



# NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

# GOLD STANDARD



NHLIBERTY.ORG

HOUSE SESSION - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023

CACR 4 YEA ITL	HB 142 NAY OTP/A	HB 331 YEA OTP	HB 507 YEA OTP	HB 557 YEA OTP
CACR 7 YEA OTP	HB 205 NAY OTP	HB 351 NAY OTP/A	HB 510 YEA ITL	HB 572 NAY OTP/A
HB 61 NAY OTP	HB 255 NAY OTP/A	HB 363 YEA OTP	HB 511 YEA ITL	HB 573 NAY OTP
HB 69 YEA OTP	HB 261 NAY OTP	HB 397 YEA OTP	HB 532 NAY OTP	HB 603 NAY OTP
HB 114 NAY OTP	HB 275 YEA OTP	HB 427 YEA OTP	HB 538 YEA OTP	HB 621 YEA OTP
HB 127 YEA OTP	HB 299 YEA ITL	HB 432 NAY OTP	HB 539 YEA OTP	HB 629 NAY OTP
HB 135 YEA OTP/A	HB 316 YEA OTP/A	HB 486 NAY ITL	HB 552 NAY OTP	

## HB 135, prohibiting no-knock warrants.

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP/A 19-1**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, raises the bar for the execution of no-knock warrants.**

- "No-knock" warrants allow law enforcement to use force to gain entry into a residence without giving any prior notice or announcing their entry. This is dangerous both for the police and the potentially-innocent occupants of the household as the resulting confusion dramatically increases the probability of inadvertent injury or death.
- When individuals are not aware of who is trying to break down their door, they can, will, and should use deadly force to defend their property.
- Originally conceived as a means to prevent the destruction of evidence, no-knock raids have been misused by law enforcement, executed at incorrect addresses, and resulted in fatalities, both to law enforcement personnel and to civilians. Between 2010 and 2016, 81 civilians and 13 officers have died during no-knock raids ([www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/03/18/us/forced-entry-warrant-drug-raid.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/03/18/us/forced-entry-warrant-drug-raid.html)).
- Per the New Hampshire Law Enforcement Manual ([www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/documents/law-enforcement-manual.pdf](http://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/documents/law-enforcement-manual.pdf)) the purpose of 'knock and announce' is to protect people's rights to privacy in their homes and to prevent unnecessary violence that could result from unannounced entries.
- While rare, there are instances across the country of no-knock warrants being executed at the wrong address due to typographical or other errors that have at times lead to disastrous consequences. As such, a complete prohibition on the ability to execute a no-knock warrant would be preferable. However, this bill, even with the proposed amendment, is a small step in the right direction.
- While voting for the unamended bill is preferable, the bill should be supported with or without the amendment as a small step in the right direction.

# HB 135

# YEA OTP/A

**HB 351, relative to the negligent storage of firearms and relative to firearm safety devices.**

**HB 351**

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP/A 10-9**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill infringes on a person's own access to their firearms and has severe consequences if their Second Amendment right is not yielded.**

- This bill is a violation of Supreme Court precedent. In the 2008 Heller decision, the court stated: "...Similarly, the requirement that any lawful firearm in the home be disassembled or bound by a trigger lock makes it impossible for citizens to use arms for the core lawful purpose of self-defense and is hence unconstitutional." (554 U.S., pp 3).
- This bill will force firearm owners to pay for the fearful emotions of some by forcing them to purchase an additional device with their firearms.
- Children are fundamentally the charge and responsibility of their parents. This bill violates the Second Amendment while making everyone responsible for someone else's child.
- The primary ability of a person to defend themselves in their own home would be effectively disincentivized by this bill, making it far less problematic for home invaders to break in and have their way with homeowners.
- Only a parent should be held to any responsibility for the actions of their children, not "Any person who stores or leaves on premises under that person's control a loaded firearm". Homeowners, or property owners who are typically without children should have no burden of protection for someone else's child.

**NAY  
OTP/A**

**HB 397, relative to the prohibition of the possession of hypodermic needles by minors.**

**HB 397**

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP 14-6**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill clarifies the circumstances under which a minor may be in possession of a hypodermic needle or syringe.**

- This bill clarifies and provides for rational cases where a minor may need to have access to a hypodermic syringe.
- Without this bill, an elder minor attempting to help a young sibling with an insulin injection would be in violation of the law.

