



GOLD STANDARD

HB 258 NAY OTP
HB 381 YEA OTP
HB 391 NAY OTP
HB 577 NAY OTP/A
HB 203 NAY ITL
HB 290 YEA OTP
HB 315 NAY ITL
HB 468 YEA OTP/A
HB 486 NAY OTP/A
HB 169 YEA OTP

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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015

HB 258-FN-L, relative to fees for preparing motor vehicle registration documents.

Finance Committee Recommendation: OTP, 5-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill doubles the clerical fee for registering a vehicle.

- Instead increasing fees, which are already high, towns should look to better allocate existing funds.
- This is a double tax on citizens. Town clerks are already paid for their time through other taxes.
- Towns could reduce some of the expense of having clerks file registration documents if they offered residents the option to register online.

HB 258
NAY
OTP

HB 381-FN, allowing a liquor manufacturer to be issued an on-premises license.

Finance Committee Recommendation: OTP, 6-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill makes allows liquor manufacturers to receive on-premises licenses.

- This bill makes the law more consistent between breweries, wineries, and liquor manufacturers.
- Local artisan distilleries are a growth industry for NH, creating jobs, increasing tourism, and enhancing overall quality of life for NH residents. This bill helps New Hampshire businesses.
- The property rights of liquor manufacturers to choose to open a restaurant or bar should be protected.

HB 381
YEA
OTP

HB 391-FN, applying the E911 surcharge to prepaid cellular telephones.

Finance Committee Recommendation: OTP, 4-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would increase taxes.

- The collection method in this bill is complex, inaccurate and imposes costs on businesses.
- Lower income residents disproportionately use prepaid cell phones (e.g. a poll by Opinion Research Corporation showed 65 percent of those who relied on just a prepaid cell phone had household incomes less than \$35,000). This tax would be regressive, raising the costs of prepaid cell cards for the most financially vulnerable.
- Many prepaid cell customers who are NH residents do not have a NH area code, and many who reside outside the state do have a NH area code cell number.

HB 391
NAY
OTP

HB 577-FN-A-L, establishing a children's savings account program, and relative to the bonding authority of the city of Dover.

Finance Committee Recommendation: OTP/A, 6-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would lead to massive new spending and involve government in the private finances of thousands of families.

- This type of program can and should be accomplished by private charities, either in coordination with each other or individually. It is inappropriate to use taxation and the state bureaucracy to fund or establish such a program.
- No restrictions are specified by the bill on the use of these funds. Will funds be available only for tuition? For any purpose at all? Can funds be withdrawn and spent by parents?
- This bill which would require spending \$30,000 to hire someone to disperse \$65,000 to students in its first year is a ridiculously inefficient use of taxpayer funds.
- The NHLA is not taking a position on the non-germane amendment relative to the bonding authority of the city of Dover.

HB 577
NAY
OTP/A

HB 203, relative to the unauthorized practice of law.

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: ITL, 3-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows trusts and property owners greater control in choosing their representation in a court of law.

- If they so choose, trusts and owners have a right to be represented by an unlicensed individual, who may have intimate knowledge about the issues at hand.
- This law merely makes existing statute more consistent, by extending to trusts and property owners the same rights that are already granted to businesses.

HB 203
NAY
ITL

HB 290, relative to the acceptance of risk in outdoor recreational activities.

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: OTP, 3-2

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill protects land owners from liability when others use the land for recreation.

- Land owners who allow their property to be used for recreation should not fear lawsuits from people who voluntarily engage in risky outdoor activities.
- This bill could encourage more landowners to allow their land to be used for outdoor recreational activities, and expand NH's trail systems.
- This bill will help reduce frivolous lawsuits.

HB 290

YEA OTP

HB 315, relative to termination of tenancy.

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: ITL, 4-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill protects a landlord's property rights.

- Under current law, a landlord cannot seek eviction even if a tenant has pets or additional persons on the property, in direct violation of the lease or rental agreement. This is a clear violation of the landlord's property rights.
- Good renters and tenants end up paying more to cover the costs incurred by bad renters and tenants. Better recognizing the rights of landlords to manage their own property leads to lower rental costs and overall cost of living.

HB 315

NAY ITL

HB 468-FN, requiring a warrant to obtain electronic device location information.

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: OTP/A, 5-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill will prohibit government agencies from tracking the location of citizens without a warrant.

- HB468 comports with part one article 19 of the NH Constitution and the fourth amendment to the US Constitution.
- HB468 defends the privacy rights of NH citizens, and clarifies that government agencies shall not track their movements without a warrant from a judge based on probable cause.
- Technology has enabled some agencies in the U.S. to intercept cell phone signals and track citizens secretly, without oversight. This bill would prevent that from happening in NH.

HB 468

YEA OTP/A

HB 486, authorizing towns and cities to establish special assessment districts.

Public and Municipal Affairs Committee Recommendation: OTP/A 3-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would allow for additional taxes.

- This bill would be used to further raise taxes on people who are already struggling to pay property taxes, by allowing the majority of their neighbors to create special taxing districts for improvements.
- Could create a double tax for municipal services that are already being paid for, but not received.
- There is no requirement that all residents receive notice of a proposed district during the collection of signatures or the submission of an "improvement plan". The first residents and owners may hear of a proposed plan is when receiving notice of the hearing, putting those who might propose an alternative at a significant disadvantage.

HB 486

NAY OTP/A

HB 169, relative to table stakes poker.

Ways and Means Committee Recommendation: OTP, 4-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill would allow charitable casinos to offer a greater variety of games.

- The primary effect of this bill would be to allow charitable casinos to offer no-limit and pot-limit style poker games. These types of games are far more popular than alternatives. Without access to these games, many poker players must currently travel out of state to play the games they most enjoy.
- Currently, poker players can play no-limit and pot-limit, but only as part of a tournament. This bill would allow these types of games in a "cash" format, which allows players to leave at any time.
- People have a right to make their own choices with their own money. The fact that some problem gamblers exist does not justify limiting the freedom of all gamblers.

HB 169

YEA OTP