



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

# GOLD STANDARD



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

HB 59 NAY OTP/A

HB 149 NAY ITL

HB 521 YEA ITL

HB 592 NAY OTP/A

HB 675 YEA OTP/A

HB 87 YEA OTP

HB 159 NAY OTP/A

HB 536 NAY OTP

HB 639 YEA OTP/A

HB 703 YEA ITL

HB 115 YEA OTP

HB 319 YEA OTP/A

HB 572 NAY OTP/A

HB 646 YEA ITL

HB 714 YEA ITL

HB 123 NAY OTP

HB 365 YEA OTP

HB 581 YEA OTP

HB 669 YEA ITL

**HB 639, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies.**

**Commerce and Consumer Affairs: OTP/A 14-3**

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill seeks to encourage the growth of the digital asset industry in New Hampshire. It codifies the legal use of blockchain technology for commerce. It also codifies rules for digital currency mining.

- Most of the practices being written into law by this bill are already legal; this bill protects blockchain businesses from being banned by local governments.
- The bill protects the privacy of private keys, a central tenet to allowing the free use of digital assets.

**HB 639**

**YEA  
OTP/A**

**HB 59, relative to the assault of a firefighter, emergency medical care provider, or law enforcement officer.**

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP/A 9-7**

**ANTI-LIBERTY:** This bill establishes new crimes of assault against a first responder. It allows for the revocation of bail using a "probable cause" standard.

- We would remove our objection if the standard for bail was changed from "probable cause" to "preponderance of evidence". The probable cause standard is fine for certain types of searches through the course of normal police work, but when a person will be held against their will without being found guilty of a crime, there should be more evidence than not, to indicate that they are a danger to the community.

**HB 59**

**NAY  
OTP/A**

**HB 87, prohibiting the posting of land not owned by the poster.**

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP 9-6**

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill makes it a crime to post on someone else's land without permission.

- Private property is private. No one should be able to use that land for any purpose without the consent of the property owner.
- While this bill addresses posting more generally, it would include political signs posted without permission on another person's property.

**HB 87**

**YEA  
OTP**

# HB 159

**HB 159, authorizing the state to report mental health data for firearms background check purposes and providing for processes for confiscation of firearms following certain mental health-related court proceedings and for relief from mental health-related firearms disabilities.**

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP/A 10-6**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill is a 'red flag law'. It compels the state to report mental health information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, for the purpose of denying an individual the right to bear arms.**

- A red flag law is any law that allows the government to take away the right to possess a firearm from a citizen who has committed no crime.
- Mental health is hard to diagnose and is often subjective. The taking of a person's rights should not be based upon what might be subjective criteria.
- Once a person is on this list and no longer able to bear arms, it is next to impossible to be removed from the list.
- Often, mental health issues are acute (short term, temporary). Giving someone a lifetime ban on their right to bear arms based upon what might be a temporary issue is a violation of their civil rights.
- An unintended consequence of this legislation is that those having firearms will not seek mental health treatment due to fear of their firearms being confiscated.
- No state psychiatrist is going to risk their license for someone that they do not know and therefore the relief section is a mirage.
- Rights are not applied for, therefore the individual's rights should be restored as soon as someone has been released from an involuntary commitment.

**NAY  
OTP/A**

# HB 592

**HB 592, relative to magistrates and the standards applicable to and the administration of bail.**

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP/A 9-7**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill rolls back due process protections for citizens accused, but not convicted, of a crime.**

- This bill does many things that are bad for civil liberties.
- The bill and the majority amendment eliminate the newly established magistrate system. These magistrates work on weekends to ensure that citizens arrested but presumed innocent of crimes can get a decision on bail within 24 hours in most cases. By eliminating the magistrates, citizens who are arrested on a Friday and presumed innocent must spend the weekend in jail (probably 3 nights).
- The bill and majority amendment lower the threshold required to keep a citizen in jail pending trial. The current standard is "preponderance of the evidence" (more likely than not) that they are a danger to the community. This bill proposes "probable cause" (it's possible) that they are dangerous. This will result in more citizens, who are presumed innocent, being in jail while they are tried for their crime.
- The majority amendment seeks to use mental health diagnoses as a consideration when keeping a citizen in jail without bail. Being depressed would not be uncommon after getting arrested. It should not be a reason that people are held without bail.

