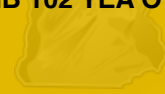




GOLD STANDARD



HB 323, relative to the administration of the statewide assessment program.

HB 323

Education Committee Recommendation: OTP/A, 4-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill grants legislative authority to the department to re-design and regionalize the statewide assessment program under the commissioner's control.

NAY OTP/A

- The US Education Department approved a two year NCLB waiver on March 5, 2015 based upon the Commissioner's "intent" to transition all districts to Performance Assessment Competency Education (PACE), a single statewide system anchored to Smarter Balanced Achievement Level Descriptors, based on Common Core.
- PACE does not reduce testing; it significantly increases testing and re-testing under its Department-approved "State Graduation Competency" pilot program.
- PACE is a regionally-implemented and regionally-scored, yet supposedly "local" assessment system under the control of the Department, undermining districts.
- If the transition to PACE is unsuccessful, no federal funding will be lost; all districts simply revert back to the existing Statewide system with Smarter Balanced testing, where informed parents can refuse the tests.
- PACE integrates its assessments into the weekly curriculum in opposition to RSA 193-C:1 VI, making it impossible for parents to refuse these Smarter Balanced mini-assessments.
- Requiring Departmental approval for weekly PACE assessments violates RSA 193-H:5 "Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to permit either the department of education or the state board of education to take control of the daily operations of any local public school."

HB 603, relative to student exemption from the statewide assessment.

HB 603

Education Committee Recommendation: ITL, 3-2

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill respects a parent's right to refuse state assessments for their child.

NAY ITL

- This bill makes it clear that there is no penalty for students exempted by parents from statewide assessments.
- The bill as amended by the House fails to address student privacy. Only the original bill prevents the public from obtaining parent refusal information under the Right to Know law.
- This bill is necessary to refute the Commissioner's Technical Advisories which school districts are inappropriately using to trample parents' rights.
- No state or school district has lost federal funding due to lower participation rates.
- Parents' rights should not be compromised in order to obtain federal dollars.

HB 271, relative to possession and administration of an opioid antagonist for opioid-related overdoses.

HB 271

Health and Human Services Committee Recommendation: OTP, 4-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows patients and family members access to life saving anti-overdose medication.

YEA OTP

- The failed 'War on Drugs' has created a situation where last year alone, 100 people died due to heroin overdoses in NH. Many, perhaps most of these lives could have been saved if Naloxone or Narcan had been readily available and administered promptly.
- Those closest to a heroin user should be able to obtain this miracle medicine for use in case of overdose. Imagine a mother that is powerless to help her overdosing child as she waits for EMS when an immediate cure would have been available if only the state allowed her to have it.
- 27 States including Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut already have laws allowing access to Narcan for friends and family of those at risk.
- Restricting access to Narcan creates great harm and has no benefit, there is no danger of abuse or maladministration.
- This bill has zero cost to taxpayers.

HB 476-FN, amending the definition of “qualifying medical condition” in the therapeutic cannabis law.

HB 476

Health and Human Services Committee Recommendation: OTP/A, 4-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill recognizes the right of patients with certain serious illnesses to obtain the medicine they need.

- This bill will help patients who are suffering get treatment and relief.
- Bureaucrats and politicians should not get between patients and doctors in determining courses of treatment.
- Natural cannabis has demonstrable medical benefits as a treatment to certain symptoms and diseases, that no other drug (including synthetic alternatives) can match.

YEA OTP/A

HB 403-FN, repealing the law relative to providing certain parameters for access to reproductive health care facilities.

HB 403

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: OTP, 3-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill restores freedom of speech on public ways or sidewalks.

- Freedom of speech should not be restricted on public land paid for by taxpayers.
- The current law is unconstitutional and will cost the state too much to enforce.
- An almost identical Massachusetts law was struck down as unconstitutional by all 9 Supreme Court justices last summer. The plaintiffs in that case were awarded \$1.24 million in legal fees.
- A vote against repeal is a vote to charge taxpayers for an expensive lawsuit the state is expected to lose.

YEA OTP

HB 494, relative to industrial hemp as a controlled substance.

HB 494

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: ITL, 4-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill eliminates an unnecessary and harmful prohibition on industrial hemp.

- Industrial hemp is completely non-psychoactive and not useful as a recreational drug. There is zero risk of abuse.
- Hemp is easy to distinguish from its cousin visually by the layperson. Law enforcement would have no trouble enforcing the prohibition on marijuana if hemp were brought back into production in NH.
- Hemp is a versatile crop, with a long and proud history of cultivation in NH, from early colonial times, through the early 20th century. In modern times it has been used for industrial purposes including paper, textiles, clothing, biodegradable plastics, construction, body products, health food, and bio-fuel.
- U.S. retail sales are estimated to exceed \$350 million annually. The U.S. market for hemp clothing and textiles is approximated at \$100 million annually. Currently, hemp products are imported from Canadian farmers, where it is a major crop (over 66,000 acres in 2013).
- Allowing industrial hemp production in NH would spur agriculture here, rather than continuing to ship jobs to Canada.
- 13 states already have passed bills allowing hemp as a commercial crop, including Vermont and Maine. 7 others allow it to be grown for academic or research purposes.

NAY ITL

HB 102, relative to consideration of warrant articles.

HB 102

Public and Municipal Affairs Committee Recommendation: OTP/A, 4-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill defends open access to government in small towns.

The non-germane amendment protects the right of property owners to build accessory dwelling units.

- If residents of a town make the effort to put an article on the warrant, they should have confidence that it will be acted on in the town meeting, and not ignored.
- Many NH residents are currently prevented by arduous zoning laws from building accessory dwelling units.
- The needs and demographics of NH residents are shifting. Accessory dwelling units make it possible for aging parents to live with adult children, elderly residents to retain their independence by obtaining live-in aid, and young adult children to share housing costs with parents.
- The right of property owners to make their own choices about their property should be respected. Increasing housing flexibility benefits everyone.

YEA OTP/A