



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

HB 1002 NAY OTP/A
HB 1116 YEA OTP/A
HB 1396 NAY ITL
HB 1634 Support
HB 1665 Support



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

HB 1634, relative to universal eligibility for the education freedom account program.

Education: Without Recommendation

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill enables universal access to the Education Freedom Accounts program.

- 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.
- Education Freedom Accounts provide Granite Staters with greater access to private, home, charter, or other alternative schooling options for their children with an ultimately lower tax burden for taxpayers, as only funds considered required by the state for an adequate education are allocated to the account, and not additional optional funding that often is added at the municipal level.

HB 1634

Support

HB 1665, relative to student eligibility for the education freedom accounts program.

Education: Without Recommendation

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill raises the household income criteria for eligibility to receive funding for the Education Freedom Accounts program.

- This bill would allow more 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.
- Education Freedom Accounts provide Granite Staters with greater access to private, home, charter, or other alternative schooling options for their children with an ultimately lower tax burden for taxpayers, as only funds considered required by the state for an adequate education are allocated to the account, and not additional optional funding that often is added at the municipal level.

HB 1665

Support

HB 1116, relative to certain firearms to be used for taking of game.

Fish and Game and Marine Resources: OTP/A 11-6

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, removes the existing requirement that the firearm be lever action.

- The action of the rifle is largely unrelated to the ballistics or power of the pistol round fired and thus its suitability for the purpose of hunting.
- Removing an arbitrary restriction allows hunters to select the tool that is available to them that is best suited to the task.

HB 1116

YEA OTP/A

NAY ITL

NAY OTP/A

HB 1396, relative to prohibiting municipal inspections of owner-occupied units of multi-unit housing.

Municipal and County Government: ITL 11-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill prohibits municipal inspections of owner-occupied units within residential structures of four units or less.

- The NH Constitution enshrines the right to privacy; having municipalities conduct inspections of owner-occupied units in buildings of four units or less greatly infringes on that constitutionally-protected right.
- This bill prevents the government from violating the sanctity of one's home by conducting inspections without the owner's consent.
- Most NH homeowners would view it as ridiculous if their homes were inspected by the municipality. Just because a small-building owner chooses to occupy one of the units in the building doesn't mean they shouldn't have the same privacy protections as any other homeowner; there is no reason why multi-family homeowners should be treated as second-class citizens in terms of their protections from municipal inspections.

Support Motion to Reconsider HB 1002

HB 1002, relative to fees for records under the right-to-know law.

Judiciary: OTP/A 12-8

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows a public body to charge fees for records made available under RSA 91-A.

- Support the motion for reconsideration and oppose this bill.
- People have a right to know how their money is being spent and what policies are being enacted in their name. Pragmatically, transparency is required in order to keep corruption and waste in check. While it is always challenging for the public to hold officials accountable, without reliable information it is nearly impossible.
- Public bodies already have a very strong upper hand in denying unreasonable records requests: they can simply deny the request and force the party seeking records to sue. If a request is indeed unreasonable the court will easily affirm.
- This bill will have a chilling effect on transparency by enabling public bodies to provide high estimates for access to public data, or worse, to take explicit actions that would indeed result in *actually* higher labor costs to recover the data. For example, the city of Nashua delayed the processing of a 91-A request long enough that relevant emails had been purged from the system and were only available on backup tape (www.unionleader.com/news/courts/nh-supreme-court-sides-with-nashua-resident-in-right-to-know-case/article_7f1f10ab-3519-52f3-b982-8366fe4b1d73.html), requiring the supreme court to take action directing the city to recover the records.
- The bill will have unintended consequences of growing the cost of government in an attempt to mitigate costs. Under current law, public bodies have some incentive to optimize data storage and retrieval systems and make data easily available to constituents. With this bill, even with the proposed amendment, public bodies are incentivized to retain antiquated and labor-intensive systems.