



GOLD STANDARD



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

CACR 5 YEA ITL	HB 233 YEA OTP/A	HB 280 YEA OTP/A	HB 442 YEA ITL	HB 631 YEA OTP/A
HB 68 YEA OTP/A	HB 235 YEA OTP	HB 290 YEA ITL	HB 474 YEA OTP/A	HB 672 YEA OTP/A
HB 148 YEA OTP	HB 254 YEA OTP	HB 344 YEA ITL	HB 558 YEA ITL	HB 726 YEA ITL
HB 218 YEA OTP/A	HB 273 YEA OTP	HB 351 YEA ITL	HB 628 YEA ITL	HB 732 YEA OTP/A
HB 221 YEA OTP	HB 278 YEA ITL	HB 386 YEA ITL		

HB 218, relative to providing victims of crime with a free police report of the investigation.

HB 218

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP/A 12-4

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, allows victims of a crime to request a free copy of their police report.

YEA OTP/A

- Victims of crime have a right to know what is in the report that was filed in the crime of which they are the victim.
- This is already the law for victims of domestic abuse, and merely expands this right to all crime victims.
- Some New Hampshire police departments already provide this service. This bill will require it of all departments.

HB 68, making best interest placements within the same school district mandatory in the absence of a valid reason to deny the placement.

HB 68

Education Policy and Administration : OTP/A 10-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill requires that a superintendent place a student in another school when requested by their parent unless they can find it is not in the best interest of the student. It also requires the superintendent to notify the parent in writing within 10 days why their request was denied.

YEA OTP/A

- Giving parents more choice in their children's education is pro-liberty. This bill makes a presumption that a child should be placed in a new school unless the district has cause not to do it.
- If the district does deny a request, having to justify that denial in writing is a common sense step to increase transparency and accountability.

HB 235, relative to amending the educator code of ethics and code of conduct to include responsibility to parents.

HB 235

Education Policy and Administration : OTP 9-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill adds parents to the parties to whom educators are responsible in their code of ethics. Current law includes the education profession and educational professionals, students, the school community, and the ethical use of technology, but not parents.

YEA OTP

- If anything, parents are the top stakeholder to whom educators should be responsible — more than the children they teach, and certainly more than the other educators, their profession, or the community.

CACR 5, relating to absentee ballots. Providing that no excuse shall be needed by the voter to receive an absentee ballot.

Election Law: ITL 10-8

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows for absentee voting for any reason.

- Absentee voting should not be the norm. It is an accomodation that should be made for those whom voting in person is not possible.
- Widespread absentee voting in other states has led to the rise of ballot harvesting, which takes the power away from the voters and into the hands of special interests who want to influence the outcome of elections:
– [cbsnews.com/news/ballot-harvesting-collection-absentee-voting-explained-rules](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ballot-harvesting-collection-absentee-voting-explained-rules)

YEA ITL

HB 344, enables the processing of absentee ballots before election day.

Election Law: ITL 10-8

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows the counting of absentee ballots to begin up to one week before election day.

- While this sounds like a good idea in order to increase the speed and accuracy of election results, having some ballots processed before election day could increase the risk of election interference.
- In the unlikely event that information about the election results via absentee ballots leaks, it might affect election day turnout or unfairly sway the decision making of election day voters. By waiting until election day to count ballots, the chance of intentional or unintentional election interference is avoided.

HB 344

YEA ITL

HB 474, requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes.

Election Law: OTP/A 10-7

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, requires a second witness, who must be a sworn-in elected official, to be present as the votes for write-in ballots are counted.

- The review and counting of write-in ballots is a much more subjective process than simply seeing which bubble a voter filled in. Having a witness present who is a sworn-in elected official adds additional accountability to this process and reduces the appearance of bias in the count.

HB 474

YEA OTP/A

HB 233, requiring meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours, and requiring that questions put to it in writing or at a meeting be answered and posted on its website within 14 days.

Executive Departments and Administration: OTP/A 7-6

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, requires meetings of the New Hampshire Vaccine Association be recorded and published online.

- Public disclosure of New Hampshire Vaccine Association meetings will lead to increased transparency and accountability.

HB 233

YEA OTP/A

HB 278, relative to proxy carbon pricing in state procurement.

Executive Departments and Administration: ITL 11-5

ANTI-LIBERTY: The bill requires that the "proxy carbon pricing" of transportation and heating and cooling services purchased by the Department of Administrative Services be considered when reviewing bids.

