



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

SB 30 NAY OTP
SB 90 YEA ITL
SB 182 YEA ITL
SB 229 YEA OTP/A



NHLIBERTY.ORG

SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017

SB 90-FN, adjusting the minimum employer's contribution rate for unemployment insurance.

SB 90

Commerce: ITL 4-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill doubles the minimum tax rate employers pay for unemployment insurance.

YEA ITL

- The current unemployment insurance tax is designed to adapt to changing economic conditions and adjust the minimum tax rate depending on the size of the state unemployment compensation fund. Increasing the minimum tax rate in cases where the compensation fund has significant resources will only tempt future legislators or governors to raid the dedicated fund for another purpose. RSA 282-A:140 II already provides broad authority for unexpected use of these funds.
- A 100% increase in the minimum tax rate will hurt businesses.

SB 30, defining woodland buffers and relative to such woodland buffers for the purposes of the shoreland protection act.

SB 30

Energy and Natural Resources: OTP/A 4-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill places additional restrictions on private property for the stated purpose of improving shoreland protection.

**NAY
OTP**

- This bill redefines the size/shape of segments that are used to score the impact of improvements landowners make to their property for the express purpose of protecting shorelines. Property owners already have financial incentives to maintain property and limit damage that may impact the future value of their property. Attempts to micromanage property improvements with a one-size-fits-all solution infringes on property owners' rights and is unlikely to significantly contribute to shoreland protection.
- The bill mainly serves to raise the value of existing shoreline property (landscaped under the older, less restrictive scheme) by adding restrictions to new shoreline construction, making it less desirable.
- The bill reduces the time that an applicant has to respond to information requests from 120 days to 60 days, at which time the application is denied, forcing applicants to refile and potentially incur a fee as high as \$3,750 per 483-B:5-b. The reduction in time does not take into account that landowners are private individuals for whom 60 days may be an insufficient amount of time to obtain quotes, select an expert, schedule an investigation, and respond to the state's demand for additional information. Some required information may be weather-dependent or other circumstances could delay the applicant. There is no reason to place any deadline on an applicant, as their delay just affects when their permit would be received.
- The bill increases the time for the state's paid professional full-time staff to evaluate applications and make a determination from 20 days to 30 days.

SB 229-FN-L, relative to appraisals of residential property, procedures in eminent domain proceedings, and expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

SB 229

Energy and Natural Resources: OTP/A 5-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill helps to protect property rights from eminent domain abuse.

**YEA
OTP/A**

- This bill partially mitigates the harm done to residential landowners whose property is acquired via eminent domain. Owners of residential properties being taken may require the taking of the entire property, if they desire, so they will not be forced to live with the project being developed.
- It allows the owner of the property to select their own appraiser and to have the costs of the appraisal paid for by the pipeline company.
- It allows a resident owner to be awarded reasonable relocation, temporary housing, and legal expenses not to exceed 10 percent of the compensation ordered for the taking.

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases the burden on businesses by requiring recordkeeping to show the town or city in which taxes were collected.

YEA ITL

- While the incremental costs and complexity of this bill are small, the number of hours wasted each year in the collection, reporting, correction, and maintenance of the additional records is significant when applied to the more than 3,000 establishments for whom this would apply.
- While it is unlikely that the incremental costs of this bill would make or break the profitability of any business, the accumulated costs of ever increasing state-driven mandates are significant.