



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

# GOLD STANDARD

HOUSE SESSION - TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

HB 317 YEA OTP/A  
HB 559 YEA ITL  
HB 592 YEA OTP/A  
HB 92 YEA ITL  
HB 413 YEA ITL  
HB 628 NAY OTP/A  
SB 205 NAY OTP



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Special Order Bills

**HB 287, establishing a committee to study decriminalizing sex work.**

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP/A 14-6**

## HB 287

### YEA OTP/A

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a committee to study issues related to changing prostitution laws in New Hampshire.**

- This bill establishes a committee that will study the potential costs and benefits of partial or full decriminalization of prostitution.
- As is generally the case, prohibition drives these activities underground, where dangers are higher for participants. Sex workers who report crimes to law enforcement face arrest, violence, and assault. While this bill will not change these facts directly, it may contribute to legislation that reduces the harm of our current laws.
- Many recent studies have concluded that decriminalization is necessary to reduce the harms associated with sex work. Major organizations, including the World Health Organization, The Lancet medical journal, Amnesty International, the UN Commission on HIV and the Law, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, now support decriminalization. (<http://goo.gl/7yPoH0>, <https://goo.gl/4sMQTN>, <https://goo.gl/DNVry2>, <https://goo.gl/2FHw8V>, <https://goo.gl/DEZzB1>, <https://goo.gl/Qq2Wmv>)

**HB 656-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to the legalization and regulation of marijuana.**

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 13-7**

## HB 656

### NAY ITL

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill ends marijuana prohibition for adults 21 and older in New Hampshire.**

- This bill allows limited personal possession and cultivation of marijuana and establishes a regulated market for marijuana production and sale.
- The minority committee report is in support of an amendment (#2017-2478h) that would only legalize cultivation and possession without regulating or taxing the market. Adults in Massachusetts, Maine, and five other states already enjoy the freedom to grow their own limited supply of cannabis without fear of state or local prosecution. 68% of Granite Staters support legalization.
- The House should overturn the ITL, adopt the amendment, and pass HB 656.

**HB 317, prohibiting the public utilities commission from increasing the system benefits charge without legislative approval.**

**Science, Technology and Energy: OTP/A 11-10**

## HB 317

### YEA OTP/A

**PRO-LIBERTY: Requires legislative approval for further increases to the system benefits charge.**

- NH residents should not be subject to further increases to the systems benefits charge without approval of elected representatives.

## HB 559-FN, relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

Science, Technology and Energy: ITL 11-10

# HB 559

**ANTI-LIBERTY: By eliminating the existing rebate to residential ratepayers, this bill increases a stealthy tax on NH electricity consumers.**

- This bill removes longstanding rebates to residential customers, while preserving rebates to commercial/industrial customers, raising rates on residential customers and effectively forcing them to subsidize commercial/industrial customers.
- Electric rates are already high in NH. Efficiency projects that are truly fiscally responsible can and will be funded by electricity consumers themselves. It is unfair to force all ratepayers to fund projects for specific consumers, whether private or governmental.
- Money raised through RGGI, originally slated to support energy efficiency programs, was instead misappropriated into the general fund in 2010. Rather than putting more money into the hands of government in order to pick winners and losers, the money should remain with the ratepayers where it belongs.

## YEA ITL

## HB 592-FN, repealing the regional greenhouse gas initiative.

Science, Technology and Energy: OTP/A 11-10

# HB 592

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill as amended increases the rebate to electricity ratepayers from 80% to 100%, while preserving RGGI emissions limitations.**

- The costs of RGGI, which is effectively a carbon tax, are ultimately borne by ratepayers. It therefore makes sense for ratepayers to be rebated the proceeds from sales of carbon allowances.
- By increasing the rebate from 80% to 100%, this bill provides relief to NH residents and businesses, who are already paying very high electricity rates.
- Reducing the effective electricity rate, as this bill does, will reduce overhead to NH businesses and help attract new business.

## YEA OTP/A

Regular Calendar

## HB 92, revising the definition of the state building code and ratifying changes to the state building code adopted by the state building code review board.

# HB 92

Executive Departments and Administration: ITL 10-7

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill adopts updated building codes (international code 2015 v.s. 2009) and expands the building code to incorporate swimming pool and spa code; adds hundreds of pages of new regulations.**

- This bill increases the costs for building a new home in New Hampshire in order to comply with updated building code.
- Adopting these standards would implement an extensive list of burdensome new regulations, predominantly related to energy efficiency.
- As of July 2017, only 16 states have adopted the 2015 building code, and only 5 states have adopted the 2015 swimming pool and spa code.
- This legislation would add significant cost to taxpayers related to public infrastructure and in construction of private buildings.

## YEA ITL

## HB 413-FN-A-L, relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.

# HB 413

Finance: ITL 17-9

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases state spending by more than \$40 million each year.**

- This bill requires state taxpayers to fund a portion of the retirement system for city/town teachers, police, and fire department members. These costs are currently paid locally. While net government spending by the state and its political subdivisions under a static evaluation of the bill is neutral, funding is best managed locally to avoid increases in spending that naturally result when politicians are spending "other people's money".

## YEA ITL

**HB 628-FN, relative to a family and medical leave insurance program.**

**Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: OTP/A 13-6**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill forces all employees to contribute to paid family and medical leave, whether they want the program or not.**

- Employees and employers should be free to negotiate benefit programs such as paid family and medical leave insurance without the state forcing all to participate.

**HB 628**

**NAY  
OTP/A**

Pulled from Consent

**SB 205-FN-A, establishing the small business jobs fund and tax credit.**

**Ways and Means: IS 23-0**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill forces existing businesses and taxpayers to subsidize the business ventures of small businesses who are adept at navigating the requirements of a bureaucratic program and not necessarily proficient at meeting the needs of their customers.**

- The NHLA is not making a formal recommendation with regard to the committee's interim study recommendation. The NAY OTP recommendation is intended to convey our position should the vote on interim study fail.
- The state should not be in the business of choosing winners or losers; all businesses should be allowed to compete fairly in a free market.
- Broad-based tax rate reductions are superior to focused tax credits as they reduce state-induced market distortions that limit the effectiveness of voluntary interaction.
- The Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) indicates that at least one staff person will be required to manage the program. This will result in a permanent increase in state spending along with the liability of additional future pension costs.

**SB 205**

**NAY  
OTP**