**NAY  
OTP/A**

# HB 115

**HB 115, relative to universal eligibility for the education freedom account program.**

**Education Funding : OTP/A 10-8**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill eliminates the income requirement for Education Freedom Accounts. The proposed committee amendment reinstates the income requirement, but increases it from 350% to 400% of the poverty line.**

- This bill as introduced is pro-liberty. The amendment (2025-0651h), while a compromise from the original intent, is also pro-liberty. We prefer the original bill and ask the House to vote down the amendment and approve the bill as presented. This will be considered a pro-liberty vote even if approved as amended by the proposed committee amendment.
- This bill expands the number of families who are afforded the freedom to choose the education they want for their children. Education freedom should not have an income requirement.

**YEA  
OTP**

**HB 319, relative to the responsibility of local school districts to provide transportation and meals for pupils in kindergarten.**

**HB 319**

**Education Funding : OTP/A 10-8**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill eliminates the requirement to provide meals and transportation for half-day kindergarten.**

**YEA  
OTP/A**

- To provide transportation home for students who are only attending half of the day, buses would have to transport children home twice — once for the half-day kids and again for the full-day kids. This is unnecessary and expensive.
- School districts could still offer this if they choose to, but it would no longer be a mandate.
- Parents should be providing meals for their children, not the government.

**HB 646, requiring school districts to establish an online application for participation in the free and reduced price meal program.**

**HB 646**

**Education Funding : ITL 10-8**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill mandates school districts to have online applications for free or reduced meals.**

**YEA ITL**

- The implementation of this bill is very expensive. It allocates \$1 million to provide just the software to school districts to implement it.
- Many school districts already have online applications.
- Parents should be providing meals for their children, not the government.

**HB 675, increasing the total revenue raised under the statewide education property tax, requiring municipalities to remit excess statewide education property tax payments to the department of revenue administration, limiting the authority of school districts to make certain appropriations, and increasing base adequacy costs per pupil.**

**HB 675**

**Education Funding : OTP/A 10-8**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, establishes a spending cap for school districts.**

**YEA  
OTP/A**

- School spending, and as a result local property taxes, have exploded in the last several years. Putting a cap on school spending will rein in this spending problem and require districts to live within their means.
- The bill includes the ability to override the cap with a 2/3 vote.

**HB 703, relative to prohibiting school districts from denying meals to students with unpaid meal balances, and making an appropriation therefor.**

**HB 703**

**Education Funding : ITL 10-8**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill prohibits denying a student a meal because of unpaid school meal debt.**

**YEA ITL**

- This bill puts the New Hampshire taxpayers on the hook for the debt associated with children whose families do not pay the debt for the meals that they eat.
- Parents should be providing meals for their children, not the government.

**HB 365, relative to proof of United States citizenship for indigent voters.**

**HB 365**

**Election Law: OTP 10-8**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill provides vouchers for indigent voters who cannot prove that they are United States citizens for the purpose of registering to vote.**

**YEA  
OTP**

- Ensuring free and fair elections is important to our democracy. To that end, all voters should be able to prove that they are United States citizens in order to register to vote.
- This bill allows the poorest among us to get state assistance, including financial assistance, to obtain the documents necessary to prove they are legally allowed to vote.

**HB 521, authorizing online voter registration.**

**HB 521**

**Election Law: ITL 10-8**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows for residents to register to vote online.**

**YEA ITL**

- Online voter registration has the potential to be abused. New Hampshire citizens should be required to register in person to reduce the chances of someone manipulating our elections.

