



GOLD STANDARD

SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

SB 106	NAY OTP
CACR 3	YEA ITL
SB 81	NAY ITL
SB 82	NAY ITL
SB 101	NAY ITL
SB 196	NAY OTP
SB116	YEA OTP
SB 15	YEA ITL

SB 106, Restricting the sale or possession of synthetic drugs

Committee Recommendation: Commerce: OTP 5-0

SB 106

This bill, which is an attempt to remedy a problem created by drug prohibition, is **anti-liberty**:

- The legislature should address the failure the 'war on drugs' by decriminalizing marijuana before it adds new prohibitions to ban dangerous alternatives.
- In many cases, legal replacements to illegal drugs are far more dangerous than the original substances, like "Spice" invented to circumvent prohibitionist policies on marijuana.
- All manner of potentially dangerous and even lethal products are legal to sell and possess in New Hampshire. It is not possible to prohibit all substances which can be misused (including glues, many solvents, and aerosols).
- In a free society, individuals should not be punished for peaceful activities which harm only themselves. Individuals should take responsibility for their own choices, good or bad.

NAY OTP

CACR 3, Providing that the legislature define standards & funding for public education

Committee Recommendation: Education: ITL 4-1

CACR 3

This amendment, eliminating local control of education to resolve Claremont decision(s), is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill would enshrine in the NH Constitution the concept that the state is responsible for all aspects of education, eliminating local control and innovation.
- Centralizing decision-making in Concord makes it more difficult for parents to exercise their right to direct the education of their children.
- Parents can't afford to spend years changing state law when they experience a significant problem with their local school. They need immediate local decision making through their locally elected representatives.
- Use of the term "reasonable" in the amendment invites additional lawsuits.
- Giving the general court an enumerated power of "full... authority to determine the... methods of raising... funding" puts all options on the table.

YEA ITL

SB 81, Relative to the powers of the state board of education.

Committee Recommendation: Education: ITL 4-1

SB 81

This bill, removing the direct authority of the state board of education over public schools, is **pro-liberty**:

- Schools are best governed by the communities they serve. This change empowers local governance of public schools.
- This bill addresses clear instances when the state BOE overstepped its statutory authority.
- This bill limits the state board of education rule-making to those "necessary for the proper interpretation of laws enacted by the General Court."
- Restores the balance between state Board of Education and local districts with duly elected representatives closest to citizens.

NAY ITL

SB82, Relative to the authority of the commissioner of the Department of Education.

Committee Recommendation: Education: ITL 4-1

SB 82

This bill, removing the direct authority of the state commissioner of education over public schools, is **pro-liberty**:

- This bill prohibits the commissioner from assuming any "managerial or supervisory" role with district administrators (superintendents, principals & curriculum specialists).
- Instead the commissioner will have to persuade parents and elected school boards to choose to adopt policies, rather than dictating them.
- Non transparent, closed door meetings of the state commissioner (or her agents) with district administrators undermines the people's right to control of their local schools as guaranteed under Article 6, Part 1 of the NH Constitution.

NAY ITL

SB 101, Prohibiting the state from requiring implementation of common core standards.

SB 101

Committee Recommendation: Education: ITL 3-2

This bill, clarifying that districts are not required to adopt Common Core standards, is **pro-liberty**:

- This bill protects local control of education by clarifying that adoption of common core standards are at the discretion of local districts, and not mandated by the state.
- Common Core standards employ controversial metrics for measuring educational “competencies”.
- The sponsor’s amendment is consistent with legislative intent of previous education bills to keep “competency-based education” from “state approval standards” (SB 192 in 2011 and SB 82 in 2013).
- Amendment restores academics as focus of public education, not student “dispositions,” by defining “competencies” in terms of academic mastery, not values, attitudes and beliefs under Common Core aligned “competency-based education”.

NAY ITL

SB 196-FN-A-L, Appropriating funds to the Dept. of Environmental Services.

SB 196

Committee Recommendation: Energy and Natural Resources: OTP 5-0

This bill, which appropriates funds to the DOE is unnecessary, wasteful, and unfair, is **anti-liberty**:

- SB196 unfairly redistributes money from rural communities to those with extensive public water systems.
- This bill significantly increases state spending at a time when the state should be reducing expenditures and tax burdens on citizens and businesses

NAY OTP

SB 116, Repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver.

SB 116

Committee Recommendation: Judiciary: OTP 3-1

This bill, allowing people to possess tools of defense without permission or notice, is **pro-liberty**:

- A requirement to have a license to carry a concealed firearm is an infringement on an individual’s right to self-defense. This bill allows law-abiding citizens to carry protection wherever they go.
- Other states that have enacted constitutional carry have seen either no statistically significant change in violent crime, or a slight downward trend.
- This bill eliminates unnecessary and abstruse definitions of "open" versus "concealed" carry, which are difficult to interpret, have led to several lawsuits, and unfairly criminalize law abiding citizens.
- This bill removes the ambiguity of a "suitable person" to make it consistent with federal law.

YEA OTP

SB 15, Requiring companion animals to be leashed in the presence of a service dog.

SB 15

Committee Recommendation: Public & Municipal Affairs: ITL 4-0

This bill, which micromanages pet owners with unneeded regulation, is **anti-liberty**:

- Some dogs are well trained or small enough to hold and don't need to be on a leash. Specifying that they must be leashed in the presence of a service animal is unnecessary.
- In environments where companion animals may be unleashed, such as on hiking trails, it may not be practical for an owner to immediately recall and leash his/her animal the moment a service animal comes into view. "Failure" to immediately recall and leash an animal should not be grounds for criminal prosecution.

YEA ITL