



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

# GOLD STANDARD

SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

HB 185 NAY IS  
HB 470 NAY ITL  
HB 1066 YEA OTP  
HB 1186 YEA OTP/A  
HB 1276 NAY IS  
HB 1695 YEA OTP/A  
HB 1698 YEA OTP



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**HB 1066, relative to the graduation requirement of filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).**

## HB 1066

Education: OTP 4-1

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill removes the requirement that students file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form or a waiver for such form prior to graduation and repeals the reporting requirement on the number of students provided in-person school assistance on completing the FAFSA.**

- Parents and children who are often at or near the age of majority are in the best position to determine if filling out onerous federal forms is in their interest. This new mandate for graduation was passed in 2021 and presumes to insert the preferences of the state over those of parents and young adults.
- There are those who have characterized the existing student loan system as being a predatory lending system whereby students are pressured into taking out loans that may not be discharged through bankruptcy and then use the funds to get degrees that do not offer sufficient value to repay the loan. Whether or not a contract that is entered into voluntarily is reasonable to deem as predatory may be a matter of discussion; however, regardless, it is clear that the state of New Hampshire should not mandate that individuals begin the process of engaging with such a system.

### YEA OTP

**HB 1695, relative to the release of student personally identifiable information.**

## HB 1695

Education: OTP/A 3-1

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill prohibits the transfer of students' personally identifiable information beyond third parties without written consent of the parents of the student.**

- This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, prohibits releasing personally identifiable student information beyond third parties without written consent of the student's parents.
- This bill strengthens the ability of parents to protect their children's privacy.

### YEA OTP/A

**HB 1698, relative to the use of drones for the aerial application of pesticides.**

## HB 1698

Energy and Natural Resources: OTP 4-0

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill exempts the application of pesticides via drones from notification procedures.**

- This allows for innovation through the strengthening of property rights by allowing farmers to use drones without notification so long as their drones remain under a twenty foot ceiling while applying pesticides.
- This bill will lower the cost of farm goods by reducing administrative red-tape from a farmer's cost of doing business.

### YEA OTP

**HB 185, (New Title) relative to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities based on shared parenting.**

**HB 185**

**Judiciary: IS 4-1**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill provides that it is a state policy to support approximately equal parenting time of a child for each parent when courts are determining a permanent order concerning parental rights and responsibilities, unless such an arrangement is clearly detrimental to the child.**

**NAY IS**

- While the bill is only a small change compared to the existing RSA which only suggests "frequent and continuing contact", the change to approximately equal time ensures that both parents start on an equal footing in court when it comes to parental rights.
- According to a report from the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2018 about 4 of every 5 (79.9%) of the 12.9 million custodial parents were mothers ([www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-269.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-269.pdf)), and while not every instance is the result of a court proceeding, this bill sets a presumption for courts that equal parenting time for each parent is in the best interest of the child.
- Kentucky passed a similar measure in 2017 ([www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2019/08/30/kentuckys-joint-custody-law-leads-decline-family-court-cases/2158216001](http://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2019/08/30/kentuckys-joint-custody-law-leads-decline-family-court-cases/2158216001)) and found that a drop in family court disputes followed. In addition, according to a meta analysis, kids who share time between both parents' homes approximately equally have better outcomes related to academic achievement and physical and mental health ([momsforsharedparenting.org/shared-parenting-research](http://momsforsharedparenting.org/shared-parenting-research)).
- While only a modest step in the right direction, the result is consistent with better outcomes for children and their parents as well as taxpayers who may be less likely to carry the costs of an expanding family court system.
- Vote NAY IS and then support OTP.

**HB 470, relative to fentanyl test strips and other drug checking equipment.**

**HB 470**

**Judiciary: ITL 3-2**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill legalizes test strips and drug checking equipment used to inform individuals of whether a substance contains another another synthetic opioid, a different controlled substance, or an undisclosed chemical compound or contaminant.**

**NAY ITL**

- This bill allows individuals and harm reduction agencies to possess test strips provided by the market without needing the legislature to act for each new test, as long as the tests are not intended for use with the manufacture or sale of controlled substances for illegal sales.
- While it's true that no test can be 100% accurate, it should not be the role of the state to prohibit individuals from possessing test equipment.
- The bill also allows people testing their drugs to possess and transport a "nominal amount" of a controlled substance for the purposes of drug checking activity.

**HB 1186, relative to firearm purchaser's privacy.**

**HB 1186**

**Judiciary: OTP/A 3-2**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill prohibits the assigning of a specific merchant code to the sale of firearms, ammunition, or firearm accessories, and provides a civil penalty for violations of this prohibition.**

**YEA  
OTP/A**

- This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, protects the privacy of New Hampshire citizens by prohibiting payment processors from assigning a merchant category code that would denote that a firearm or accessory was purchased.
- This bill serves to stop the creation of a gun registry by banks who could then choose to defy the Second Amendment by denying the purchase of firearms and firearm implements, closing bank accounts, or preventing people on the registry from being banked.
- In September 2023, the California governor signed Assembly Bill 1587, which required banks to utilize such codes. Absent protective legislation such as this, New Hampshire citizens would potentially be subject to similar codes as banks attempt to harmonize data collection approaches to meet the requirements of California and other states that seek this backdoor approach to a firearms registry.

Judiciary: IS 4-1

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill repeals the prohibition, penalty, and exceptions relating to the carrying and possessing with intent to sell a blackjack, slung shot, or metallic knuckles for adults.**

- Blackjacks, slung shots, and metallic knuckles are illegal in NH. This bill makes them legal for adults and places them on an equal footing with other tools — wrongful use of these tools will still be a felony.
- The right to self-defense and to bear arms is fundamental to the citizens of New Hampshire and the United States. Both entities' Constitutions make clear that those rights shall not be infringed.
- Mere possession of these items harms no one; using them harmfully is illegal and would remain so even with passage of this bill.
- Vote NAY IS and then support OTP.

NAY IS