



GOLD STANDARD



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

HB 615, reducing the penalty for certain first offense drug possession charges.

HB 615

Judiciary: ITL 3-2

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill makes modest improvements by reducing some of the harm of the state's failed War on Drugs.

NAY ITL

- This bill is a "right on crime" adjustment to criminal penalties for drug offenses. It slightly reduces some maximum sentences for first-time offenders and eliminates some mandatory minimum sentences. Research overwhelmingly shows that sentence length does not deter crime very much. Probability of punishment is a far more effective deterrent.
- Shorter sentences make it possible for first-time offenders to rehabilitate and become productive members of society.
- By reducing the population of nonviolent offenders in prison, this bill will reduce state spending and taxation.

HB 260, relative to number plates for motor vehicles.

HB 260

Transportation: ITL 4-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill removes the requirement for certain vehicle owners to install a state-mandated front license plate on passenger vehicles.

NAY ITL

- Many vehicle types do not include mounting brackets for a front plate, which requires owners to damage/drill into the bumper to install a mount. The state should not require owners to damage their vehicles.
- 20 states in the US (up from 19 in 2018 with the addition of Ohio) and 9 (of 13) Canadian jurisdictions do not require front license plates at all while another 7 states do not require them depending on certain circumstances. Vermont no longer requires a unique front plate as of 2012. Rear-plate-only vehicles are already on our roads.
- While this bill would not apply to all vehicles, it still represents a meaningful step in the correct direction.