**YEA  
OTP**

**CACR 7, relating to use of money raised by taxation for education. Providing that money raised by taxation may be applied for the use of religious educational institutions.**

**CACR 7**

**Education: Without Recommendation**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution removes the prohibition on the use of money raised by taxation for schools of any religious sect or denomination.**

- This amendment repeals the Blaine Amendment from the NH Constitution, thereby following US Supreme Court decisions in recent years that say that if you provide tax-paid tuition to secular private schools, it would be discriminatory if you did not also provide tax-paid tuition to religious private schools.
- In Carson v Makin, Chief Justice Roberts noted that the First Amendment's free exercise clause protects against, "...indirect coercion or penalties on the free exercise of religion, not just outright prohibitions." ([https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-1088\\_dbfi.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-1088_dbfi.pdf))

**YEA  
OTP**

**HB 61, relative to teaching on discrimination in the public schools and discrimination in public workplaces.**

**Education: Without Recommendation**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill seeks to make it legal to discriminate based on race and sex in public workplaces.**

- This bill seeks to repeal from New Hampshire law the following: *"The general court hereby finds and declares that practices of discrimination against any New Hampshire inhabitants because of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin are a matter of state concern, that discrimination based on these characteristics not only threatens the rights and proper privileges of New Hampshire inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state and threatens the peace, order, health, safety and general welfare of the state and its inhabitants."* (RSA 354 A:29 I)
- The bill prevents teachers from being sued or otherwise challenged for teaching racist, discriminatory materials (and presumably child sexual grooming materials).
- The bill would presumably shield teachers from parents' questioning or criticism for what they teach, thus suppressing the parents' First Amendment rights.

## NAY OTP

**HB 275, relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board.**

**Education: Without Recommendation**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows a pupil's parents to pay the difference between a receiving district's school tuition cost and the sending district tuition cap in a school tuition program.**

- Since the "Croydon bill", a few school districts with town tuitioning have been setting a tuition cap, any amount over which would be paid by parents who selected those schools. Putting it into law would allow more districts to go this route, which can expand school choice.

## YEA OTP

**HB 331, relative to the income threshold for the education freedom account program.**

**Education: Without Recommendation**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill removes the household income criteria from eligibility requirements for the Education Freedom Accounts program.**

- The Education Freedom Accounts have been a smashing success for providing Granite Staters with greater access to private, home, charter, or other alternative schooling options for their children for a lower tax burden on Granite Staters.
- This bill would allow all Granite Staters to opt out of public school and choose a program that will cost the taxpayer generally half as much as the public option while providing the opportunity for superior education outcomes.
- This also allows for greater innovation in the field of education in the state as the public schools are now having to compete for students as well as the private programs needing to innovate to be successful.

## YEA OTP

**HB 427, relative to public comment and inquiry during school board meetings.**

**Education: Without Recommendation**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill establishes requirements for public meetings held by a school board to include a designated time period for questions from the public and answers from the board. The bill also allows an attendee of a meeting of the school board to demand which New Hampshire statute or administrative rule gives the school board the authority described in a school policy or operational procedure.**

- This should not be legislation that has to be made, but it has been increasingly common for school boards to deny the public opportunities to be heard and to have their questions answered.
- Parents and members of the public have been arrested for speaking their minds at school board meetings with no knowledge of any NH statute or administrative rule that would enlighten the member of the public as to why the school board thinks that they have the authority to take that action.
- This is common sense legislation for anyone who values transparency, accountability, and basic respect towards parents and members of the public at school board meetings.

## YEA OTP

## HB 432, relative to participation in the education freedom accounts program.

### Education: Without Recommendation

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires annual determination of eligibility for awarding of Education Freedom Account funds.**

- The Education Freedom Accounts should be available to all New Hampshire children, regardless of income.
- This bill would make it likely that children, once qualified and in the Education Freedom Accounts program, would be disqualified if their parents got a raise at work that would put them over the arbitrary income limit; thereby promoting poverty at the cost of children's education freedom.

