



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

HB 74 YEA ITL
HB 250 NAY OTP/A
HB 337 YEA OTP
HB 430 YEA ITL
HB 534 YEA ITL
HB 626 YEA ITL
HB 639 YEA OTP/A



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

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

Finance: ITL 13-11

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

- 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 74

YEA ITL

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

Finance: OTP/A 25-0

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.

- 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 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 is a violation of Article 28-a of the New Hampshire Constitution.

HB 250

**NAY
OTP/A**

HB 337, relative to directing the office of professional licensure and certification to provide notice of public meetings and an opportunity for comment from the public.

Finance: OTP 25-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill directs the office of professional licensure and certification to provide to the public notice of its meetings and an opportunity to comment in such meetings.

- This bill increases government transparency by requiring the office of professional licensure and certification to announce its meetings beforehand, allow for public commentary on matters of interest, and provide meeting materials beforehand or at the time of the meeting.

HB 337

**YEA
OTP**

HB 430, relative to applications for the education freedom accounts program.

Finance: ITL 13-12

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires students to have been enrolled in a public school for at least one year, unless they're going into kindergarten or first grade, to qualify for Education Freedom Accounts.

- This anti-liberty bill attempts to take freedom away from families by removing their opportunity to avoid public schooling entirely.
- Education Freedom Accounts exist to provide parents the freedom to choose by whom and where their children are educated.
- The public money provided is intended for the students to achieve top-notch educational outcomes as set by their parents, not any particular system.
- Parents hold the highest responsibility, and therefore authority, for guiding their children to their successes, not the state.

HB 430

YEA ITL

HB 534, relative to water assistance for natural disasters.

HB 534

Finance: ITL 13-12

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill creates a water assistance fund to be used to repair and replace drinking water treatment sources damaged by natural disasters. The bill also makes an appropriation to the fund.

YEA ITL

- This bill pointlessly allocates \$5 million from the general fund to a new 'water assistance' fund. There is already a rainy day fund that would more effectively and efficiently provide relief for any type of disaster as the legislature sees fit.

HB 626, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account.

HB 626

Finance: ITL 13-12

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill changes the administration of Education Freedom Accounts from non-profit scholarship organizations to the Department of Education.

YEA ITL

- The Department of Education would have to expend taxpayer funds to set up staff and infrastructure that the non-profit scholarship organization already has in place with no clear return on investment. Costs to administer the program would, over time, grow as expensive taxpayer-funded retirement programs are expanded to provide benefits to the additional staff who would run the program.

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

HB 639

Ways and Means: OTP/A 16-4

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.