



Gold Standard

REGULAR CALENDAR

SB 367 – Relative to games of chance.

Committee report: Local & Regulated Revenues: OTP (14–0)

Our recommendation:

YEA on OTP

This bill, which modifies the requirements for operating charitable games and removes the requirement that Social Security numbers be obtained from charity members, is **pro-liberty** overall:

- While some sections do contain additional restrictions, overall this bill gives more freedom and choice to charitable organizations when it comes to gaming.
- This bill also repeals the current requirement to disclose the Social Security numbers of charitable organization members who participate in the operation of the games, ensuring their right to privacy and preventing possible identity theft.

SB 371 – Relative to warning statements concerning drinking alcoholic beverages during pregnancy.

Committee report: Local & Regulated Revenues: ITL (9–5)

Our recommendation:

YEA on ITL

This bill, which requires a minimum font size for warnings on alcoholic beverage posters, is **anti-liberty**:

- Under federal regulations, almost all liquor, wine, and beer packaging already contains warning labels.
- Warnings about the dangers of drinking alcohol by pregnant women are ubiquitous, and common sense is usually sufficient to inform adults about most of life's dangers. Thirty-six point font size is not the solution.
- The Liquor Commission can institute this policy on its own; we don't need a new statute—or the administrative costs that go with it.

SB 464 – Relative to speed limits on Lake Winnepesaukee and reporting vessel operation violations.

Committee report: Transportation: OTP/A (10–3)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP/A

This bill, which repeals the sunset clause on the statute that created this speed limit in 2008, is **anti-liberty**:

- It is unproven that speed limits on the lake are worth the expense of enforcement and annoyance to boaters.
- Some Representatives may have voted for the 2008 bill only because of the presence of the sunset clause. To remove that now may be seen as a betrayal by those who only voted for the bill because they knew it would sunset in two years.

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.

SB 511 – Relative to an exemption from the tax on gambling winnings.

Committee report: Ways & Means: OTP (12–4)

Our recommendation:

YEA on OTP

This bill, which exempts some prior winnings from the new gambling tax, is **pro-liberty**:

- If someone won the lottery before this new gambling tax was instituted, but is still receiving payments for such winnings (*i.e.*, as annuity payments), taxing those winnings can be seen as a violation of the spirit of **Part I, Art. 23** of the N.H. Constitution, which prohibits retrospective laws. This bill corrects that potential situation.

CONSENT CALENDAR

SB 329 – Relative to ... the form of constitutional questions on the ballot.

Committee report: Judiciary: OTP/A (18–0)

Our recommendation:

YEA on OTP/A

This bill's amendment, which removes a section of the bill that tampers with constitutional ballot questions, is **pro-liberty**:

- In matters as permanent and important as amendments to N.H. Constitution, it is imperative that the people get to see, and vote on, the actual language.
- When **Part I, Arts. 72-a and 73-a** were put before the people, the actual text of the Articles was not included and the descriptions were biased and incomplete. The current law specifying the format of constitutional questions was enacted because of this.

SB 325 – Relative to loitering by intoxicated persons.

Committee report: Local & Regulated Revenues: OTP (11–2)

Our recommendation:

YEA on OTP

This bill, which eliminates the prohibition against a liquor licensee allowing an intoxicated person to loiter on the premises, is **pro-liberty**:

- Current law mandates that a licensee remove someone from the premises for perceived intoxication, even if it's known that a friend, spouse, or taxi is on the way. Kicking somebody out into the cold, snow, or rain just for loitering may be the prerogative of any private business owner, but it should not be mandated by the state.
- This bill has the potential to reduce drunk driving by ending the requirement that bar owners remove people who may be intoxicated, thus giving them time to make arrangements for a ride home.

SB 517 – Establishing a veterans' legal aid advocacy project.

Committee report: State–Federal Relations & Veterans Affairs: OTP (12–0)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP

This bill, which establishes a new government program specifically for military veterans, is **anti-liberty**:

- The objectives of this bill, while well-intentioned, are best implemented through charities, veterans groups, and private-sector resources, not through a new government bureaucracy.
- Special treatment of veterans at the expense of everyone else violates **Part I, Art. 10** of the N.H. Constitution, which states in part, "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...." The State of New Hampshire should not discriminate against—or for—selected groups of citizens.
- Federal grants for such programs last for indeterminate periods of time and depend on the political whims of Congress. With the state facing a budget crisis now (getting worse in the next biennium), it is fiscally imprudent to institute new programs with uncertain funding.