



GOLD STANDARD



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

HB 53 YEA OTP/A	HB 107 YEA OTP	HB 282 YEA ITL	HB 352 YEA ITL	HB 504 YEA OTP/A
HB 56 YEA ITL	HB 169 YEA ITL	HB 287 YEA ITL	HB 368 YEA ITL	HB 508 YEA OTP
HB 66 YEA OTP/A	HB 207 YEA OTP	HB 299 YEA ITL	HB 381 YEA OTP	HB 586 YEA ITL
HB 75 NAY ITL	HB 255 YEA ITL	HB 318 YEA ITL	HB 502 YEA ITL	HB 682 YEA OTP

HB 169, relative to a quorum of the public utilities commission.

Science, Technology and Energy: ITL 10-7

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill creates a 2/3 majority requirement for the Public Utilities Commission.

According to the fiscal note, to meet the requirements of the bill, a "special commissioner" would likely need to be hired, who would be paid up to \$150,000 to be on call for meetings during business hours. The bill also defines the Public Utilities Commission as a regulator.

- This bill would create an unnecessary paid position on the Public Utilities Commission.
- Increasing the quorum requirements might hinder the regular functioning of the committee by making it more difficult to have meetings.

HB 169

YEA ITL

HB 504, relative to the state energy policy.

Science, Technology and Energy: OTP/A 10-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill updates the mission of New Hampshire energy policy. It adds additional language supporting free market principles and streamlining regulations to produce low cost energy.

- The bill promotes energy independence by removing regulatory barriers and allowing market forces to drive innovation and efficiency, which is in line with the principles of free market solutions.
- By focusing on reliable and affordable energy without favoring specific technologies, the bill supports a competitive energy market, enhancing economic freedom.
- The policy's emphasis on market principles for energy conservation and efficiency aligns with the belief that voluntary market-driven solutions are superior to government mandates.

HB 504

YEA OTP/A

HB 508, relative to decreasing assessment rates for entities providing VoIP and IP-enabled services, as well as certain local exchange carriers and their affiliates.

Science, Technology and Energy: OTP 18-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill lowers a fee charged to sellers of landline phones from 33% to 10%.

- The Public Utilities Commission recently reduced the amount of oversight and compliance required for landline phones. As a result the need for this fee has significantly reduced.

HB 508

YEA OTP

HB 682, relative to the office of offshore wind industry, the offshore and port development commission, and the office of energy innovation.

Science, Technology and Energy: OTP 9-6

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill repeals the offshore wind industry workforce training center committee and the offshore and port development commission.

- If offshore wind is a viable energy source, it should not require government intervention to sustain it.

HB 682

YEA OTP

HB 287, requiring police departments to provide fire departments with certain motorist personal and insurance information following a motor vehicle incident.

HB 287

Transportation: ITL 9-7

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill compels police departments to share private information about motorists with fire departments.

YEA ITL

- All citizens have a right to privacy, including privacy for their personal information. Sharing information with other government agencies without a clear bonafide government purpose is a violation of that privacy.

HB 368, prohibiting smoking and e-cigarettes in motor vehicles when a passenger is under 16 years of age.

HB 368

Transportation: ITL 9-7

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would not allow adults to smoke in their own car when someone under 16 is present.

YEA ITL

- Parents are in charge of the safety of their own children. The state should not supplant their role as the parent.
- This is a slippery slope leading to banning a multitude of other behaviors deemed inappropriate in front of children.

HB 255, increasing the percentage of revenue deposited in the education trust fund from the business profits tax.

HB 255

Ways and Means: ITL 16-4

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases the amount of business profits tax allocated to the Education Trust Fund, thereby reducing the amount allocated to the General Fund. It locks in additional spending for education.

YEA ITL

- Guaranteeing more money for education through this bill funnels money away from the General Fund and prioritizes education at the expense of the other state agencies receiving money from the General Fund.
- Questions about the level of funding for education are best handled through the budget process, and not through the change proposed in this bill.

HB 318, relative to the percentage of revenue from the business enterprise tax deposited in the education trust fund.

HB 318

Ways and Means: ITL 16-4

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases the amount of business enterprise tax allocated to the Education Trust Fund, thereby reducing the amount allocated to the General Fund. It locks in additional spending for education.

YEA ITL

- Guaranteeing more money for education through this bill funnels money away from the General Fund and prioritizes education at the expense of the other state agencies receiving money from the General Fund.
- Questions about the level of funding for education are best handled through the budget process, and not through the change proposed in this bill.

HB 502, relative to complete corporate reporting for unitary businesses under the business profits tax and revenues from the state education property tax.

