

New Hampshire Liberty Alliance

Gold Standard

NHLiberty.org

January 4th 5th, 2012

HB 218 YFA HB 628 YFA/OTP HB 380 NAY HB 595 NAY/ITL YEA SB 57 HB 446 YEA/OTP SB 160 YEA/OTP HB 194 YEA/OTP HB 29 NAY/ITL HB 437 NAY/OTP HB 334 YEA/OTP HB 455 YEA/ITL HB 448 YEA/TTL HB 593 NAY/OTP HB 486 NAY/OTP HB 138 NAY/OTP HB 536 YEA/OTP HB 475 NAY/OTP

HB 218, repealing the New Hampshire rail transit authority.

Notwithstanding the Governor's veto, shall HB 218 become law? Our recommendation: YEA

This bill, which repeals a committee for an uneconomical transportation system, is pro-liberty:

- In modern times, train service is heavily subsidized by all taxpayers regardless of usage.
- Rail transit makes economic sense only in limited, high-density, high-population areas. It is impractical here; the rural nature of New Hampshire means that most riders will still have to travel by car many mile to board a train.
- Rail transit projects invariably go way over budget and are completed far later than the original deadline. Recent rail boondoggles have proven this.

HB 218
YEA
on
veto
override

HB380, relative to the commission on the status on men.

Notwithstanding the Governor's veto, shall HB 380 become law? Our recommendation: NAY

This bill, exempting the commission on the status of men from repeal on June 30, 2011, is anti-liberty:

- As stated in the veto, this commission was recommended for repeal, "to help make state government more efficient, reduce cost, and eliminate waste..." The NHLA supports those goals.
- If passed, this law would retroactively take effect June 30th, 2011. Part 1, Article 23 of the NH Constitution prohibits retrospective laws.

HB 380 NAY on veto override

SB 57, relative to regulation of title loan lenders.

Notwithstanding the Governor's veto, shall SB 57 become law? Our recommendation: YEA

This bill, allowing for collateral backed short term loans, is **pro-liberty**:

- Title loans give consumers more choice; banks and credit unions don't offer these kinds of short-term loans.
- High interest rates are appropriate on some loans because the terms of these loans are very short.
- The interest does not compound significantly so the actual amount of money transferred to the lender is comparatively small.
- These loans are useful for people who have unexpected short-term expenses and need a loan to cover them until they can adjust their spending habits to generate the needed surplus funds.

SB 57
YEA
on
veto
override

SB 160-FN, relative to the definition and regulation of installment loans.

Committee recommendation: Majority of Commerce and Consumer Affairs : OTP 14-2

This bill, allowing for certain installment loans, is pro-liberty:

- Provides services that would otherwise be unavailable to low income earners that have exhausted other means of obtaining credit.
- Short term loans help raise the quality of life for struggling families by relaxing credit constraints.
- Studies show no empirical evidence that they lead to more bankruptcy filings.
- Provides low income wage earners more options when confronted with emergency situations.

OTP
OTP

HB 29, permitting a person to petition the superior court for any action pertaining to a pistol or revolver license.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 9-7

This bill, which would expand the options for hearings pertaining to pistol or revolver license, is pro-liberty:

- Prior to 2008, individuals could file in either court. This freedom was taken away by the Supreme Court in the Garand vs. Town of Exeter decision in 2009.
- Contract claims and Landlord/Tenant cases can be heard in either court, so this bill makes the law more consistent
- The State charges more money for hearings held in Superior Courts: District courts are "free"+ a \$25 surcharge fee (RSA 490:26-a), Superior courts cost \$205, (\$180 filling fee plus \$25 surcharge fee).
- Citizens should have a right to choose which court they believe will give them a more fair hearing.

HB 29 NAY on ITL

HB 334, relative to the state's authority to prohibit or regulate firearms, firearms components, ammunition, or firearms supplies

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety : OTP 11-6

This bill, which clarifies language regarding weapons statutes and rules, is pro-liberty:

- It clarifies that the General Court specifically, and not the vague term 'the state of New Hampshire' shall have authority to regulate weapons.
- It includes knives in order to make the law more equitable and sensible. (It would not be sensible to regulate knives more strictly than guns, or have them subject to more patchwork restrictions).
- · It clarifies the language regarding political subdivisions and their rulemaking authority.

