



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

SB 219 YEA OTP/A
SB 342 NAY OTP/A
SB 352 NAY OTP
SB 494 YEA IS
SB 552 YEA IS



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SENATE SESSION - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

SB 342, relative to school building aid funding.

SB 342

Education: OTP/A 3-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a new school district building aid funding program using state funds allocated to each district and makes an appropriation therefor.

- This bill will drive up the cost of public education by establishing a new school building fund and commits the state to adding \$80 million every year to said fund from the general fund.
- This form of funding incentivizes the 'spend it or lose it' mentality at a very expensive rate, which will drive up taxation in New Hampshire.
- To control costs and reduce taxes, the New Hampshire taxpayer is better served when school districts compile specific needs and submit those specific needs to the state department of education to be decided upon on a case-by-case basis.
- Spending on education has ballooned out of control to the tune of \$3.8 *billion* per year (2022-2023 school year).

**NAY
OTP/A**

SB 219, (New Title) requiring mandatory reporting by school districts of school expenses.

SB 219

Finance: OTP/A 4-2

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill requires school districts to post mandatory reports of school expenses, including average cost per pupil, average teacher salaries, and top administrator salaries. It also creates a civil remedy for the enforcement of this requirement.

- This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, will enhance public awareness of the cost incurred by public school administrators through requiring the posting of administrator salaries before any meeting in a school district where a budget is under consideration.
- Enhanced transparency in government increases public trust and awareness.

**YEA
OTP/A**

SB 352, establishing an early detection cancer screening pilot program for active and retired firefighters.

SB 352

Finance: OTP 7-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes an early detection cancer screening pilot program in the Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services, for retired and full-time active firefighters in New Hampshire.

- New Hampshire already heavily subsidizes the healthcare insurance of first responders in New Hampshire.
- This bill is the \$5 million start of a large, new program whose ongoing price tag is to be assumed by the New Hampshire taxpayer.
- First responders who believe they are at an increased risk of cancer can consult with their professional medical doctors and decide on an appropriate course of action to be covered by the health insurance they currently have.

**NAY
OTP**

SB 494, relative to establishing a farmer assistance fund.

Finance: IS 5-2

SB 494

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes the farmer assistance for natural disasters fund and makes a continuing appropriation of up to \$5 million annually therefor.

- This bill creates a \$5 million hole in the state budget that the New Hampshire taxpayer must cover every year.
- All business owners are expected to accept responsibility for the risks of their endeavors, as they are anticipating to reap the rewards. The possibility of experiencing poor and/or failed crops is the acceptable risk that any farmer is expected to take. Creating a dependence on the state will incentivize a degradation of the farmer's skill and create pressure on the state to increase the burden on the taxpayer to rescue more farmers who were previously able to manage occasional loss on their own.
- While a motion of ITL would be preferable, IS is acceptable.

YEA IS

SB 552, relative to lapse of funds from the education trust fund.

Finance: IS 5-2

SB 552

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires that any amount exceeding \$175 million in the education trust fund at the close of a fiscal year shall be transferred to a dedicated fund to be expended on teacher shortage and teacher retention programs. It also creates a legislative advisory group to provide advice and consent for the use of such funds.

- This bill would eliminate an opportunity to reduce taxes and instead would inflate spending on education in New Hampshire even further.
- The average spending per pupil is currently \$20,383 and the total spending on education alone in New Hampshire during the 2022-2023 school year was over \$3.8 billion. This bill further exacerbates the over-spending.
- Given the stunning size of the current education spending, teacher retention funding could be easily achieved by harvesting efficiencies from reducing administrative costs, overhead, and waste.
- While a motion of ITL would be preferable, IS is acceptable.

YEA IS