# HB 432

## NAY OTP

## HB 538, establishing a local education freedom account program.

### Education: Without Recommendation

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows school districts to adopt a program for local education freedom accounts for a parent of an eligible student to receive a grant from a scholarship organization for qualifying educational expenses at a public school, chartered public school, nonpublic school, or program approved by the Department of Education.**

- Education Freedom Accounts have allowed for unparalleled innovation in increasing educational outcomes, enhancing liberty and free choice, and moving towards a cost-effective, industry-responsive educational model that will enhance opportunities for Granite Staters.
- Expanding this program to local communities will increase access to participation in the program.

# HB 538

## YEA OTP

## HB 539, relative to vaccination clinics at schools.

### Education: Without Recommendation

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill prohibits a public elementary or secondary school from conducting a vaccination clinic during school hours.**

- The intended use of a public school is for education and this bill will allow those institutions to focus on education and protect them from expensive mission creep.
- Vaccine availability is already prolific at pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals. This bill targets the very definition of wasteful spending.
- Parents, not public schools, are responsible for the health and well-being of their children with respect to vaccination.

# HB 539

## YEA OTP

## HB 552, relative to making incentive grants for school districts that improve in certain assessment scores.

### Education: Without Recommendation

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill removes money from the state's rainy day fund, which was established to address revenue shortfalls that result from things such as recessions, to a new program that rewards public schools that increase mathematics test scores in statewide assessments.**

- This bill establishes a dangerous precedent of pulling from a fund that was explicitly established to address shortfalls that result when general fund revenues in the most-recently-completed fiscal biennium were less than the budget forecast. Repurposing these funds for other purposes weakens the purpose of the fund and undermines public trust.
- The bill allows the Department of Education to determine criteria to qualify for awards. While they may choose wise criteria, if too few schools qualify, there will be pressure to reduce the standards over time and no legislative oversight or guidance is present to prevent this.
- The bill may have unintended consequences. Under RSA 193-C:6, parents may opt their children out of the statewide standardized assessment. While we support this option, there is a risk that a school may advise or pressure families of students with educational challenges to consider alternatives to standardized testing based not on what is best for the child as an individual but rather what is best for causing test scores to rise.

# HB 552

## NAY OTP

## HB 572, relative to eligibility for free school meals.

Education: OTP/A 12-8

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases the eligibility for free school meals to household incomes up to 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines.**

- The median income in 2023 in New Hampshire is \$88,235 while in the United States it is \$67,521. The poverty index for a family of four increased by 300% is \$90,000. This bill would charge taxpayers for low-quality food to be provided to middle-class families.
- The free school lunch program's intent was to make sure children from impoverished homes could have the energy to pay attention, learn, and perform in their education. This bill turns this into an entitlement for families who are doing well enough to feed their children.

# HB 572

## NAY OTP/A

## HB 573, limiting education freedom account funding to budgeted amounts.

Education: Without Recommendation

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill limits the amounts of funds distributed from the education trust fund to the Education Freedom Accounts program to budgeted sums.**

- The Education Freedom Accounts are not intended to be a separate tax on the citizens, but a direct replacement for public education through school choice.
- This bill would de facto create a new tax cost in New Hampshire where instead of using the public's education funding for the education of their choice, they now have to generate new tax revenue.

# HB 573

## NAY OTP

## HB 603, relative to education service providers under the education freedom accounts program.

Education: Without Recommendation

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill adds compliance requirements for education service providers requesting payment from Education Freedom Account funds, including criminal history records checks of employees with direct contact with students.**

- The Education Freedom Accounts are available to New Hampshire parents who do not see the public school system as the best environment to achieve the highest educational outcomes for their children.
- This bill attempts to enforce those policies, which in part make the public school system an exceedingly poor choice for many, onto the alternative providers parents have selected to assist in the education of their children.
- This bill would add an anchor of unnecessary regulation, thereby making it too costly for talented independent education providers to offer desired services.
- Instead of attempting to limit choice, public school systems should embrace the challenge to compete for the highest educational outcomes for the children of New Hampshire.

# HB 603

## NAY OTP

## HB 621, relative to funds of the education freedom accounts program after termination of a student's participation and responsibilities of the scholarship organization.

