



# NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

# GOLD STANDARD



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HOUSE SESSION - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017

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### \*\*\* Special Announcement - Legislator Luncheon 3/9/17 \*\*\*

The New Hampshire Liberty Alliance cordially invites all legislators to attend a buffet-style luncheon Thursday, March 9th from noon to 1:00 p.m. at Tandy's Top Shelf, located at 1 Eagle Sq., just across N. Main St. from the State House, in the back room. The NHLA compiles and distributes the Gold Standard (gold sheet) before each session day, as well as publishes annual ratings for each NH State Representative and Senator. Several members of the NHLA Board of Directors will be in attendance. You will have the opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions on how the NHLA can better fulfill its mission of promoting liberty within New Hampshire state government.

### HB 279, relative to smoking on private property.

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: OTP/A 13-7

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows cigarette smoking in cigar bars.**

- This bill as amended is a small step toward improving private property rights.
- If an establishment is permitted to allow smoking of tobacco of one kind, it is not appropriate to prevent it from allowing smoking of tobacco in another form.

## HB 279

## YEA OTP/A

### HB 353-FN, relative to sales of beer in refillable containers.

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: OTP/A 17-3

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill authorizes the sale of beer in refillable containers.**

- This bill allows certain on- and off-premises liquor licensees to fill refillable containers of beer, or "growlers". A growler is a way for a craft beer lover to bring home draft beer in the same form as they would enjoy it at a restaurant. This removes one small barrier to free commerce.
- This allows consumers who desire to minimize their impact on the environment to opt to reuse containers rather than being forced to utilize containers that are discarded after use or must go through a more energy intensive recycling process.
- This gives NH brewers another way to distribute their product without investing in expensive bottling or canning equipment.

## HB 353

## YEA OTP/A

### HB 436, exempting persons using virtual currency from registering as money transmitters.

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: OTP/A 11-9

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill exempts persons using virtual currency from being licensed as money transmitters.**

- Virtual currency technology is relatively new and still evolving at a rapid pace. The application of legacy money transmitter license requirements to this marketplace carries significant risk of stifling innovation and puts New Hampshire at a disadvantage to other states.

## HB 436

## YEA OTP/A

## HB 633-FN, allowing health insurance policies to be sold without mandates.

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: ITL 17-4

# HB 633

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill allows health insurance policies without mandates to be sold to New Hampshire residents and allows insurers licensed to provide policies in other states to provide coverage to New Hampshire residents.

## NAY ITL

- This bill allows consumers greater flexibility in selecting health insurance policies that meet their needs, thereby broadening access to health coverage.
- This bill allows interstate competition in health insurance.
- This bill encourages additional companies to compete in the NH marketplace by lowering the bar to entry.

## HB 94-FN, prohibiting certain defenses in prostitution and human trafficking cases.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP 17-4

# HB 94

**ANTI-LIBERTY:** This bill prohibits certain defenses in prostitution and human trafficking cases.

## NAY OTP

- "Mens rea" — ill intent — is a fundamental principle of Anglo-American common law. This bill would undermine it.
- People should not be convicted of felonies they were provably unaware of having committed.

## HB 351-FN, making a person who knowingly causes the death of a child guilty of capital murder.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 17-3

# HB 351

**ANTI-LIBERTY:** This bill expands the use of the death penalty in NH.

- NH should not risk allowing the state to kill an innocent person. As recently as 2014, a death row inmate in TX (Henry Lee McCollum) was conclusively cleared by DNA evidence after having spent nearly 30 years on death row. He is far from the only example of an innocent person being placed on death row; several other examples were heard in testimony. Neither prosecutors nor courts are infallible.
- If a person is convicted and incarcerated, but is later found innocent of wrongdoing, the sentence is at least partially reversible. The death penalty is irreversible.
- There are two primary reasons to apprehend those who commit crimes against persons or property. The first reason is to obtain restitution for the victim of the crime, to whatever extent possible. The second reason is to prevent those who present a continuing threat to others from committing further crimes. Given the availability of secure prison facilities, the expansion of the death penalty as it exists in New Hampshire is not necessary for either of these purposes.
- Long-term incarceration costs NH taxpayers less than the death penalty.

## YEA ITL

## HB 640-FN, relative to the penalties for possession of marijuana.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: OTP 14-2

# HB 640

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill respects self-ownership, and reduces the harm of the drug war.

- The NH Constitution provides that "all penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense", but our state penalties for marijuana possession are no longer supported by public opinion and are far more severe than those of most nearby states. This bill would reduce the penalty for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana by a person 21 years of age or older to a violation.
- More than 60% of NH citizens support the legalization of recreational marijuana and more than 72% support decriminalization (2016 WMUR polls conducted by the UNH Survey Center — <https://goo.gl/DoX9TJ>).
- Decriminalization would not only prevent innocent people from having their lives significantly impacted by minor possession arrests, but would also reduce the expense of the criminal justice system, allowing police and prosecutors to focus on serious crimes where innocent people have been victimized.

