



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

SB 2 YEA OTP/A
SB 41 YEA ITL
SB 120 YEA ITL
SB 131 NAY OTP/A
SB 136 NAY ITL
SB 227 YEA ITL
SB 234 YEA OTP
SB 244 YEA OTP



NHLIBERTY.ORG

SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017

SB 120, relative to the authority of the public utilities commission to regulate telecommunications service providers.

SB 120

Energy and Natural Resources: ITL 2-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would grant the public utilities commission expanded regulatory control over telecommunications services.

YEA ITL

- There is no demonstrated need for this bill. Deregulation of telecommunications has been highly successful, causing higher quality service and lower prices.
- Freedom of competition is the best form of accountability. Expanding regulatory control by the public utilities commission would primarily have the effect of reducing competition and freedom of choice.
- The standards in this bill, including "unreasonable" interruption or "reasonably" adequate are ill-defined, broad, subjective, and vague. Authorizing the public utilities commission to use the full authority of RSA 365 on local exchange carriers based on these subjective criteria is imprudent, having the effect of re-regulating the industry.

SB 136, eliminating the land use board and requiring approval of federal land acquisitions by the governor and council.

SB 136

Executive Departments and Administration: ITL 2-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill updates a neglected state law, RSA 121, which provides oversight and regulation of certain federal land acquisitions.

NAY ITL

- An almost identical bill, SB 324, was passed last session, but vetoed by Governor Hassan.
- RSA 121 has been neglected for decades, ignoring the will of the General Court.
- This bill replaces obsolete language, assigning authority to the appropriate modern agency.
- The original law, and this update, place reasonable limits on certain federal land acquisitions. This is wise policy, as evidenced by the many problems now facing many western states.
- Although limits are set, under this bill if the voters of a municipality wish to cede more of their landmass to the federal government, they can vote to do so.

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

SB 41

Finance: ITL 4-2

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

YEA ITL

- 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 131

SB 131-FN-A, relative to the hiring of state troopers for drug interdiction work, and making an appropriation therefor.

Finance: OTP/A 6-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allocates funds to hire 5 state troopers to exclusively perform drug interdiction work.

- The War on Drugs has clearly failed; heroin was first federally regulated more than 100 years ago, yet is still beyond the control of governance even today. While it is tempting to look at the lists of arrests week after week in the paper and think we are just one more arrest from a solution, it is clear that the additional spending-and-enforcement approach is a failure.
- As with most government programs, once the new positions are created there will be significant pressure to retain the positions and their subsequent pension costs after the current "crisis" is over. This will likely result in more long-term spending than the fiscal note implies.

NAY OTP/A

SB 2

SB 2-FN-A, reducing the rates of the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax

Finance: OTP/A 4-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill makes a modest reduction in the rates of the business profits tax and business enterprise tax.

- The Tax Foundation rates New Hampshire business taxes as one of the highest in the country (taxfoundation.org/2017-state-business-tax-climate-index).
- The current New Hampshire tax rate is comparable to Vermont and higher than New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. A lower tax rate than the surrounding states would incentivize companies to migrate to New Hampshire and would result in additional jobs in our state, driving up wages.
- In a economy that is increasingly moving away from brick-and-mortar buildings to a mobile workforce, tax rates that are competitive with the balance of the country would help restore our competitive edge.

YEA OTP/A

SB 227

SB 227-FN, relative to a workforce development and training fund.

Finance: ITL 4-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill more than doubles the administrative contribution rate (tax) paid by certain employers, and then attempts to manage the state's economy from Concord by providing employee training for skills that the state deems as in demand.

- Businesses in the free market are already solving the issue by creating their own training programs in an effort to attract and retain employees. As a result, NH already has the lowest unemployment rate in the country (2.7% as of Jan 2017 www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm)
- Adding additional government bureaucracy regarding unemployment and training when the state is already experiencing low unemployment rates is a poor use of tax revenue, and could potentially have unintended consequences.

YEA ITL

SB 234

SB 234-FN, relative to hypodermic syringes and needles containing residual amounts of controlled drugs and authorizing the operation of syringe service programs in New Hampshire.

Finance: OTP 4-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill reduces the harm of the War on Drugs by exempting residual amounts of controlled substances in syringes from the provisions of the Controlled Drug Act and by authorizing entities to create self-funded syringe service programs to reduce the risk of spreading transmissible diseases.

- People are more likely to safely dispose of needles if they aren't in danger of arrest.
- Allowing easier access to clean needles will help prevent the spread of dangerous and costly diseases, including hepatitis and HIV.
- Needle exchange programs have a proven track record of reducing the harm of drug addiction (Steffanie A. Strathdee¹ and David Vlahov, *AIDScience* Vol. 1, No. 16, December 2001, also: <https://goo.gl/Q1wQYp>, more: <http://goo.gl/hWuJoa>)

YEA OTP

Finance: OTP 4-2

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill increases the tax exemption for interest and dividends from \$2,400 to \$10,000.

YEA
OTP

- The existing threshold was last changed more than 20 years ago in HB56 (1995). Due to inflation, the net result has been the potential for a greater number of taxpayers to be subject to the tax and is an effective year-over-year tax increase as inflation erodes the spending power of the legacy exemption.