Education: Without Recommendation

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill requires that upon enrolling in a public school an Education Freedom Account program student's participation and funding are terminated. The bill also requires audits by the scholarship organization and investigation of misuses of funds.**

- This bill closes a loophole that allowed those who returned to the public school system from the Education Freedom Account program from continuing to spend previously awarded EFA grants.
- This will reduce extra cost to the education system by preventing double-spending.

# HB 621

## YEA OTP

## HB 629, establishing a student bill of rights.

Education: Without Recommendation

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a student bill of entitlements.**

- This bill introduces a 'student bill of rights' that mostly says that any rights listed in the US or NH Constitutions apply to students in public schools. However, it also lists some entitlements, which should never be conflated with rights.
- This bill would be aligned with liberty if it simply stated that schools have to apply the US and NH Constitutions to students in public schools.
- This bill conflates rights with entitlements. The entitlement of one person requires the enslavement of another. Rights require nothing more than to simply live and let live.

# HB 629

## NAY OTP

## HB 255, relative to campaign contributions by limited liability companies.

Election Law: OTP/A 10-9

**ANTI-LIBERTY:** This bill requires that a political contribution by a limited liability company be allocated to members for purposes of determining whether a member has exceeded the contribution limits.

- This bill would assign to members of LLCs a proportion of the political contribution limit spent by the LLC regardless of whether or not that member actually supported the political contribution.
- LLCs should not be especially penalized for campaign contributions; this would not apply to corporations and those employees therein.
- This bill would force the LLC to provide the identities of all members irrespective of whether those members endorsed the political contribution, thereby violating their right to privacy.

# HB 255

## NAY OTP/A

## HB 316, relative to meetings of supervisors of the checklist.

Election Law: OTP/A 12-7

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, requires the supervisors of the checklist to meet every 90 days.

- This bill increases government transparency by making the checklist maintenance process open and available to the public.

# HB 316

## YEA OTP/A

## HB 363, relative to deadlines for candidates filing by nomination papers for state general elections.

Election Law: Without Recommendation

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill changes the deadlines for candidates filing by nomination papers for state general elections.

- This bill decouples the filing period for candidates who wish to appear on the general election ballot but who are not participants in party primary elections from the date of the state primary.
- This only impacts candidates who run as independents or as a member of a minor political party. Currently the barrier for these candidates to appear on the ballot is substantially higher than candidates who choose to run with one of the entrenched parties that utilize taxpayer-funded primaries to select their preferred candidate. This bill would leave the existing high barriers in place but would make a modest change that would prevent changes to the primary dates from inadvertently negatively impacting these candidates who would otherwise face shortened time to gather petitions/signatures.
- While this bill on its own does not have significant impacts to liberty, the impact is significant when coupled with numerous bills from both this term and prior recent terms that seek to modify the primary date without correcting this oversight of an artificial coupling of independent candidate filings to primary elections.

# HB 363

## YEA OTP

## HB 127, relative to the declaration of a state of emergency.

Executive Departments and Administration: OTP 11-7

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill revises the authority of the governor and general court to declare, renew, or terminate a state of emergency.

- This bill modifies existing law and limits the length of a state of emergency that could be declared by the governor.
- This would prevent the governor from declaring an indefinite state of emergency. Dictatorial powers of the governor should not be allowed to perpetually constrain personal liberties of the citizens.

# HB 127

## YEA OTP

**HB 507, relative to unauthorized practice in occupational and professional licensing and certification.**

**HB 507**

**Executive Departments and Administration: Without Recommendation**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill clarifies existing law so that penalties for the unlicensed practice of a profession regulated under the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification do not apply so long as the person practicing does not hold themselves out as being licensed or certified and discloses the fact that he or she is not licensed or certified.**

- Occupational licensing offers little in the way of benefit, except for those who benefit from the limited competition that results from raising barriers for would-be entrepreneurs.
- This bill would increase liberty by allowing consumers who would like the option of working with an unlicensed professional to do so without negatively impacting individuals who prefer the government stamp of approval by retaining state licensing structure, but not imposing penalties on individuals who are open with potential customers.
- Democrat members of the House should consider supporting this bill as it aligns with the NH Democratic platform plank of "We recognize the importance of our immigrant population to our workforce and economic growth." A study by the Federal Reserve found that nationally, workers of color are less likely to be licensed ([www.minneapolisfed.org/article/2022/how-occupational-licensing-limits-access-to-jobs-among-workers-of-color](http://www.minneapolisfed.org/article/2022/how-occupational-licensing-limits-access-to-jobs-among-workers-of-color)) and even within education groups, workers of color are underrepresented among licensed workers.
- Republican members of the House should consider supporting this bill as it aligns with multiple NH Republican platform planks including: "Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses", "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork".
- All members of the House should vote OTP on this bill as it aligns with the NH Constitution — "[Art.] 2. [Natural Rights.] All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property; and, in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state on account of race, creed, color, sex or national origin."

