



GOLD STANDARD



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019

HB 511, relative to vaping.

Commerce: OTP/A 3-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill adds vaping to the indoor smoking ban and adds vaping to the law prohibiting youth access to and use of tobacco products.

- Private property owners should be able to decide if they will allow or prohibit vaping inside their establishment.
- Studies show that e-cigarettes are a safer alternative to traditional tobacco cigarettes and have a very low risk factor to public health and safety. A 2014 study found that "Even when compared to workplace standards for involuntary exposures, and using several conservative (erring on the side of caution) assumptions, the exposures from using e-cigarettes fall well below the threshold for concern for compounds with known toxicity."
(bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2458-14-18#Sec17).
- There are approximately 50 vaping stores currently in New Hampshire. Adding vaping to the indoor smoking ban will have a negative impact on small business in New Hampshire.

HB 511

**NAY
OTP/A**

HB 118, (New Title) relative to notifying a child's primary health care provider of a report of abuse or neglect.

Judiciary: OTP 4-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to notify a child's primary healthcare provider of a report of suspected abuse or neglect regarding the child.

- Physicians are already required to report any suspected abuse (RSA 169-C:29 Persons Required to Report). This bill could lead to false suspicion of abuse and physicians violating patients' medical privacy.
- This bill demeans parental rights and medical privacy by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to notify the primary care physician in cases of suspected child abuse, before the parents are actually convicted and deemed guilty of child abuse.
- This bill would have potentially unintended consequences of causing even a wrongly-accused parent to second guess bringing their child to the doctor after an accidental injury and may therefore increase risk of harm to a child.

HB 118

**NAY
OTP**

HB 396, relative to delay or denial of records under the right-to-know law.

Judiciary: OTP/A 4-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill increases government accountability in 91-A right-to-know requests by requiring that denials be documented as to the reason for refusal.

- The New Hampshire Constitution, Part 1 [Art.] 8. states in part "*Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive*". This bill would offer a minor but important improvement in transparency.

HB 396

**YEA
OTP/A**

HB 700, relative to valuation of utility company assets for local property taxation.

Ways and Means: OTP 5-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill establishes criteria for valuating utility property, which has suffered from widely varying assessments of similar property in different towns.

- Establishing clear and uniform criteria for utility assessments ensures uniform taxation throughout the state and reduces the risk and cost of continued lawsuits between the utilities and the municipalities.

HB 700

**YEA
OTP**