## HB 714, creating a single primary ballot.

Election Law: ITL 11-7

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill creates a "blanket primary" where all candidates regardless of their political party are listed on a single ballot.**

- Political parties are private associations and have a right to choose their own candidates for election. It should be their decision to open their process to non-party members.
- On a more practical note, policies like this one are pitched as a way to elect more moderate candidates. In reality, implementing the blanket primary (like in California) has led to little change in the political makeup of the state delegations.

# HB 714

## YEA ITL

## HB 536, relative to a cost of living adjustment in the state retirement system.

Executive Departments and Administration: OTP 8-7

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill provides a pay increase of 1.5% to all retirees who have been retired for 5 years, up to \$750.**

- cost of living adjustments have traditionally been granted when funds are available. To avoid that limit, this bill funds the COLA by taking out a 20 year mortgage and charging the employer, overwhelmingly local school districts.

# HB 536

## NAY OTP

## HB 581, establishing a state retirement plan group for new state employee members of the retirement system.

Executive Departments and Administration: Without Recommendation

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill creates a new group of state employees for those who start working for the state after July 1, 2025. Those employees would have a defined contribution retirement. The amendment pushes back the implementation date by 6 months to January 1, 2026.**

- We support the original bill, as introduced, without the amendment.
- The amendment to the bill (2025-0502h) is also pro-liberty, but is a less desirable outcome. While we prefer that the House approve the bill as introduced, without the amendment, we will consider Yea OTP/A as a pro-liberty vote.
- A defined contribution retirement (similar to a 401k or an IRA) aligns public employee retirement with what is typically offered by the private sector.
- This bill reduces the potential future liability the state would have to pay for public employee retirement.

# HB 581

## YEA OTP

## HB 572, establishing the "partners in housing" program, a low-interest loan and grant program under the housing champions fund to assist municipalities, counties, and developers in building workforce housing.

Housing : OTP/A 16-0

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill creates a special program to build workforce housing on publicly-owned land.**

- Instead of this bill, local governments could simply sell their excess land to developers and let them develop it. The government does not need to be a stakeholder in workforce housing, and in fact could benefit financially from the sale of land.

# HB 572

## NAY OTP/A

## HB 149, relative to warrant article approvals at ballot referenda form of town meeting.

Municipal and County Government: ITL 16-2

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows more options for voters approving warrant articles put on the ballot after a town meeting. Specifically, it puts the original and amended articles on the ballot, so voters can choose which they prefer.**

- Direct democracy is paramount in New Hampshire and as such, we have the deliberative session and local election process to operate our local government. This is a process unique to New Hampshire. While it is not the most efficient, it allows voters the greatest say in local decisions.
- This bill affords voters an even greater say, by putting the original and amended version of warrant articles on the ballot. The end result will be better decisions.

# HB 149

## NAY ITL

**HB 669, relative to requiring all revenue raised under the statewide education property tax to be deposited in the education trust fund, and setting an equalized statewide tax rate.**

**HB 669**

**Ways and Means: ITL 12-7**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires that funds earmarked for education that are collected by a local government be transmitted to the state.**

**YEA ITL**

- Current law allows so-called SWEPT (Statewide Education Property Tax) funds to be held by a local government to be used for local education expenses and the state just takes note of how much. No money is transferred to the state and then subsequently transferred back to the local government.
- This bill requires that money to be transferred to the state, in essence relinquishing control over those funds to the state.

**Pulled from Consent**

**HB 123, enabling municipalities to tax standing wood and timber on land used for carbon sequestration.**

**HB 123**

**Municipal and County Government: OTP 18-0**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill taxes income earned from selling carbon sequestration rights on uncut timber.**

**NAY  
OTP**

- Earning money by selling carbon credits is a form of income. Taxing a person earning money this way is an income tax. We oppose any tax on personal income, in any form.
- New Hampshire already has the Business Profits Tax, for the case of a business earning money this way. There is no need for an additional tax above and beyond the BPT.