



GOLD STANDARD



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018

SB 313-FN, (New Title) reforming New Hampshire's Medicaid and Premium Assistance Program, establishing the granite workforce pilot program, and relative to certain liquor funds.

SB 313

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: OTP/A 21-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill extends medicaid expansion in New Hampshire by replacing the program that is set to expire in December 2018 with a new managed care program.

- This is a hidden tax on private health care buyers. The incentives for Granite Advantage will increase costs for all other health care participants.
- Under existing law, federal matching funds drop each year until 2020, making NH taxpayers directly fund the gap. Uncertainty over the path forward in Washington regarding updates to the federal program further complicates evaluation of whether the state will be able to maintain this program without resorting to new sources of revenue such as an income tax.
- Federal money always comes with strings attached; it is not free. The national debt, which is now greater than \$21 trillion, is arguably the largest threat to national security.
- A free-market approach to health care should be the main priority of the legislature. This is the only way to have sustainably lower costs and increase access for the majority of Granite Staters.

**NAY
OTP/A**

SB 529-FN, (New Title) requiring the department of environmental services to conduct a study regarding the Baker River in the town of Warren and making an appropriation for such study.

SB 529

Resources, Recreation and Development: ITL 11-6

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires DES to conduct an unplanned study and would require reallocation of resources in a non-budget year.

- Predictable flooding is not a good reason to reallocate budget money that has been earmarked for other important projects.
- The fiscal note estimates for the cost of the proposed study varied. Without knowing how much is needed to fund the study, it is irresponsible to pass this bill.

YEA ITL

SB 55, (New Title) relative to the servicing of backflow devices and arrest powers of fire marshals.

SB 55

Executive Departments and Administration: ITL 8-3

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows individuals certified by the Department of Environmental Services to perform services on backflow devices that are not directly adjacent to a drinking water distribution system. In addition, this bill removes the power to detain and arrest from fire marshals.

- New Hampshire's licensed backflow preventer testers are already qualified to work on these devices. Requiring a plumber to install additional backflow preventers is an unnecessary expense to the property owner and may delay servicing of defective devices, increasing risk to the public.
- It is not safe for state fire marshals to be making arrests, and should be left to trained professionals who more regularly exercise the power of arrest. It is not worth the risk to ask fire marshals to perform dangerous acts just to catch an unlicensed worker. The majority report's example of an arsonist or unlicensed worker could be handled with a simple video of the person in the act and a call to the police.

NAY ITL