



GOLD STANDARD



HB 44 YEA OTP/A	HB 191 YEA ITL	HB 252 YEA OTP/A	HB 498 NAY ITL	HB 574 NAY OTP
HB 45 YEA ITL	HB 201 YEA OTP	HB 338 YEA ITL	HB 529 NAY OTP/A	HB 581 NAY ITL
HB 57 NAY OTP	HB 226 YEA ITL	HB 436 NAY OTP/A	HB 531 YEA ITL	HB 639 YEA OTP/A
HB 74 NAY OTP	HB 250 NAY OTP	HB 489 YEA ITL	HB 571 NAY OTP	HR 8 YEA ITL

Part One

HB 531, relative to the taxation of tobacco and nicotine products.

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: ITL 15-5

HB 531

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill directs the commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration to annually set the tobacco and nicotine tax based on the rates charged by neighboring states (MA, VT, and ME), and directs the commissioner to produce a report detailing the uses of such taxes.

YEA ITL

- The New Hampshire advantage exists due in part to our low taxes and as such, people from all over the Northeast and the country patronize New Hampshire.
- The present 65% tax rate on tobacco products is already uncharacteristically punitive of New Hampshire and should not be capable of being adjusted up based on the command of an un-elected bureaucrat.
- If anything, taxes on tobacco and alcohol should be eliminated to further drive business, prosperity, and wealth into NH.

HB 639, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor.

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: OTP/A 17-3

HB 639

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill legalizes cannabis in New Hampshire.

YEA OTP/A

- This bill would increase personal freedom by allowing adults 21 and older to purchase, possess, transport, and give away (but not sell) up to four ounces of cannabis, twenty grams of concentrated cannabis, and infused products with 2000 milligrams of THC.
- Legalization would not only prevent innocent people from having their lives significantly impacted by minor possession arrests, but would also reduce the expense of the criminal justice system, allowing police and prosecutors to focus on serious crimes where innocent people have been victimized.
- Polls have consistently shown that a substantial majority of Granite Staters support legalizing cannabis (scholars.unh.edu/survey_center_polls/689).
- A federal judge has recently ruled that prohibitions on firearms ownership simply for the use of cannabis is unconstitutional. While it is likely that further court battles on the topic remain, concerns expressed over the potential impact to gun rights are paternalistic.

HB 529, relative to additional aid grants for schools based on free and reduced price meals and fiscal capacity disparity.

HB 529

Education: OTP/A 20-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes two additional aid grants for schools.

**NAY
OTP/A**

- In 2021 alone, the state spent \$649,510,185.66 in education grants. Instead of inflating this budget, it should be reduced (www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-document/s/2020-04/ad_ed_aid_fy2021.pdf).
- In the United States, 60% of households do not have children under 18 living at home. They have no present, or potentially ever had, a need for public education services and should not be forcefully taxed to pay for them. www.statista.com/statistics/242074/percentages-of-us-family-households-with-children-by-type

HB 250, relative to the accidental death benefit payable to a group II member.

HB 250

Executive Departments and Administration: OTP 15-5

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases the amount of the state retirement annuity payable upon the accidental death of a group II member to 100% of earnable compensation (up from 50%) at the member's death.

**NAY
OTP**

- Under current law, government employees who are eligible for the current benefit receive a value equal to 50% of earnable compensation at the date of the member's death. As a result, the existing benefit already rises as wages rise. This bill would dramatically increase the benefit to 100% of earnable compensation.
- Employees eligible for this increased benefit are generally covered by collective bargaining agreement. There is little evidence that expanding the total compensation/benefit package outside of the bargaining process does anything other than setting a new baseline expectation prior to the start of negotiations. If these employees would find this expanded benefit to be valuable, it should be sought through their collective bargaining process.
- Per the fiscal note, this bill would require increased expenditures by local governments without full funding from the state and as such are a violation of Article 28-a of the New Hampshire Constitution.

HB 436, relative to group II retirement under transition provisions in the retirement system.

HB 436

Executive Departments and Administration: OTP/A 16-3

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill expands the retirement benefits paid in the retirement system.

**NAY
OTP/A**

- This bill grows the bill to New Hampshire taxpayers by \$25 million per year to fatten the state retirement plan.
- The New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) reported an unfunded liability of \$5.69 billion as of December 2022. This bill further piles on the debt to NH citizens.

HB 571, relative to the cost of living adjustments for certain group II retirees in the New Hampshire retirement system.

HB 571

Executive Departments and Administration: Without Recommendation

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill provides a substantial cost of living adjustment to certain group II retirees in the New Hampshire Retirement System.