## YEA OTP

## HB 293, relative to the requirements for filing a chartered public school application.

Education: ITL 12-5

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill adds additional requirements to the process of creating a charter school, which could hamper the development of new schools.**

- The language prohibits additional schools similar in educational direction from being formed. Not everyone can commute the length of the state to attend the school that meets their needs.
- There have been numerous outcries for more STEM charter schools, but this bill would prohibit those schools from starting.
- Charter schools currently have waiting lists and this would cripple the ability to launch new schools to meet those needs.

# HB 293

## YEA ITL

## HB 395, relative to state board of education rulemaking authority over home education programs.

Education: ITL 14-4

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill helps to ensure that the state Board of Education will not adopt burdensome regulations on home school programs at some point in the future.**

- Home education does not require additional regulation by the state board of education as existing law is extremely clear on notification, subjects to be instructed, and annual testing requirements.
- House rule 44(d) prohibits adoption of legislation with the type of broad rulemaking authority currently present in RSA 21-N:9. This bill repeals this non-compliant section.

# HB 395

## NAY ITL

## HB 494, relative to eligibility for a chartered public school charter.

Education: ITL 11-8

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill adds additional requirements regarding who can initiate the process of creating a new charter school, which could hamper the development of new schools.**

- This bill prevents a non-profit organization that has even a single out-of-state resident from submitting an application for a charter school.
- Restricting new applications to only NH residents could delay getting schools started.

# HB 494

## YEA ITL

## HB 605-FN-A, establishing a scholarship for students pursuing careers in the service of children and the elderly.

Education: ITL 15-3

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a state-administered social services scholarship program for high school students interested in pursuing careers in the social services.**

- There are a variety of educational options available to graduating NH high school seniors, including universities, community colleges, trade schools, and internships. To take money from all NH residents in order to create a handout exclusively for ill-defined social services education is unfair to other kinds of students, who may choose other educational options. Though the initial bill only creates the fund, defines its use, and allocates \$1 of taxpayer money, the bill contains a provision to allow future taxpayer funding per the proposed RSA-21 N(V) text which states "The fund shall include any sums appropriated for such purpose".
- The high business and property tax rates in NH are two of the main driving forces that make NH a less attractive option for businesses and working adults. The legislature would better serve residents by reducing spending and taxes, instead of creating new bureaucratic programs designed to supplant other private sector scholarship organizations.

# HB 605

## YEA ITL

## HB 612, relative to livestock and meat inspection.

Environment and Agriculture: OTP/A 16-1

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill as amended updates the religious slaughter exemption, which in current law only covers Jewish ritual slaughter, and exempts non-commercial livestock transport by farmers from licensing requirements.**

- The updated religious slaughter exemption is extended to any religion which follows federal humane slaughter guidelines.
- Exempting non-commercial livestock transport by farmers from licensing requirements removes one small burden the state places on farmers, reducing both direct costs and opportunity costs to the farmer.

# HB 612

## YEA OTP/A

## HB 522, establishing a committee to review occupational licensing to determine which licenses could be made optional for practitioners.

Executive Departments and Administration: ITL 16-4

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill establishes a committee to review occupational licensing to determine which licenses could be made optional for practitioners.

- By raising barriers to entry, overly expansive occupational licensing raises costs and decreases the quality of available services ([https://www.ij.org/images/pdf\\_folder/economic\\_liberty/occupational\\_licensing/licensetowork.pdf](https://www.ij.org/images/pdf_folder/economic_liberty/occupational_licensing/licensetowork.pdf)). Occupational licensing of lower income trades in particular discourages entrepreneurship and unjustly eliminates opportunities to those who are most vulnerable, and who do not have paid lobbyists speaking up for their rights and interests ([http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/magazine/so-you-think-you-can-be-a-hair-braider.html?\\_r=1&ref;=magazine&pagewanted;=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/magazine/so-you-think-you-can-be-a-hair-braider.html?_r=1&ref;=magazine&pagewanted;=all)).
- There are clear opportunities to improve NH licensing laws in order to allow more freedom of opportunity and choice, and without impacting public safety. For example, NH is one of only five states to license shampooers. It takes 1500 hours of training to become a cosmetologist in NH — far more than to become an EMT. Studying how these restrictions impact NH residents, and which of them could most benefit from reform, would provide valuable perspective to the legislature.
- The legislature should not refrain from studying this important issue out of fear of trade lobbyists, who are often looking to use the government to block competition. Instead, the legislature should concern itself with the interests of the public as a whole, which benefits from free choice, competition, and economic opportunity, and with defending the liberties of the people from regulatory capture and overreach ([https://goldwater-media.s3.amazonaws.com/cms\\_page\\_media/2015/4/15/OccLicensingKauffman.pdf](https://goldwater-media.s3.amazonaws.com/cms_page_media/2015/4/15/OccLicensingKauffman.pdf)).