HB 502

Ways and Means: ITL 11-9

ANTI-LIBERTY: The bills penalizes international businesses with a presence in New Hampshire who take advantage of variations in tax rules offered by other countries. It does this by eliminating the existing "water's edge" method of taxing international corporations and replacing it with the complete corporate reporting method.

YEA ITL

- Any smart business takes the appropriate steps to lower their expenses, including tax liability. Sometimes they do this by having a presence in other towns, states, or countries. It's smart business to do that.
- Rather than penalize these businesses for acting in their best interest, governments should seek to emulate the preferred jurisdictions to bring that economic activity back to New Hampshire.

HB 56

HB 56, requiring a background check and mandatory waiting period during certain firearm transfers.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 8-7

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill infringes on the Second Amendment and Article 2-a by adding a 72 hour waiting period in the private party sale of a firearm.

- This is a major infringement against the Second Amendment, Article 2-a, property rights, and the ability to defend oneself.

YEA ITL

HB 75

HB 75, legalizing cannabis for persons 21 years of age or older.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 9-7

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows adults the freedom to use cannabis.

- The personal, private use of cannabis should be legal for all adults.
- Continuing to criminalize the use of cannabis perpetuates an unsafe black market providing profit to criminals.

NAY ITL

HB 207

HB 207, relative to repealing the prohibition on the possession or sale of blackjacks, slung shots, and metallic knuckles except by or to minors.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP 8-7

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows adults to possess and sell blackjacks, slung shots, and metallic knuckles.

- These types of weapons are also covered by the protections of the Second Amendment and Article 2-a.
- Adults should have the freedom to access tools like these for self-defense, if they so choose.

**YEA
OTP**

HB 352

HB 352, prohibiting possession of a firearm at a polling place.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 8-7

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill bans firearms at polling places.

- This bill restricts a citizen from legally exercising their right to bear arms while simultaneously exercising their right to vote.

YEA ITL

HB 381

HB 381, exempting firearms and firearm accessories manufactured for in-state use only from the National Firearm Act.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP 8-7

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows for guns completely manufactured and used within the state to avoid national firearms laws.

- This bill is carefully written to prevent the commerce clause in the United States Constitution from giving the federal government the authority to regulate firearms.

**YEA
OTP**

HB 107

HB 107, relative to political advertising printed in newspapers, periodicals, or billboards.

Election Law: OTP 10-7

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill no longer requires political advertising in newspapers, magazines, and billboards to be marked as political advertising.

- Voters are smart and can determine on their own that an advertisement is political.
- In practice, the compliance burden has fallen on publishers, not candidates, to mark advertisements as political.

**YEA
OTP**

HB 53

HB 53, permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use.

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: OTP/A 13-4

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows patients and caregivers to grow therapeutic cannabis at home.

- The personal, private use of cannabis should be legal for all adults.
- This bill allows for restricted home cultivation, which is a step in the right direction toward legalization.

**YEA
OTP/A**

HB 66, relative to material subject to disclosure under the right to know law.

HB 66

Judiciary: OTP/A 13-4

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, expands the "Right-To-Know" law.

**YEA
OTP/A**

- Increasing access to public documents is a great step forward for transparency.
- This bill includes appropriate guardrails to mostly limit requests to New Hampshire residents, taxpayers, and the media.
- This bill allows for electronic requests for documents.
- Note: While we support the bill, we suggest an amendment to more narrowly define media. As written, any self-described member of the media worldwide can make a Right-To-Know request electronically. This may prove to be a burden for some government bodies.

HB 282, increasing the maximum benefits for first responders critically injured in the line of duty.

HB 282

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: ITL 11-9

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases the maximum workers' compensation benefit for first responders from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 per biennium.

YEA ITL

- This bill increases the state's liability in paying out workers' compensation benefits for first responders, which come from the General Fund.
- The highest recent payout was \$350,000, well below the existing cap.

HB 299, relative to the award of attorneys' fees and costs in workers' compensation claims.

HB 299

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: ITL 11-9

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bills allows for the payment of attorneys fees for workers' compensation claims.

YEA ITL

- Adding additional cost to workers' compensation claims will lead to higher insurance rates. Workers' compensation premiums are paid by business owners, so this will lead to additional cost for businesses.
- Attorneys can already get paid for their fees when representing an appeal.

HB 586, establishing an employee assistance program for small town first responders and making an appropriation therefor.

HB 586

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: ITL 11-9

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill expands access to the State Employee Assistance Program (EAP) including the hiring of additional staff.

YEA ITL

- In the midst of a tight budget environment, the state should be looking for budget efficiencies.
- Some aspects of what this bill intends to achieve are already covered by workers' compensation benefits.