passage of SB 434.

A public hearing on this bill was held January 30, 2018. Pam DiNapoli, Chair of the Commission on Government Affairs signed-in in support of this bill. A representative of the Department of Education proposed an amendment to the bill which will make the bill stronger when it moves to the House.

On February 7, 2018 the Senate Committee on Education voted this bill ought to pass with amendment.

On February 15, 2018 this Senate passed this bill and it moved to the House for consideration. NHNA supported this bill.

On February 23, 2018 the Senate Education Committee voted this bill ought to pass with amendment.

A public hearing of the House Committee on Education is scheduled for March 27, 2018 at 11:00 am in LOB 207.

Pam DiNapoli, Chair of the Commission on Government Affairs, testified in support of this bill at the public hearing of the House Committee on Education held on March 27, 2018.

This bill will be in Executive Session of the House Committee on Education on April 11, 2018.

A public hearing of the House Committee on Education is scheduled for April 17, 2018 at 9:30 am in LOB 207.
NHNA signed-in in support of this bill at the public hearing of the House Committee on Education held on April 17, 2018.

On April 24, 2018 the House Education Committee voted this bill ought to pass with amendment (14:6). Here is a link to this amendment #2018-1565h.

On May 2, this bill passed in the House with amendment.

On May 10, 2018 the Senate voted not to concur with House amendment on this bill (see amendment here: #2018-1565h). This will essentially kill this bill and the school nurse certification will remain as voted in 2016.