



New Hampshire Liberty Alliance

Gold Standard

HB 423 YEA/ITL
 HB 388 NAY/ITL
 HB 482 NAY/OTP
 HB 611 NAY/ITL
 HB 335 YEA/ITL
 HB 370 NAY/OTP

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CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 423-L, relative to amending official ballot warrant articles.

Committee recommendation: Municipal & County Government, 15-0 ITL

This bill, which would prohibit amending a petitioned warrant article at a deliberative session in SB 2 towns, is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill would make it impossible to correct or clarify petitioned warrant articles if problems are discovered with one (for example, a specific dollar figure must be changed), potentially rendering an article unimplementable even if it were to pass.
- This bill would establish different, stricter rules for SB 2 towns than for traditional town meeting towns, where such amendments would still be able to take place.

**HB
423
YEA
on
ITL**

REGULAR CALENDAR

HB 388, relative to the storage of firearms.

Committee recommendation: Judiciary, 12-6 ITL

This bill, which would affirm that owners of firearms are not liable for the criminal actions of thieves, is **pro-liberty**:

- There was a recent demonstrated need for this bill, with an attempt to sue a gun owner in Coös County who had been robbed of his property and the criminal used his property in the commission of an additional crime.
- This bill ensures that the responsibility of criminal acts are placed wholly on the criminal—not the victim.
- This bill ensures that law-abiding gun owners are not victimized twice.

**HB
388
NAY
on
ITL**

HB 482-FN, regarding infestation of bed bugs in rental housing.

Committee recommendation: Judiciary, 17-2 OTP

This bill, which would regulate landlords and tenants regarding infestation of bed bugs, is **anti-liberty**:

- Much of what this bill mandates should be handled through voluntary contracts mutually agreed to by landlords and tenants, not through legislation.
- The bill establishes potential liability upon tenants for the cost of bed bug mitigation, whether or not they were actually responsible for the infestation.
- It establishes a power of landlords to enter rental properties without the consent of tenants.

**HB
482
NAY
on
OTP**

HB 611, clarifying the equity jurisdiction of the judicial branch family division.

Committee recommendation: Judiciary, 16-3 ITL

This bill, which would clarify the statutes regulating the jurisdiction of the family courts, is **pro-liberty**:

- It would remove the “notwithstanding any other law to the contrary” clause from RSA 490-D:3, thereby allowing other statutes to regulate the family courts in concert with this statute. Currently, the courts have pointed to this clause in order to ignore other statutes attempting to regulate them.
- This bill would allow rules of evidence to be created in the family courts. Currently, there is no absolute standard by which a judge can be required to allow admissible evidence into court.
- This bill is in response to several actual cases that were brought before last session’s Redress Committee.

**HB
611
NAY
on
ITL**

HB 335-FN-A, relative to the tobacco tax.

Committee recommendation: Ways & Means, 10–7 ITL

This bill, which would repeal the scheduled increase of the tobacco tax, is **anti-liberty**:

- An increase in the cigarette tax will have a greater impact upon the poor. Cigarette taxes are regressive. Families in the bottom twenty percent of income earners spend four percent of their after-tax income on tobacco, compared to one half of one percent by families in the top twenty percent bracket.
- Cigarette taxes are ineffective at stopping people from smoking. Tax-bearing cigarette smokers typically do not smoke less when rates go up; they and their families consume less of other things.
- Government exists to protect each individual's life, liberty, and property from attack by other individuals. It does not exist to protect individuals from making poor choices, or to restrict their choices of legal activities.

**HB
335
YEA
on
ITL**

HB 370-FN, repealing the education tax credit program.

Committee recommendation: Ways & Means, 10–7 OTP

This bill, which would repeal the education tax credit program in its first year, is **anti-liberty**:

- Nearly 450 children have applied for scholarships to date from families with an average family income of only \$45,000. More than 50% of these families qualify for free/reduced lunch.
- The program is in its infancy and the first scholarship organization was only approved by the Department of Revenue in January 2013. The scholarship program should be given time. Repealing it now would amount to flip-flop legislation.
- The average scholarship amount of \$2,500 would put educational alternatives within reach for low-income families in our communities. While it is true that the elite private schools in our state, such as St. Paul's and Phillips Exeter, have extremely high tuition, most private and alternative schools cost far, far less—and offer financial assistance to families. The combination of financial aid and the tax credit scholarship would make alternatives feasible for many families.
- The tax credit scholarships are *not* just for religious schools. These scholarships may be used for independent private schools, public schools outside the family's district, as well as home education expenses.
- The fiscal note prepared by the Department of Education states that repeal will increase state expenditures by *over \$550,000* more than it would increase tax revenue. In other words, the scholarship program saves the state money.
- Vouchers and tax credit programs are not equivalent and the difference is not merely an accounting gimmick. Vouchers are distributed from monies received by the government and then distributed. Tax credit programs such as this scholarship program in New Hampshire, uses pre-tax dollars and come from voluntary charitable donations. This is similar to any other voluntary donation to non-profit organizations. Money does not belong to the government before taxes and should be directed as the business owners and individuals choose.

**HB
370
NAY
on
OTP**