



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

HB 173 YEA OTP
SB 72 YEA ITL
SB 101 YEA OTP
SB 127 NAY OTP/A



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021

HB 173, requiring the independent investment committee of the New Hampshire retirement system to report investment fees.

HB 173

Executive Departments and Administration: OTP 4-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill requires the quarterly report of the retirement system's independent investment committee to include a description of investment fees and requires independent investment committee reports to be available on the retirement system's website.

**YEA
OTP**

- People have a right to know how their money is being spent, and what policies are being enacted in their name. Pragmatically, transparency is required in order to keep corruption and waste in check. While it is always challenging for the public to hold officials accountable, without reliable information, it is nearly impossible.
- This bill is a small improvement in the area of government transparency.

SB 72, relative to a state share of retirement system contributions by employers.

SB 72

Finance: ITL 5-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases state spending by more than \$50 million each year.

YEA ITL

- This bill requires state taxpayers to fund a portion of the retirement system for city/town teachers, police, and fire department members. These costs are currently paid locally. While net government spending by the state and its political subdivisions under a static evaluation of the bill is neutral, funding is best managed locally to avoid increases in spending that naturally result when politicians are spending "other people's money".
- Increased state funding to municipalities rarely results in local property tax relief as municipalities grow long-term spending even on 'one-time' money. Municipalities already have a means of achieving local property tax relief by reducing the number of employees to align with the reduced student populations across the state.

SB 101, increasing the minimum gross business income required for filing a business profits tax return.

SB 101

Finance: OTP 7-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill increases the minimum gross business income required for filing a business profits tax return, reducing the burden of preparing tax filings for thousands of businesses who ultimately would not have any tax liability.

**YEA
OTP**

- The threshold for filing was last increased to its current value of \$50,000 in 1994; since that time, the actions of the Federal Reserve have devalued US currency so that same threshold today would be more than \$88,000 (www.usinflationcalculator.com). This bill would increase the filing threshold to \$75,000, partially mitigating the filing cost impacts for businesses that today are required to file but who would not have had to file in 1994.
- Per testimony given in the hearing, this bill is estimated to have an effect on 4,664 taxpayers. Of those who filed business profits tax returns with NH in 2019, the Department of Revenue Administration estimated that 4004 of these businesses that were required to file ultimately had no tax liability, wasting time of the businesses as well as the state in generating and processing these returns.

ANTI-LIBERTY: This omnibus bill creates an animal health database and requires pet vendors, animal shelters, and vets to submit electronic records to the department of agriculture and allocates \$10 million in taxpayer funds for a social engineering project referred to as "affordable housing" projects.

- This bill will allow the state to create a database of health records for animals, but also allows the department of agriculture to collect any data they deem necessary. This is an overreach of the state's responsibility.
- With data breaches increasing every day, we should not be creating more targets for bad actors to attack to get personal information. While the intentions of the bill are in good faith, this database will only grow with time and reach into other aspects of NH citizens' lives. The bill's language of "The commissioner shall also ensure that the database is secure from unauthorized access or use" is little more than wishful thinking, and attempts to achieve this mandate will drive development and sustainment costs far beyond what was listed in the fiscal note.
- Municipalities already get vaccination records. By requiring the veterinarians to do more paperwork and government filing, it will only increase healthcare costs of animals. This type of regulation has killed the healthcare industry and will kill the pet care industry next if we allow this bill to pass.
- The projects as defined by RSA 204-C:57 needlessly encourage the creation of high density low-income housing that crowds out other affordable housing options and raises artificial barriers that families must cross in order to distinguish themselves from those who do not strive for improved wages and living conditions.
- Concentrating poor or low-income people in a small area, whether in the projects or due to the fact that only certain housing providers are willing and able to accept payment through welfare programs, creates unintended negative side effects such as crime, lack of social cohesion, and poor examples for children, affecting their future income potential (<https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa773.pdf> pages 9 & 10).

**NAY
OTP/A**