- "Proxy carbon pricing" is the adding of the cost of carbon used to create a good or service to the price. It is a tool used by climate change activists to punish polluters:
– [americanprogress.org/article/proxy-carbon-pricing](https://www.americanprogress.org/article/proxy-carbon-pricing)
- The Department of Administrative Services should be using the real cost (in dollars) of services, and not inject an environmental agenda into their purchasing decisions.

HB 278

YEA ITL

HB 732, to enhance informed consent and accountability in psychotropic drug prescriptions for children under Medicaid.

HB 732

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: OTP/A 10-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill requires medical care providers to review FDA medication guides with the parent or guardian before prescribing a psychotropic drug for a minor under Medicaid. The amendment better defines a parent or "state-designated caregiver" and what types of drugs are included.

**YEA
OTP/A**

- Children should not be receiving medication without the approval of their parent or guardian.
- This bill is a common sense solution to ensure children can get the medication they need, and that parents understand and approve of the care being given to their child.

HB 351, requiring landlords to give tenants of at-will tenancies at least 60-days notice to evict.

HB 351

Housing : ITL 9-8

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases the number of days of notice a landlord is required to give their tenant before evicting them without cause. The current law is 30 days and this would extend that to 60 days.

YEA ITL

- Current law requires 30 days notice to end a rental agreement. That is a length of time that is fair to both parties. It balances the need of the tenant to find a new place to live with the right of a property owner to regain control of their property.

HB 558, creating a public county registry of the monthly rent charged by landlords for each owned unit and prohibiting landlords from using algorithms or software to determine rental rates.

HB 558

Housing : ITL 10-8

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires all landlords to report the rent currently paid by their tenants to their county. It also prohibits the use of software to determine rental rates.

YEA ITL

- The rental rate for a unit is a private contract between a landlord and their tenant and neither party should be required to give their county that private information.
- The use of software to inform rental prices only serves to automate the pricing process. Landlords will still find this information if automation software is banned. They will just have to do it manually. That doesn't solve the problem of high rent.
- Many people want to live in New Hampshire, but not enough units are being built to keep up with the growth in demand, forcing increases in rent. The problem is that many municipalities have planning and zoning regulations that limit where and how landowners can build homes.
- If the Legislature wants to lower rental rates, it should pass laws that have the effect of significantly reducing those local planning and zoning regulations that limit where and how landowners can build homes, in order to facilitate the construction of more market rate rental units.

HB 628, prohibiting landlords from discriminating against prospective tenants holding certain vouchers under the housing choice voucher program.

HB 628

Housing : ITL 9-8

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill prevents landlords from preferring renters who are not paying with a housing voucher.

YEA ITL

- Section 8 housing vouchers require an additional regulatory burden when compared to a tenant paying their own rent in cash.
- Landlords should not be forced into this type of more complicated rental arrangement if they do not prefer it.

HB 148

**YEA
OTP**

HB 254

**YEA
OTP**

HB 273

**YEA
OTP**

HB 280

**YEA
OTP/A**

HB 148, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain circumstances.

Judiciary: OTP 10-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows for certain shared facilities to classify based upon biological sex in order to protect the privacy rights and physical safety of such persons and others.

- A core pillar of liberty is the ability to do whatever you want, so long as what you are doing does not have an impact upon anyone else's liberty.
- The right to privacy and safety for those who present as their biological sex outweighs the interest of others who present different from their biological sex to access the shared public spaces of their preference. As a result, it is a reasonable protection of liberty to allow for the separate use of shared public spaces on the basis of one's biological sex.

HB 254, relative to options for end of life care.

Judiciary: OTP 11-7

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows for health care providers to offer life-ending medication to patients who have a terminal illness and a prognosis of no more than 6 months to live. It requires they are of sound mind and can privately self-administer the medication.

- All adults of sound mind have the right to do whatever they want with their own body, including to end or prevent their own suffering.
- This bill has sufficient guardrails to ensure that the patient has considered the decision fully and is of sound mind to make the decision.
- The patient must self-administer the medication, so no one else may end their life for them. They must also end their life in private with a witness.
- This bill does not encourage suicide. There are many avenues for a person to end their life without this bill. What this bill does is provide an ethical, dignified way for a patient to end their own life when they believe that is their best option.

HB 273, relative to a parent's access to their minor child's library records.

Judiciary: OTP 9-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows for a parent with the same home address as a child to have access to all materials they have viewed from a public library.

- It is reasonable for parents to have access to the information their child views at a public library. It is the parent's decision whether or not the information they access is appropriate for their child.

HB 280, relative to wage payments.

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: OTP/A 11-9

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill, with the proposed committee amendment, removes state interference in the ability of employees to work with employers to determine acceptable methods of payment.

