



GOLD STANDARD



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

HB 652, relative to suicide prevention.

HB 652

Education and Workforce Development: Re-refer 5-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires the state board of education to adopt rules requiring annual training in suicide awareness and prevention for teachers and administrators while providing no funding for the new mandate.

**NAY
OTP**

- Suicide is a tragic, but rare, occurrence and mandating that almost all school personnel spend two hours every year learning how to detect and prevent such tragedies is another piece of "feel good" legislation that will do nothing to solve a complex problem.
- Teachers are employed in schools to teach, not become psychologists; schools already have counselors to work with troubled children.
- This bill will be a boon for the training and certification industrial complex, but for teachers and other school personnel will be just another administrative burden to fulfill.
- The New Hampshire Constitution Part 1 [Art.] 28-a. [Mandated Programs.] states "*The state shall not mandate or assign any new, expanded or modified programs or responsibilities to any political subdivision in such a way as to necessitate additional local expenditures by the political subdivision unless such programs or responsibilities are fully funded by the state or unless such programs or responsibilities are approved for funding by a vote of the local legislative body of the political subdivision.*". This bill represents an unfunded mandate on local districts.
- While the committee recommendation of re-refer is acceptable to allow the constitutional issues presented by this bill to be addressed, should there be a motion to pass this bill in its current form, the appropriate vote is NAY OTP.

HB 719, establishing the position of school nurse coordinator in the department of education and making an appropriation therefor.

HB 719

Finance: OTP 5-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes the position of School Nurse Coordinator in the Division of Learner Support, Department of Education, spending more than \$100,000 per year without any increase in direct services to students.

**NAY
OTP**

- While the dollar amount is small, this bill furthers the trend of increasing administrative overhead costs for state services without providing any direct benefit to the population that is intended to be served by the spending.

HB 364, (New Title) permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use and permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to donate excess cannabis to other qualifying patients.

HB 364

Health and Human Services: OTP/A 3-2

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows qualifying medical cannabis patients and designated caregivers to cultivate a limited number of plants for therapeutic use.

**YEA
OTP/A**

- This bill decreases medical costs for patients by allowing them to grow their own medicine.
- People should not have to choose between fearing criminal prosecution and not having access to medicine.
- This bill gives patients better access to their medicine. Many patients do not live near the few dispensaries in the state and will benefit from this bill.

Transportation: OTP/A 4-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill mandates license suspension for second offenses of the prohibition against using mobile electronic devices while driving.

**NAY
OTP/A**

- Handheld phone bans cause some drivers to hide their phone use by placing the phone in their lap and taking their eyes off the road, which is far more dangerous. Increasing the penalties will only incentivize them even further to try to hide usage.
- Studies show that bans on use of handheld devices while driving have had no effect on accident rates (e.g. NE Burger, DT Kaffine, B Yu Transportation research part A: policy and practice 66, 162-172, and IIHS Status Report, Vol. 45, No. 2).