



GOLD STANDARD



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018

SB 388, relative to dispensary locations for therapeutic cannabis.

SB 388

**YEA
OTP**

Finance: OTP 4-2

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill modestly improves patient access to medicine.

- This bill authorizes the Dept. of Health and Human Services to establish a second dispensary location for therapeutic cannabis in the geographic area that includes Carroll, Coos, and Grafton counties. Under current law NH residents in many areas of the state have to travel great distances, in some cases as long as 3-4 hours round trip, to pick up legal medication.

SB 541

SB 541-FN-A, establishing a fund to reimburse costs associated with firefighters who have cancer.

Finance: OTP/A 4-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill provides a new benefit to firefighters, many of whom work under collectively bargained contracts, without negotiating the addition of this benefit as part of regular contract negotiations.

- This bill effectively creates a new program to reimburse costs associated with firefighters who have cancer under the presumption that these cancers are work-related.
- While there may be cancers caused by work-related exposure, the language is broad enough that effectively all non-smoking employees will be provided with a new healthcare benefit paid for by NH residents who do not receive such a benefit themselves.
- Firefighters are far from the only workers in society who have unique environmental exposures or other elevated risk factors for disease. Police have elevated risks of prostate cancer as compared to the general population (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5693511/), sanitation workers have elevated risk of infection and cancer (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2796749/), and computer/IT workers are at a higher risk for blood clots (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2966881/).
- If this is a valuable employee benefit that can be offered at a low cost, then it should be offered as part of contract negotiations.

**NAY
OTP/A**

CACR 22, relating to rights for crime victims. Providing that crime victims shall be afforded constitutional rights.

**CACR
22**

Judiciary: OTP/A 4-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill seeks to amend the Constitution to address failures of the state to follow existing victim's rights laws.

- Existing NH RSA 21-M:8-k already provides for rights for victims and alleged victims of crimes. If the state is failing to abide by this law then the law should be amended to add penalties for state employees who are failing to follow the law.
- This amendment would grant rights to alleged victims at the expense of defendants and erodes the presumption of innocence in criminal proceedings. Specifically, this constitutional amendment includes the right for alleged victims "to refuse an interview or deposition request made by the accused" which would conflict with the existing language in Part First, Article 15 of the NH Constitution which states "Every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favorable to himself; to meet the witnesses against him face to face, and to be fully heard in his defense, by himself, and counsel." which would deny the accused access to potentially exculpatory evidence.

**NAY
OTP/A**