HB 334 YEA on OTP

HB 448-FN, relative to spice incense products.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 14-3

This bill, which would reclassify synthetic cannabinoid agonists or piperazines as schedule I controlled drugs, is anti-liberty:

- In a free society individuals should not be punished for peaceful activities which do not harm others.
- This bill would have multiple costly unintended consequences.

HB 448 YEA on ITL

HB 486-FN, relative to penalties for alcohol ignition interlock circumvention.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP/A 14 - 3

This bill, as amended, mandates a fine and treats citizens as pre-criminals, is anti-liberty:

• The amendment imposes more invasive technology in an ever expanding race against human ingenuity.

HB 486 NAY on OTP

HB 536-FN, relative to the natural right to carry a firearm, openly or concealed, without a license.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety : OTP/A 12-5

This bill, making concealed carry pistol licenses voluntary, is **pro-liberty**:

- [Art.] 2-a. [The Bearing of Arms.] All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state.
- The NH constitution does not specify that these rights can be granted or withheld by the state.
- Removing the requirement to obtain a concealed carry license, but still providing said license, creates a valuable fee based service that citizens can choose to purchase and use in other states.

HB 536 YEA ON OTP/A

HB 628-FN, making the touching or viewing with a technological device of a person's breasts or genitals by a government security agent without probable cause a sexual assault.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP/A 10-6

This bill, increasing the transparency and accountability at airport security checkpoints, is pro-liberty:

- Government should not dictate rules that it then exempts itself from. This bill reaffirms individual and states rights at our airports.
- The amendment increases public accountability by mandating that citizens may have their interactions with airport authorities video recorded by themselves or their designates.

HB 628 YEA ON OTP/A

HB 595, amending the compulsory school attendance statutes to permit parent-directed instruction programs and repealing the home education statutes.

Committee recommendation: Education: ITL 12 - 2

This bill, which provides for equitable treatment for home schools, is pro-liberty:

- This bill recognizes the right of parents to educate their own children.
- It upholds due process and the presumption of innocence by the removal of the annual notification, an effective approval process, and proof of educational progress requirements.

HB 595 NAY on ITL

HB 446-FN, repealing the authority for regulation of certain professional occupations.

Committee recommendation: Executive Departments and Administration: OTP/A 9 - 8

This bill, which repeals various occupational licensing boards and authority, is pro-liberty:

- The consumers of occupationally licensed services derive no determinable benefit for the added cost. For example, when was the last prevented case of fungal infection due to licensing manicurists?
- The only certainty about licensure is that it manufactures political patronage jobs in the regulatory bureaucracy and reduces competition by restricting free entry into an occupation—thereby bestowing unearned profits upon those who are already licensed.
- The amendment makes such licenses voluntary, transforming them to assets that businesses can choose to obtain from the state. This decriminalizes unlicensed services while still making the license available.

HB 446
YEA
on
OTP/A

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 Gold Standards 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.

HB 194, repealing the prohibition on having or carrying certain crossbow, rifles, or shotguns in vehicles.

Committee recommendation: Fish and Game and Marine Resources : OTP/A $\,7\,$ - $\,3\,$

This bill, which clarifies the definition of an unloaded long gun, is **pro-liberty**:

- The amended bill sets clear guidelines as to what constitutes loaded and unloaded, which will reduce inconsistent enforcement.
- The bill as amended incorporates important clarifications regarding private property.
- While this language doesn't go far enough in codifying one's right to keep and bear arms, it is an improvement over current statute.

HB 194 YEA on OTP/A

HB 437-FN, relative to the definition of marriage.

