



GOLD STANDARD

HOUSE SESSION - WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2015

HB 686 YEA ITL
HB 215 NAY OTP
HB 407 NAY ITL
HB 208 YEA OTP/A
HB 241 NAY OTP
HB 387 NAY ITL



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HB 686, Establishing a single payer health care system.

HB 686

Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee: ITL 12-7

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would enforce a government-run monopoly on healthcare.

- Vermont recently abandoned a similar big government program, with its principal proponent, Governor Shumlin, admitting that the required tax hike would be “in a word, enormous” and that “the risk of economic shock is too high at this time to offer a plan I can responsibly support”. This bill includes no mechanism to pay for the enormous cost of government-run healthcare.
- Central planning of healthcare does not work, any more than central planning of consumer goods, housing, or labor. Command economies lead, predictably, to waste, abuse, and stagnation.
- People’s right to make their own choices about their healthcare, and finances, should be respected. This bill not only compels funding, but prohibits healthcare alternatives (404-J:8).

YEA ITL

HB 215, Relative to school building aid grant payments.

HB 215

Education Committee: OTP 19-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would mandate 50 million dollars per year in state spending on school buildings.

- RSA 198:15-a, IV allows for *up to* 50 million dollars of school building aid grants. By changing that to require that *at least* 50 million be granted every year, excess spending & higher taxes would result.
- School enrollments have been falling year after year, and yet school budgets continue to increase. This unchecked spending increases already high property taxes, and further burdens the NH economy. Schools should be more, not less accountable, to reign in spending.
- With state building aid, local districts will fund more extravagant schools than they would if they had to pay the full cost themselves.

NAY OTP

HB 407, Prohibiting the state, cities, & towns from acquiring military-equipped vehicles.

HB 407

Municipal and County Government Committee: ITL 8-5

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill would stop the militarization of our police forces in New Hampshire.

- Under the USDLA 1033 program, NH counties, cities, and towns have received over six million dollars worth of military grade rifles, armored trucks and personnel carriers, a grenade launcher, and more. In many cases, these acquisitions have been made over the objections of local voters.
- The use of military forces domestically is prohibited, however, since 2001 the line separating the military from the police has become increasingly blurred. The spirit of Posse Comitatus is undermined when police (many of whom are veterans with recent combat experience overseas) are provided with many of the same types of weapons and vehicles at home that were used in the invasion and occupation of Iraq or Afghanistan.
- Police should be peace officers, primarily tasked with de-escalating situations, and protecting life. Militarization can create a dangerous change in police mentality, which can come to view citizens as enemies to confront with overwhelming force.
- Tools shape our thinking. When military hardware is readily available a tendency exists to think of ways to use it. For someone with a hammer, everything looks like a nail.

NAY ITL

HB 208 (as amended), new title: relative to allowance sales under the RGGI program.

Science Technology and Energy Committee: OTP/A 12-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill as amended no longer repeals RGGI, instead it returns proceeds to ratepayers.

- By rebating all net proceeds to ratepayers, this bill eliminates a program that stealthily taxes all electricity consumers.
- Money raised through RGGI was originally slated to support energy efficiency programs. Millions of dollars collected from the program were instead misappropriated into the general fund in 2010.
- If funding is needed to supplement core energy reduction programs, Public Utilities Commission can authorize regulated electric utilities to increase System Benefit Charge (paid by rate payers), without State government being the middleman.

HB 208

YEA
OTP/A

HB 241, Prohibiting driving while holding an animal in the driver's seat.

Transportation Committee: OTP 10-8

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would further erode personal responsibility trying to micromanage bad behavior.

- This bill is unnecessary, there are already laws on the books that address reckless driving (RSA 265:79), and negligent driving (265:79-b).
- It is not possible nor appropriate to legislate common sense, by specifically prohibiting every possible cause of distraction. Should we next ban eating, talking, or applying makeup while driving?
- Bad drivers should be prosecuted for their *demonstrated* reckless or negligent behavior, not for something that has the mere *potential* to cause harmful behavior.
- This bill is also flawed in that it would be unenforceable (would police be able to see if you have a cat or small dog on your lap in the car?), and also because it does not address the perceived problem (It does not prohibit you from driving with a cat on your head, for example, only on your lap).

HB 241

NAY
OTP

HB 387, Relative to motor vehicle inspections.

Transportation Committee: ITL 19-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill would unburden NH citizens of unnecessary annual automobile expenses.

- 33 states, including states with much harsher winters than NH (e.g Michigan, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Minnesota), do not require any periodic safety inspections. Another six states require only biennial inspections.
- According to the Department of Transportation, only 1.2% of accidents are caused by a problem with the vehicle itself, leading to loss of control. The same study found that in only 6.8% of accidents was vehicle condition a factor at all, of which almost all were cases of tire/wheel damage (e.g. vehicle runs over a nail). Most accidents are caused by driver error or negligence.
- Yearly inspections are a special hardship on those with older vehicles and lower incomes, who often need the vehicle in order to get to work. Vehicles often fail for causes that have no material impact on safety. Biennial inspections will save these vehicle owners money they desperately need, and cost the state nothing.

HB 387

NAY
ITL