**NAY
OTP**

- New Hampshire State retirees do not receive automatic cost of living adjustments — such adjustments must be approved by the legislature. While there is no doubt that government policies have resulted in high inflation, New Hampshire taxpayers are not seeing their own wages increase at the rate provided for in this bill.
- New Hampshire tax payers should not be forced to pay for an increase to an already generous defined benefit program.

HB 574, re-establishing the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

HB 574

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Without Recommendation

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes an additional inflationary entitlement program by expanding the WIC program.

**NAY
OTP**

- Welfare programs are detrimental to the people who are on them and to the taxpayer. While reestablishing a Farmers Market Program for WIC recipients may sound nice, it will actually just be incentivizing buying overpriced food paid for by the taxpayer.
- This may also result in farmers market food becoming more expensive due to the increase in demand as a result of the flood of new cash into the market. This is a double whammy for taxpayers, who are also forced to pay for this program.

HB 57, relative to the state minimum hourly rate.

HB 57

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: Without Recommendation

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a state-dictated minimum wage that automatically elevates each year.

**NAY
OTP**

- Minimum wage laws decrease the number of entry-level jobs and make it harder for people of low skill to get their start in the workforce. The well-meaning carve out for younger employees adds a further barrier to older unskilled staff entering the workforce, potentially putting a path to employment forever out of their reach.
- Higher wages for everyone are better accomplished through job creation — more jobs mean more competition to hire all workers.
- Employers and employees should be free to negotiate the terms of employment without interference.
- Economic conditions and cost of living vary dramatically across the state. A "one-size-fits-all" approach to a minimum wage will put unreasonable pressure on areas of the state with limited employment opportunities and lower costs of living.
- The very idea of a minimum wage is patronizing and demeaning as it implies that individuals don't know how much they're worth and are incapable of negotiating with an employer.

HB 74, relative to an employee's unused earned time.

HB 74

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: Without Recommendation

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill is an incremental encroachment on interactions between private individuals.

**NAY
OTP**

- The freedom to contract is paramount in a free society, particularly between an employee and employer. This bill seeks to restrict the freedom to contract by forcing employers to pay an employee for unused earned time under certain conditions.

HB 489, establishing a county tourism development fund administered by the department of business and economic affairs and making an appropriation therefor.

HB 489

Municipal and County Government: ITL 10-9

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a county tourism development fund administered by the Department of Business and Economic Affairs and makes an appropriation therefor. The bill also establishes a county tourism grant program funded from tax on meals and rooms income.

YEA ITL

- Tourism in New Hampshire already has state and local investments. This bill adds cost for nothing of substance.
- This bill attempts to take money from taxpayers to promote the state without stipulating any objective performance requirements for the monies spent. This is not behavior in which most responsible individuals or businesses would engage and should not be tolerated from our government.

HB 191, relative to voluntarily surrendered firearms.**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 16-4****HB 191****ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would allow state agencies to waste taxpayer money.****YEA ITL**

- Under current law, voluntarily-surrendered firearms must be sold at public auction or kept by the state agency for its own use, with the proceeds from firearms sold at public auction deposited in the general fund. This bill would change that so instead of selling an asset and adding to the general fund, the agency would be able to potentially spend taxpayer funds to destroy the firearm.

HB 201, relative to changing the penalties for driving without a license.**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: Without Recommendation****HB 201****PRO-LIBERTY: This bill decreases the penalty for driving without a license from a class B misdemeanor to a violation (for the first offense).****YEA
OTP**

- The statist portion of the committee "believes" that driving is a privilege to be handed out by an omnipotent state. Furthermore, they presume to arbitrarily deem certain rights to actually be privileges and then assume the state has the power to parcel out these rights as paternalistic allowances.
- It is unlikely that the higher potential penalty for first time offenses is even well understood by individuals who may be impacted by this law. What is certain is that a misdemeanor conviction may negatively impact their ability to find a job. An individual who drives without a license, who is not otherwise committing any other offense, does not have a clear victim, and as a result the existing penalty is unreasonable.

HB 581, repealing the controlled drug act and establishing a committee to study the policy and statutory changes necessary to implement the repeal.**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 17-3****HB 581****PRO-LIBERTY: This bill provides for an orderly end to the New Hampshire controlled drug act.**

- This bill would effectively end the failed drug war conducted by New Hampshire and allow for there to be a smooth transition with a legislative committee to accommodate the transition.
- The drug war has claimed countless lives, endless destruction of property, and has resulted in an untold number of years of incarceration for innocent people who simply changed their consciousness.