**YEA  
OTP**

**HB 532, relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.**

**HB 532**

**Executive Departments and Administration: Without Recommendation**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill expands occupational licensing without a compelling public interest.**

- Music therapy does not include the screening, diagnosis, or assessment of any physical, mental, or communication disorder. Music therapists are not qualified mental health professionals.
- This bill would simply create a new state-granted barrier of entry into a profession that will limit consumer choices and ultimately grow state government under the guise of providing an option for such therapy to be covered under health insurance.

**NAY  
OTP**

**HB 69, relative to direct payment and membership-based health care facilities.**

**HB 69**

**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Without Recommendation**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill exempts facilities operating with membership-based or direct payment business models from the special health care licensing requirement that the facility adopt a policy to assure that it provides services to all persons who require the services of the facility regardless of the source of payment.**

- This bill will protect vital health-care service facilities who are able to survive due to their membership-based and/or direct payment models from having to accept persons who can't participate in that model.
- Those seeking treatment have a plethora of far more common options available to them than membership-based businesses.

**YEA  
OTP**

**HB 114, relative to the age at which a minor may receive mental health treatment without parental consent.**

**HB 114**

**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: OTP 11-9**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows a minor 16 years of age or older to consent to mental health treatment without parental consent.**

**NAY  
OTP**

- Parents are legally and financially responsible for their children up to the age of 18 years. This bill would force parents to pay for treatments they did not want or consent to.
- Minor children should have no ability to consent to mental health treatment if they are suspected of poor mental health. Instead, the responsible, mentally healthy parents should be the sole decision makers for such critical, potentially life-altering choices.

**HB 299, prohibiting discrimination in medical care.**

**HB 299**

**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: ITL 12-8**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill prohibits medical businesses from choosing not to treat someone based on their ability to pay for the services.**

**YEA ITL**

- This bill would prohibit a medical business such as a hospital, employing surgeons, nurses, and others, to verify the patient's ability to pay for the proposed services such as providing proof of insurance or other credit.
- Hospitals, doctors, and nurses spent immeasurable resources in the form of time and money to obtain the skills necessary to provide the outstanding health care options available in New Hampshire. These services cannot be required for free as citizens are not slaves or indentured to servitude due to the qualities of their skills.

**HB 557, relative to the department of health and human services' rulemaking authority regarding immunization requirements.**

**HB 557**

**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Without Recommendation**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill removes the rulemaking authority of the commissioner of health and human services on immunization requirements beyond those diseases identified in statute.**

**YEA  
OTP**

- This bill limits the required vaccinations to those explicitly stated in RSA 141-C:20-a.
- This bill would further remove the ability of unelected officials from dictating that parents vaccinate children with new and unproven therapies.

**HB 261, authorizing residential tenants to terminate their lease in instances of domestic violence or following a disabling illness or accident.**

**HB 261**

**Judiciary: Without Recommendation**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill permits residential tenants to terminate their lease in instances of domestic violence or following a disabling illness or accident, and describes the written documentation required.**

**NAY  
OTP**

- This bill does not define 'disabling accident or illness' and as such becomes an ad liberum legal loophole allowing for any tenant to exit any lease agreement at any time.
- This bill essentially nullifies all lease agreements and will decimate the incentive for anyone to become a landlord in New Hampshire.
- Without those willing to take on the risk of property ownership and renting to others, the housing availability to renters will deteriorate, which will greatly increase rent throughout the state.

