



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

# GOLD STANDARD

HB 114 YEA ITL  
HB 142 NAY OTP  
HB 343 NAY ITL  
HB 360 NAY ITL  
HB 367 YEA OTP  
HB 431 NAY ITL  
HB 473 NAY ITL



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023

**HB 367, relative to eligibility of students in the education freedom account program.**

**Education: OTP 3-2**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill makes a modest increase in the income eligibility threshold for participation in the Education Freedom Accounts program.**

- Education Freedom Accounts have partially shifted the locus of control from government bureaucrats to families — allowing parents additional options for their children based on their individual education needs, using funds that the state had already dedicated to education on a per-pupil basis.
- The legacy education system has failed to keep pace with the evolving improvements that are happening around the world. Shifting power from a government monopoly to families choosing in a market will spur innovation (e.g., online education, competency-based education, etc.). Having accountability rest directly on those who bear the consequences of a school's performance is superior to top-down regulatory accountability.
- Although all families should have access to their tax dollars back, this bill increases the number of families that are provided with additional choices in where and how their children are educated.

## HB 367

### YEA OTP

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

**Energy and Natural Resources: OTP 3-0**

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

- 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 plant 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 142

### NAY OTP

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

**Judiciary: ITL 3-2**

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

- 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 114

### YEA ITL

## HB 343, relative to release of confidential records of a person appointed a guardian.

Judiciary: ITL 3-2

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill provides that a person who has been appointed a guardian shall retain the right to access and consent to the release of his or her confidential records unless the terms of the appointment provide otherwise.

- This bill returns the liberty to a ward who was previously deemed incapacitated to release and share their very own private records with another of their choosing, which may allow another professional to render an informed opinion of their present state.
- Those under court-appointed conservatorship may find relief from their situation by offering for review documentation that the present appointed 'guardian' may find disagreeable.

# HB 343

## NAY ITL

## HB 360, an act legalizing cannabis for persons 21 years of age or older.

Judiciary: ITL 3-2

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill legalizes the possession and use of cannabis for persons 21 years of age and older.

- NH remains an island in a sea of cannabis legalization; most Granite Staters live within a 30 minute drive from a cannabis dispensary in another state.
- This bill will give NH the best cannabis laws in the US, which sets the bar rather low; however, the United States is slowly becoming an epicenter of cannabis industry, with NH hopefully leading the forefront after legislation like this.
- With fentanyl and other opioid death rates at an all-time high, now is the time to start to bring an end to the failed 52-year-old War On Drugs policies that have contributed to dangerous products and underground usage that has helped to fuel the crisis.

# HB 360

## NAY ITL

## HB 431, permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use.

Judiciary: ITL 3-2

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill allows qualifying medical cannabis patients and designated caregivers to cultivate a limited number of plants for therapeutic use.

- This bill decreases medical costs for patients by allowing them to grow their own medicine.
- People should not have to choose between fearing criminal prosecution and not having access to medicine.
- This bill gives patients better access to their medicine. Many patients do not live near the few dispensaries in the state, and will benefit from this bill.

# HB 431

## NAY ITL

## HB 473, relative to penalties for controlled drug violations.

Judiciary: ITL 3-2

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill reduces the penalty for certain schedule I, II, III, and IV drug offenses.

- This bill reduces the number of people incarcerated for these nonviolent, victimless offenses. Currently it costs \$64,233 per person per year to incarcerate someone in New Hampshire.
- This bill reduces the number of NH citizens with a felony record, and it eliminates some exorbitant fines for drug use.
- This reforms our drug laws to be more in line with the New Hampshire Constitution's Part I, Art. 18.: *"No wise Legislature will affix the same punishment to the crimes of theft, forgery, and the like, which they do to those of murder and treason. Where the same undistinguishing severity is exerted against all offenses, the people are led to forget the real distinction in the crimes themselves, and to commit the most flagrant with as little compunction as they do the lightest offenses."*

# HB 473

## NAY ITL