



GOLD STANDARD



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

HB 664, relative to vehicle repair standards.

Commerce: Re-Refer 5-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires an insurer to reimburse an automobile repairer for all repairs if the repairer follows the original equipment manufacturer's recommended collision repair procedures.

- This bill will increase premiums for automobile insurance in New Hampshire by mandating reimbursement from insurance companies for all such recommendations made by original equipment manufacturers (OEM) that a repair shop intends to follow.
- This bill is mandating that OEM recommendations now be required repairs. There are differences between OEM recommendations versus requirements. Recommendations are not held to any standard and mostly include general indemnifying language. Required procedures are things that should or must be undertaken to ensure proper safety standards.
- This bill is classic crony capitalism that will provide an economic incentive for a repairer to complete steps that they do not believe to be necessary but that they know nevertheless they will be compensated for, without an obvious direct expense to their customer.
- While the committee recommendation of re-refer is acceptable, should there be a motion to pass this bill in its current form, the appropriate vote is NAY OTP.

HB 664

NAY OTP

HB 556, allowing municipalities to process absentee ballots prior to election day.

Election Law and Municipal Affairs: OTP 5-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would allow absentee ballots to be opened and counted prior to the election.

- This bill would undermine public confidence in elections and reduce the ability for NH citizens to hold the government accountable.
- NH citizens are currently allowed to be observers and challengers in the absentee ballot processing procedure. This bill significantly impacts the ability for citizens to observe the process due to the limited notice that is required for announcing an intent to count ballots ahead of election day.

HB 556

NAY OTP

HB 618, relative to the definition of contracts relative to official ballot default budgets.

Election Law and Municipal Affairs: OTP/A 3-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill repeals the definition of contracts relative to official ballot default budgets, resulting in budget increases that have not been properly vetted by voters.

- This bill would allow contracts to include escalation clauses that have not been presented to voters in a prior warrant article.
- Under current law, if a proposed town budget fails and the default budget is activated, contracts continue at the same cost as the previous year unless a prior warrant article enumerated escalation amounts in subsequent budgets. This prevents governing bodies from hiding spending increases in the default budget in a manner that is not transparent to voters.

HB 618

NAY OTP/A

HB 1

HB 1, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

Finance: OTP/A 4-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill makes appropriations in excess of current tax sources and significantly increases spending.

NAY OTP/A

- This budget dramatically increases New Hampshire spending going beyond the excessive levels requested by the governor.
- The level of spending proposed will require new taxes, including a capital gains tax that will forever alter the fiscal landscape of New Hampshire.
- This budget applies one-time surplus funds as recurring spending increases, which dramatically increases the risk of needing future tax increases.

HB 2, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

HB 2

Finance: OTP/A 4-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill includes a tax on earned income, and sets the state up for future expansion of taxes on income.

NAY OTP/A

- Along with HB 1, this bill spends all but \$5 million of the \$166 million left over after the 2018-2019 biennium. Worse yet, much of this spending is inappropriately going to ongoing expenses rather than one-time items.
- This bill raises business taxes \$125 million over current law, and \$35 million over the House budget. This is about an 8% increase in business taxes at a time when such revenues are already way up.
- This bill contains a new mandated family medical leave program that is funded via a 0.5% tax on earned income. Employees and employers should be free to negotiate benefit programs such as paid family and medical leave insurance without the state forcing all to participate.
- The commissioner of the Department of Employment Security will be empowered to raise the earned income tax rate or lower the benefits, up to 10%, without legislative approval.
- Rather than pump up taxes and spending as though these good times will never stop, it would be much more prudent to take last year's excess and pay down some of the state's debts and unfunded pension liabilities. When times are good and school enrollments are down, government should be declining, not increasing.