NAY ITL**HB 45, establishing a committee to study student loan forgiveness in New Hampshire.****Education: ITL 15-4****HB 45****ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would form a committee to study student loan forgiveness options in New Hampshire.**

- There is no pro-liberty purpose for this study committee. Private businesses that would like to offer student loan forgiveness to attract talent may already do so without the permission of the state. Taxpayer-funded student loan forgiveness programs shift costs that individuals take on voluntarily to taxpayers — many of whom themselves did not choose to take on such debt.

YEA ITL**HB 252, exempting agricultural operations from certain municipal noise ordinances.****Environment and Agriculture: OTP/A 12-8****HB 252****PRO-LIBERTY: This bill exempts farming and agricultural operations from municipal noise ordinances.**

- Farm and agricultural land owners need to be free to conduct operations suitable to their businesses and livelihood without infringement by government from noise ordinances.
- This bill protects farmers and other agricultural operators from noise complaints of new nearby residents who knowingly "moved to the nuisance" and now want to shut down existing operations.
- Prospective property purchasers are required to perform due diligence to mitigate their own dissatisfaction. The government should not rescue the willfully ignorant from the foreseeable consequences of their inaction.

**YEA
OTP/A**

HB 338, relative to prescription drug assistance for individuals with diabetes.

HB 338

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: ITL 16-4

YEA ITL

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill creates (but does not fund) a new taxpayer-funded benefit.

- Shifting the cost of pharmaceuticals to New Hampshire taxpayers is a band-aid approach to a problem caused by federal and state interference in the marketplace. The answer is not to introduce additional market distortions for a select group of citizens.
- Medicaid insulin coverage is already just a \$1 co-pay for up to a 90-day supply.

HB 44, relative to permissible residential units in a residential zone.

HB 44

Municipal and County Government: OTP/A 11-9

**YEA
OTP/A**

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill would reduce the conditions under which a municipality may prohibit a property owner from exercising their private property rights.

- Government is most accountable and accessible when it is most local. Local control is generally preferable to state or national mandates. There is a higher principle, however: the principle of individual liberty. Indeed, the most "local" governance of all is the governance of an individual over his or her own life and property. This bill slightly reduces the ability of a political subdivision to infringe on the rights of property owners.
- The right of property owners to make their own choices about their property should be respected. Increasing housing flexibility benefits everyone.
- Lack of suitable housing in New Hampshire may be relieved if property owners have the freedom to build multi-unit homes on their parcels.

HB 226, enabling municipalities to regulate the distribution and disposal of certain solid waste within landfills.

HB 226

Municipal and County Government: ITL 16-4

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows towns and municipalities to regulate the distribution and disposal of certain solid waste within landfills.

- This bill attempts to make it illegal to throw almost anything away. It gives municipalities the power to regulate what you can and cannot discard by applying the vacuous term 'single-use' as the only filter on this disastrously ill-conceived bill.
- New Hampshire is known for its cleanliness and beautiful forests and roadways such as the White Mountains and the Kancamagus. One of the obvious side effects of not providing easily-accessible garbage disposal is illegal roadside dumping. The potential impact to the state tourism industry is profound.

YEA ITL

HR 8, urging Congress to enact legislation regulating and banning certain semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

HR 8

State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs: ITL 10-8

ANTI-LIBERTY: This resolution urges congress to enact unconstitutional and ineffective laws relative to firearms.

- All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property, and the state. The state of New Hampshire should not be urging members of congress to infringe upon the right to self-defense.

YEA ITL

HB 498, requiring fish and game officers to obtain a warrant to conduct a search and seizure.**HB 498****Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 19-1****PRO-LIBERTY: This bill requires conservation officers to obtain a search warrant for conducting certain enforcement operations.**

- Conservation officers do not have more important tasks to carry out than any other law enforcement official that should permit them to be able to operate above the law and the Constitution.
- Conservation officers have also been tasked with enforcement of other laws, in particular, motor vehicle laws (RSA 206:26,XV).
- In both the United States Constitution 4th and 5th Amendments as well as in the New Hampshire Constitution, Part First, Article 19, the government is prohibited from warrantless, unreasonable searches and people cannot be compelled to testify against themselves in a criminal proceeding. Unlike the other law enforcement agencies in the state, including the State Police that require probable cause, Fish and Game can detain and search under the far lower standard of 'reasonable and articulable suspicion'. This bill is necessary to ensure that all of the citizens of New Hampshire are treated equally under the law.

NAY ITL