**CACR 4, relating to compensation for legislators. Providing that legislators' biennial salary compensation shall be increased.**

**CACR 4**

**Legislative Administration: ITL 10-5**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This proposed constitutional amendment would increase the limit on legislator salary and enable future increases through the normal legislative process.**

**YEA ITL**

- The existing constitutional language on legislator salary provides a cap on compensation that prevents individuals from taking on a role in the legislature as a career. This bill would weaken that language as a first step toward setting a higher salary via statute.
- The existing modest compensation increases the probability that individuals will only attempt to serve for a limited number of terms and saves New Hampshire taxpayers from being compelled to further fund an organization that demonstrably has as its goal the expansion of state power.



**HB 511, relative to requiring the department of transportation to do road maintenance and repairs according to its complete streets program.**

**HB 511**

**Public Works and Highways: ITL 15-0**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires towns, cities, state departments, and state institutions to coordinate with a new "complete streets" advisory committee to plan and follow the complete streets program.**

**YEA ITL**

- This bill would increase costs to municipalities or force them to downshift costs to local taxpayers while seeing their tax dollars used to expand infrastructure in other towns.
- This provides an incentive for a nationally-set strategy for local streets that may not align with the needs of the local taxpayer.

**HB 205, relative to testing private wells.**

**HB 205**

**Resources, Recreation and Development: Without Recommendation**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This paternalistic bill mandates testing of private wells.**

**NAY  
OTP**

- Property owners have an incentive to test for contaminants in their private wells on their own. Mandating it will only force property owners to engage in a more arduous process to obtain testing for their own property which is particularly problematic if they do not desire that protection.
- The choice to inspect one's own water or to request notification for potential contaminants should be the responsibility of the property owner.

**HB 142, relative to the operation of the Burgess Biopower plant.**

**HB 142**

**Science, Technology and Energy: OTP/A 18-2**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill cancels \$50 million of debt that the Burgess Biopower plant owes to NH ratepayers.**

**NAY  
OTP/A**

- Eversource customers have already paid more than \$150 million in above-market rates for electricity generated by the Burgess Biopower plant. This bill reduces the amount that the Burgess Biopower electricity generation plant owes the ratepayers of Eversource.
- The operation of the Burgess plan is a market-distorting jobs program funded by a mandatory rate increase on Eversource customers. With electric rates at near-record highs, the plant is still unable to operate competitively. This bill does nothing to address the long term problem that has required legislative interference on a regular basis but simply kicks the can once again to the commissars who will be back in two more years asking for further relief.

**HB 486, relative to vehicle registrations and reciprocal toll collection enforcement agreements.**

**HB 486**

**Ways and Means: ITL 18-2**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill would prevent foreign states from using the power of the state to deprive a New Hampshire citizen of the ability to register any vehicle due to incurring civil fines associated with an alleged toll evasion.**

**NAY ITL**

- Billing disputes should not be handled by invoking the heavy-handed power of the state to deny the right to travel and potentially cause a vehicle owner to lose their job. Collection of unpaid bills is a civil matter and should be handled accordingly.
- This heavy-handed state action is particularly troubling when reciprocal tolling is used, as there have been a number of high profile cases of E-ZPass improperly billing people ([usatoday.com/story/news/local/2021/12/10/ri-ez-pass-truck-toll-gantry-system-incorrectly-charged-1800-cars/6460940001](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/local/2021/12/10/ri-ez-pass-truck-toll-gantry-system-incorrectly-charged-1800-cars/6460940001)) as well as instances of improper bills being generated by the pay-by-plate system that is used in multiple states ([cbsnews.com/chicago/news/despite-reform-instituted-last-year-some-illinois-tollway-users-struggle-to-resolve-incorrect-charges/](https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/despite-reform-instituted-last-year-some-illinois-tollway-users-struggle-to-resolve-incorrect-charges/)).

**HB 510, relative to removing the exemption for premium cigars from the tobacco tax.**

**HB 510**

**Ways and Means: ITL 15-5**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill removes the exemption from the tobacco tax on premium cigars.**

**YEA ITL**

- This bill would directly erode the New Hampshire Advantage. NH presently has no tax on cigars. That fact has specifically drawn multiple cigar companies to NH; several moved here when MA imposed its cigar tax in 1996.
- This bill seeks to raise revenue for the state, but will ultimately fail in doing so as the business taxes paid by cigar sellers and other businesses that benefit from the out-of-state traffic the sales generate would be lost due to decreased premium cigar sales.