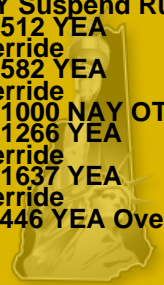




NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

NAY Suspend Rules
HB 512 YEA Override
HB 582 YEA Override
HB 1000 NAY OTP
HB 1266 YEA Override
HB 1637 YEA Override
SB 446 YEA Override



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JOINT SESSION - THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016

Motion to suspend rules to consider HB 1000.

ANTI-LIBERTY: The motion to suspend the rules is intended to allow a 3rd chance to pass legislation intended to increase spending on law enforcement.

- A variation of this legislation (SB 485) already received a fair set of hearings including public input and failed to pass. Suspending the rules to rush in this new version without following the normal legislative process limits the opportunity for public input and forces legislators to vote without complete information. The draft of the proposed legislation did not even have a publically available bill number that citizens could use to contact their reps nor does it contain a fiscal note.
- Oppose the motion to suspend the rules.

NAY Suspend Rules

HB 1000, Establishing a state grant program to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in addressing the opioid crisis and making an appropriation therefor.

HB 1000

ANTI-LIBERTY: Increases state spending on law enforcement by \$1.5 Million dollars.

- The War on Drugs has clearly failed; heroin was first federally regulated 102 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.
- Support the Phillips amendment which reduces the harm of the existing draft legislation by focusing on approaches to reduce the demand for illegal drugs. A reduction in demand is a sustainable approach to addressing the narcotic drug crisis. Increased enforcement, on the other hand, results in expansion of criminal elements involved in the drug trade as others willing to work in this illicit market quickly replace those incarcerated, and does little to reduce drug use or drug related crime.
- Oppose the bill whether the Phillips amendment passes or fails.

NAY OTP

HB 512, prohibiting confiscation of firearms, ammunition, or firearms accessories during a state of emergency.

HB 512

Governor: Vetoed

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill extends protection of the right to property ownership.

- This bill reinforces an existing ban on confiscation of firearms, adding teeth to penalize those who violate the rights of NH citizens.
- This bill holds individuals that infringe the rights of the people of New Hampshire personally accountable, while protecting officers who defend the rights of the people from disciplinary action.

YEA Override

HB 582, repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver.

HB 582

Governor: Vetoed

PRO-LIBERTY: Makes possession of a NH pistol/revolver license optional; replaces vague term of "suitable" with "not prohibited by state or federal law"; extends license minimum period from 4 to 5 years.

YEA Override

- New Hampshire voters affirmed our inherent right to self-defense in 1982 with the adoption of Article 2-a. of the state Constitution: "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state."
- A requirement to have a license to carry a concealed firearm is an infringement on an individual's right to self-defense. This bill restores the right of law-abiding citizens to carry protection discreetly.
- Our neighbors Vermont and Maine, two states that allow concealed carry without a license, rank among the safest places in the country.
- The language of current statute can be and has been selectively interpreted and enforced.
- This bill eliminates unnecessary and obscure definitions of "open" versus "concealed" carry, which are difficult to interpret, have led to several lawsuits, and unfairly criminalizes law-abiding citizens.
- This bill replaces the subjectivity of the phrase "suitable person", which has in the past been used by biased officials for ethnic, racial, and gender discrimination, with the objective and easily understood phrase of not prohibited by state or federal law.
- By making the license optional, this bill eliminates a waiting period that has prevented persons who may feel threatened (e.g. a woman with a stalker) from carrying discreet protection when needed. It also facilitates license reciprocity requirements between NH and other states.
- Other states that have enacted constitutional carry have seen either no statistically significant change in violent crime, or a slight downward trend.
- There is no evidence that the current NH pistol license provides a necessary benefit to public safety.

HB 1266, legalizing firecrackers and smoke bombs.

HB 1266

Governor: Vetoed

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill legalizes additional categories of fireworks.

YEA Override

- The choice of whether to purchase, possess, and use fireworks should be a personal one. Fireworks bans are paternalistic.
- Removing the ban on firecrackers and smoke bombs will increase economic activity in New Hampshire.

HB 1637, relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools.

HB 1637

Governor: Vetoed

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows students to be assigned to a public or private school if there is no public school for the child's grade in the child's resident district.

YEA Override

- Allows access to private schools for children in towns with no school building.
- Moves the education system in the direction of the free market by allowing both public and private schools to compete for students.
- This bill would help 15 small districts across the state, not just Croydon. There are many more that would benefit from these options given declining student enrollment.
- The amendment is consistent with several NH Supreme Court opinions as well as existing state statute and the NH Constitution.

SB 446, relative to requirements of the state building code.

SB 446

Governor: Vetoed

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill protects private property by clarifying that the state building code review board may only require data that is necessary for the for the building inspector to act on an application under the International Residential Code in the application process.

YEA Override

- The bill makes no changes to existing code or inspection requirements under the International OTP Residential code but it is a small step to ensure that property rights are not frivolously infringed.