



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

SB 30 NAY OTP/A
SB 41 NAY OTP/A
SB 77 YEA OTP
SB 94 NAY OTP/A
SB 137 YEA OTP/A
SB 170 YEA ITL



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017

*** Special Announcement - Legislator Luncheon 3/9/17 ***

The New Hampshire Liberty Alliance cordially invites all legislators to attend a buffet-style luncheon Thursday, March 9th from noon to 1:00 p.m. at Tandy's Top Shelf, located at 1 Eagle Sq., just across N. Main St. from the State House, in the back room. The NHLA compiles and distributes the Gold Standard (gold sheet) before each session day, as well as publishes annual ratings for each NH State Representative and Senator. Several members of the NHLA Board of Directors will be in attendance. You will have the opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions on how the NHLA can better fulfill its mission of promoting liberty within New Hampshire state government.

SB 94-FN-A, making a capital appropriation for affordable housing.

Capital Budget: OTP/A 4-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill as amended allocates \$5 million to provide financing and state matching funds for state-sponsored housing projects.

- The projects as defined by RSA204-C:57 needlessly encourage the creation of high density low-income housing which crowds out other affordable housing options and raises artificial barriers that families must cross in order to distinguish themselves from those who do not strive for improved wages and living conditions.
- Concentrating poor or low-income people in a small area, whether in the projects or due to the fact that only certain housing providers are willing and able to accept payment through welfare programs, creates unintended negative side effects such as crime, lack of social cohesion, and poor examples for children, affecting their future income potential (<https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa773.pdf> pages 9 & 10).

SB 94

NAY OTP/A

SB 41-FN-A, establishing a fund to forgive certain educational debt and making an appropriation therefor.

Commerce: OTP/A 3-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a new hand-out to highly paid workers providing \$4 million in taxpayer funds to pay down student debt.

- There are a variety of educational options available to graduating NH high school seniors, including universities, community colleges, trade schools, and internships. To take money from all NH residents in order to create another handout exclusively for technology students is unfair to other kinds of students, who may choose other educational options.
- The high business and property tax rates in NH are two of the main driving forces that make NH a less attractive option for businesses and working adults. The legislature would better serve residents by reducing spending and taxes, instead of spending even more tax money on creating new bureaucratic programs and band-aid fixes.

SB 41

NAY OTP/A

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

- 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.

**NAY
OTP/A****SB 137-FN, relative to licensure by endorsement granted by the board of nursing.****Executive Departments and Administration: OTP/A 4-0****PRO-LIBERTY: This bill requires the board of nursing to grant licenses to applicants for license by endorsement for persons holding a comparable license issued by Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, or Connecticut.**

- This bill offers a minor improvement in the barriers created by state licensing of nurses by reducing the barriers to entry for qualified nurses or nursing assistants to obtain employment in New Hampshire after moving to the state.

SB 137**YEA
OTP/A****SB 170, relative to the authority of towns to issue bonds for the expansion of broadband infrastructure.****Public and Municipal Affairs: ITL 3-1****ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill permits municipalities to issue bonds for the purpose of providing or expanding broadband infrastructure even in areas already served by an existing broadband carrier.**

- This bill allows municipalities to compete with private business in the delivery of broadband services. This could discourage commercial broadband suppliers from expanding or upgrading their existing infrastructure.
- Allowing municipalities to compete with private business in this space creates the potential for a conflict of interest whereby the taxing and zoning entity with authority over the current broadband carrier could become a "competitor" of that carrier.

SB 170**YEA ITL****SB 77-FN-A, relative to expense deductions under the business profits tax.****Ways and Means: OTP 3-2****PRO-LIBERTY: This bill removes the state limit of \$100,000 on expenses under the business profits tax, allowing taxpayers to use the current IRS limit of \$500,000.**

- Artificially low caps on capital expenses discourage investments in tangible property that is crucial to improving the productivity of NH businesses.
- Taxing businesses on profits that they are not realizing due to necessary capital expenditures is fundamentally unfair, and furthermore increases the costs of doing business, which will inevitably be passed on to customers.

SB 77**YEA
OTP**