Committee recommendation: Judiciary: OTP/A 11 - 6

This bill, redefining marriage under the law, is anti-liberty:

- [Art.] 2. [Natural Rights.] [...] Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state on account of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.
- The NH constitution forbids impinging citizens' rights based on sex. It makes no exceptions for pairs of citizens being any different than individuals, and it makes no exceptions for institutions that existed before ratification. The equality of rights is natural and inalienable.
- Government should not be in the business of defining, regulating, admonishing, or licensing how individuals choose to affiliate with others.

HB 437 NAY on OTP/A

HB 455-FN, authorizing optional enhanced drivers' licenses and optional enhanced nondrivers' picture identification cards.

Committee recommendation: Transportation: ITL 6 - 5

HB 455-FN, authorizing optional enhanced drivers' licenses and identification cards, is anti-liberty:

- Enhanced driver's licenses contain un-encrypted RFID chips, which are designed to be scanned and read from up to thirty feet away.
- RFID chips can be scanned through things that typically offer us privacy, such as clothes or purses, and their numbers can be read without the bearer's knowledge or consent.
- The House has repeatedly opposed RFID in driver's licenses over the last three bienniums. (HB203, HB686, HB478)
- New Hampshire should not be initiating privacy invading programs simply because of new federal laws like WHTI.

HB 455 YEA on

HB 593-FN-A-L, relative to video lottery and table gaming.

Committee recommendation: Ways and Means : OTP/A 14-7

This bill, laying the groundwork for up to two casinos in NH, is anti-liberty:

- If the authors really wanted to allow gambling, all they need to do is repeal RSA 647:2.
- The bill is bureaucracy layered upon bureaucracy. Some of the powers given to that bureaucracy are unprecedented remote data collection and disabling of machines by the Lottery Commission.
- The bill suspends the constitutional requirement that requires the government to procure a warrant prior to examining a licensee's correspondence, records, books, papers, as the Attorney General "deems advisable"
- The bill suspends the constitutional right to a jury trial for those subject to the Lottery Commission's authority, with no possibility for review or appeal.
- The bill vests an arbitrary authority in the Lottery Commission to punish any person subject to its rules, effectively in any way the Commission sees fit.
- The bill creates a state-enforced monopoly on who can buy or sell "gambling equipment" in this state.
- It will still be a crime for 8 friends to sit around and play a game of poker.

HB 593 NAY on OTP/A

CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 138-FN, relative to the cold case homicide unit.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP 16 - 1

This bill, which repeals the sunset provision for a fixed funded agency, is anti-liberty:

- With federal funds expiring for this program in 2013, the program should likewise expire. Granite State taxpayers are overburdened as it is and should not be forced to pay for a program which is expected to cost over \$700,000 per biennium.
- The state already has vast law enforcement and investigative resources; police personnel and equipment can be reassigned if the department determines this work deserves higher priority.

HB 138 NAY on OTP

HB475, increasing penalties for violations of the consumer protection act (RSA 358-A) by an individual, **is anti-liberty:**

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP 14-3

HB475, increasing penalties for violations of the consumer protection act by an individual, is anti-liberty:

- The increased penalties are consistent with the penalties for theft already in law (RSA 637), but unlike theft, crimes under 358-A may not have caused any actual harm. Crimes under 358-A include "Disparaging the.. business of another by... misleading representation of fact", "Using deceptive representations...of geographic origin in connection with goods or services," and "Failing to disclose the... telephone number of the business [for home solicitation sales]." Class A felonies are not appropriate in many of these cases.
- Many other statutes reference the penalties in 358-A, this bill would increase them as well. They include such heinous acts as:
 - Failing to retain a copy of a customer's invoice for motor vehicle repair for one year. (RSA-D:10 V)
 - Beginning residency in a 55+ community prior to reading the residential services agreement (RSA-J:4 I)
 - Failure to identify the manufacturer of sheet metal or plastic parts which generally constitute the exterior of a motor vehicle (RSA 407-D:2)
 - Receiving a security deposit from a tenant in an amount greater than one month's rent (RSA 540-A:6 I)
 - Providing foreclosure consultant services on behalf of a homeowner without a cancellation fax number on the first page of the consulting contract (RSA 479-B:2 II (a))

HB 475
NAY
on
OTP