



Gold Standard

LIBERTY WATCHLIST

HB1 – Making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state ...

Committee report: Finance: OTP (14–9)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP/A 2009-1201h

YEA on OTP/A 2009-1205h

HB2 – Relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

Committee report: Finance: OTP (14–9)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP/A 2009-1197h

YEA on OTP/A 2009-1202h

This bill contains a number of provisions which are **anti-liberty**:

- An increase in the tobacco tax;
- An increase in the rooms and meals tax;
- An increase in the road toll (gas tax);
- The creation of a gambling winnings tax;
- A freeze on the decrease of the insurance premium tax;
- The creation of an inheritance tax; and
- The creation of a capital gains tax.

The minority amendments, **2009-1205h** (HB1) and **2009-1202h** (HB2), are able to balance the budget without raising taxes or creating any new ones. We recommend **YEA on OTP** for these two amendments, and **NAY on OTP** for the two amendments put forth by the majority, 2009-1201h (HB1) and 2009-1197h (HB2). In these tough economic times, the last thing that the people of New Hampshire need is more taxes that leave them with less to spend.

HB590 – Relative to the retirement age for group II members.

Committee report: Finance: OTP (22–1)

Our recommendation:

YEA on OTP

This bill, which would increase the retirement years of service requirement from 20 to 25 years, is **pro-liberty**:

- It saves money in difficult economic times while reducing the burden on our already underfunded retirement system.
- It is more in line with the reality found in the private sector.

HB383 – Relative to passenger restraints.

Committee report: Ways & Means: OTP/A (11–7)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP/A

This bill, which would outlaw driving without wearing a seatbelt, is **anti-liberty**:

- The Golden Rule is the foundation of civilized society and the essence of freedom—we should respect other people’s choices as we expect them to respect our own.
- New Hampshire, true to its “Live Free or Die” tradition, is the last state in the United States to not yet require that drivers wear seatbelts—and, it’s one of the safest to drive in. Why do we need this law now?

HB392 – Establishing an on-premises cigar, beverage, and liquor license.

Committee report: Ways & Means: OTP/A (16–2)

Our recommendation:

YEA on OTP/A

This bill, which would allow smoke shops and smoking parlors to serve alcoholic beverages, is **pro-liberty**:

- Allowing alcohol to be served at these shops will enhance their business and create revenue, jobs, and business opportunities within the industry.
- Whereas the NHLA does not generally support licensing private consensual activity, licensure is still preferable to outright prohibiting such activity. This bill legalizes and licenses what is currently prohibited.

HB601 – Relative to claims for compensation from the victims’ assistance fund.

Committee report: Ways & Means: OTP/A (10–8)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP/A

This bill, which expands the victims’ assistance fund in a number of ways, is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill takes \$30,000 of taxpayer money and gives it to victims of crimes. Such compensation should be taken from the criminal who committed the crime, not the taxpayers.
- This bill essentially gives preferential treatment to a class of citizens, in violation Part I, Art. 10 of the New Hampshire Constitution: “Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men; ...”

HB647 – Relative to motor vehicle fines and violations.

Committee report: Ways & Means: OTP/A (12–6)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP/A

This bill, which significantly raises a number of motor vehicle fines, is **anti-liberty**:

- The increase in penalties that this bill proposes is excessive and unnecessary. Part I, Art. 18 of the New Hampshire Constitution states that “[a]ll penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense. ... Where the same undistinguishing severity is exerted against all offenses, the people are led to forget the real distinction in the crimes themselves, and to commit the most flagrant with as little compunction as they do the lightest offenses.”

*The New Hampshire Liberty Alliance is a non-partisan coalition of New Hampshire citizens working to increase individual freedom in the Granite State. Each year we compile voting records from a wide variety of legislation and release our **Liberty Rating**, grading our state legislators’ support of liberty. These Liberty Watchlists are an effort to highlight bills that, if passed, stand to substantially increase or decrease freedom in New Hampshire. Your vote on these bills may be used in our annual Liberty Rating.*