- Existing RSA 275:43, I requires specific timing of wage payments as well as enumerating a limited list of state-accepted methods for payment. This bill retains the timing requirements but removes state-mandated payment methods and replaces them with a means of exchange that is agreed upon by both the employer and employee.
- The bill increases economic freedom and reduces friction by allowing parties to agree upon alternate payment methods such as cryptocurrency, gold, silver, legacy debt-backed currency like the U.S. dollar, or other medium of exchange agreed to by both parties.

HB 386, prohibiting nursing agencies from including non-compete clauses in contracts with health care entities.

HB 386

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: ITL 11-9

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill bans the use of non-compete agreements between health care providers and nurses.

YEA ITL

- Non-compete clauses are a normal practice in business negotiations for many industries, including healthcare. Businesses will often provide a contractor a better price when they know they are the only client they work for in their area or industry. Contractors have protection by knowing they are the only provider of that service for that client for the length of the agreement. This is an agreement willingly entered into by both parties; no one is being coerced to accept a non-compete agreement.

HB 442, relative to prohibiting payment of subminimum wages.

HB 442

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: ITL 11-9

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill prohibits payment of a base wage different than standard minimum wage for tipped workers earning more than \$30 per month.

YEA ITL

- When wages earned through tips are included, the workers receiving them often get paid much more than they would if they worked without tips at a minimum wage job. No worker is being denied their \$7.25 hourly wage.
- Tipped workers enter into these employment agreements voluntarily, fully knowing that a larger portion of their income comes from tips.
- An unintended consequence of this bill could be that, because the employer would have to pay tipped workers a higher base wage, they might institute a "tip sharing" program where one hadn't previously existed. The result could be that the tipped worker would end up making less than they did before this misguided bill was implemented.

HB 726, relative to the state minimum hourly rate.

HB 726

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: ITL 11-9

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a state-dictated minimum wage that automatically elevates each year through January 2028.

YEA ITL

- Minimum wage laws decrease the number of entry-level jobs and make it harder for people of low skill to get their start in the workforce.
- Higher wages for everyone are better accomplished through job creation — more jobs mean more competition to hire all workers.
- Employers and employees should be free to negotiate the terms of employment without interference.
- Economic conditions and cost of living vary dramatically across the state. A "one-size-fits-all" approach to a minimum wage will put unreasonable pressure on areas of the state with limited employment opportunities and lower costs of living.
- The very idea of a minimum wage is patronizing and demeaning as it implies that individuals don't know how much they're worth and are incapable of negotiating with an employer.

HB 221, relative to assessment of cost effectiveness of the systems benefit charge.

HB 221

Science, Technology and Energy: OTP 9-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to consider modifications to the Granite State Test in order to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the systems benefit charge (SBC). This charge is paid by all ratepayers and is used by the PUC to invest in energy efficiency programs.

**YEA
OTP**

- The purpose of the systems benefit charge is to save money for ratepayers in the long run. The Public Utilities Commission should have the flexibility to use what they believe is the best test to accurately measure the effectiveness of the systems benefits charge.
- If the systems benefits charge is not producing the desired outcome of financial savings for ratepayers, then the SBC should be modified or eliminated.

HB 672, to allow for off-grid electricity providers in New Hampshire.

Science, Technology and Energy: OTP/A 12-5

HB 672

PRO-LIBERTY: The bills allows for off-grid retail electricity generation within New Hampshire.

YEA OTP/A

- This legislation allows the creation of energy generation facilities that are not connected to the power grid. These facilities do not qualify as a public utility and are not under the oversight of the Public Utilities Commission.
- Such operators would still be subject to rules governing proper construction, and local and state roadway laws.
- Providing more opportunities for electricity generation will lead to new innovation in the energy industry.

HB 290, increasing the taxes on cigarettes and electronic cigarettes and establishing a committee to study taxes on tobacco and other nicotine products.

HB 290

Ways and Means: ITL 11-8

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill dramatically increases taxes on certain products.

YEA ITL

- The New Hampshire Advantage exists in part due to our low taxes and as such, people from all over the Northeast and the country patronize New Hampshire.
- The present tax rate on tobacco products is already uncharacteristically punitive of New Hampshire.

Pulled from Consent Calendar

HB 631, permitting residential building in commercial zoning.

HB 631

Housing: OTP/A 17-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill requires local governments to allow multi-family residential development on commercially-zoned land.

YEA OTP/A

- This bill is pro-liberty because it expands the allowable uses for private property.
- Local governments can still require retail or similar uses on the entire first floor of a development, making projects vertical mixed-use versus all-residential.
- Appropriate development guardrails are in place. Adequate infrastructure, including roads, water, and sewage systems must be in place to allow for the expanded use.