



GOLD STANDARD



HOUSE SESSION - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

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SB 576-FN-A, relative to the penalty for possession and use of fentanyl-class drugs, insurance coverage for substance use disorders, the funding of the controlled drug prescription health and safety program, the membership of the board of medicine, and prescribers of controlled drugs.

SB 576

Criminal Justice Committee Recommendation: OTP 11-3

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill perpetuates privacy rights violations and expands bureaucracy.

NAY OTP

- Opens the door to state funding of the prescriptions information database, with mandatory reporting of patients' private data, subject to hacking and other abuses.
- Increases burden of recordkeeping on prescribers.
- Mandates insurance coverage in accordance with recommendations of a private organization ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine), with interests not necessarily aligned with the state's interests.
- The fiscal note on this bill is inadequate and vague; not properly studied. This bill should not be rushed to pass without needed details.

HB 552-FN, requiring the state treasurer to develop an implementation plan for the state to accept bitcoin as payment for taxes and fees.

HB 552

Ways and Means Recommendation: ITL 13-4

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows greater flexibility for taxpayers.

- There is very little possible downside to this proposal. There is no financial risk to the state; the state will only hold and deal in US dollars. All bitcoin transactions are handled by a third party payment processor, at no cost.
- This legislation may help attract young entrepreneurs to NH, by sending a clear message that NH is technologically progressive, modern, and forward thinking. A willingness to embrace new technologies reflects well on the state.

NAY ITL

HB 585-FN-A, relative to fines for violation of alcoholic beverage laws.

HB 585

Ways and Means Recommendation: OTP/A 19-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would increase penalties for crimes which should not exist in law.

- Title XIII includes many victimless crimes, including prohibitions on sale of food in cigar bars (178:20-a), friends trading or gifting home-brewed beers (RSA 179:1, 175:5-b-III), and more. It also contains many very detailed licensing mandates and fees to be paid to the commission.
- Section 5 of this bill, as amended, increases and extends the existing penalty assessment of 24% authorized in RSA 188-F:31, to violations in general, not just criminal offenses, and not just those related to alcohol. This includes violations such as picking up seaweed at night (RSA 207:48), and conducting business on a Sunday (RSA 332D).
- Instead of further increasing penalties for all violations, legislators should be working to remove unnecessary laws from the books.

NAY OTP/A

HB 668-FN, relative to expense deductions under the business profits tax.

HB 668

Ways and Means Recommendation: ITL 19-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows larger deductions for New Hampshire companies, especially for investments in capital equipment.

- NH currently allows only up to \$25K in deductions; this bill would raise the limit to \$100K. The federal government has raised the limit for deductions to \$500K.
- At least 37 other states already allow deductions over \$100K, and 33 allow deductions up to \$500K. (<http://taxfoundation.org/>).
- This bill encourages businesses to move to NH, and incentivizes existing NH companies to make significant investments for future growth, which benefits all NH residents.
- NH legislators should work to make NH business friendly, rather than driving them away with excessive taxes.

NAY ITL