# NAY ITL

## HB 548-FN, increasing the age at which a pension begins for non-vested and newly-hired group I members of the retirement system.

Executive Departments and Administration: ITL 12-8

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill changes the normal retirement age for non-vested and newly-hired employees of retirement system employers to be the normal retirement age under the federal Social Security Act.

- As recently as 2014, NH was found to have the 6th most underfunded pension fund in the nation. (<http://www.nhbr.com/July-10-2015/NH-edging-out-of-its-pension-fund-hole/>).
- Taking action to align future benefits to non-vested and newly-hired employees with retirement ages that better match with current life expectancy will help preserve benefits that were promised to existing vested employees while reducing future costs.
- Private sector pensions have become increasingly rare, and it is unfair to demand that citizens continue to fund pensions for state workers when they themselves are not eligible for defined benefit plans.

# NAY ITL

## HB 599-FN, establishing the office of ombudsman in the department of state.

Executive Departments and Administration: ITL 12-8

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill establishes the office of ombudsman in the Department of State.

- This bill creates a non-partisan office within the Secretary of State's office to investigate criminal complaints against public officials. Any complaints that have merit would be sent to the Attorney General for follow-up.
- The office would be staffed with "volunteers" paid a very small stipend and mileage to investigate these complaints.

# NAY ITL

## HB 625-FN-LOCAL, establishing state holidays for elections.

Executive Departments and Administration: ITL 14-6

**ANTI-LIBERTY:** This bill makes the day of the biennial state primary election preceding a general election and the day of biennial state general election legal holidays of the state.

- This bill would cost the state \$300,000 in overtime for fiscal year 2018 and 2020 as well as nearly \$2 million in lost productivity per year at the University of New Hampshire and Community College System of New Hampshire. Polling locations across the state are open sufficient hours to allow most citizens to vote and RSA 657:4 allows for absentee ballots for employment obligation, including the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

# YEA ITL

**HB 606-FN-A, establishing a scholarship fund for health care providers who stay in New Hampshire for 5 years and making an appropriation therefor.**

**HB 606**

**Finance: ITL 16-9**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a health care professionals scholarship program.**

- There are a variety of educational options available to graduating NH high school seniors, including universities, community colleges, trade schools, and internships. To take money from all NH residents in order to create a handout exclusively for students choosing health care education is unfair to other kinds of students, who may choose other educational options. Though the initial bill only creates the fund, defines its use, and allocates \$1 of taxpayer money, the bill contains a provision to allow future taxpayer funding per the proposed RSA-21 N(V) text which states "The fund shall include any sums appropriated for such purpose".
- The high business and property tax rates in NH are two of the main driving forces that make NH a less attractive option for businesses and working adults. The legislature would better serve residents by reducing spending and taxes, instead of creating new bureaucratic programs designed to supplant other private sector scholarship organizations.
- The fiscal note states that in FY 2019 and each year thereafter up to two full-time employees may be required to manage the "no cost" program.

**YEA ITL**

**HB 157, adding chronic pain to qualifying conditions under therapeutic use of cannabis.**

**HB 157**

**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: OTP 12-6**

**PRO-LIBERTY: Adding chronic pain to qualifying conditions under therapeutic use of cannabis.**

- Cannabis has never been known to cause a fatal overdose, and many patients use it as an alternative to opioids for treating chronic pain. A comprehensive review of medical literature on cannabis recently published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that "There is substantial evidence that cannabis is an effective treatment for chronic pain in adults".
- Research indicates that patients are taking fewer opioids in states where medical cannabis is legal, and those states are experiencing lower rates of overdose fatalities as well (Johns Hopkins <https://goo.gl/vU0GvQ>).

**YEA  
OTP**

**HB 160, adding post-traumatic stress disorder to qualifying medical conditions under therapeutic use of cannabis.**

**HB 160**

**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: OTP 9-8**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill adds post-traumatic stress disorder to the qualifying medical conditions under therapeutic use of cannabis.**

- Twenty-three states now allow doctors to recommend cannabis for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and several patients testified that they find it beneficial in alleviating their symptoms. Medical providers should be free to certify their patients for the use of therapeutic cannabis if they believe it may be helpful. There is no good reason for the state to continue to stand between medical providers and patients who may benefit from this treatment option.

**YEA  
OTP**

**HB 472, permitting qualifying patients to cultivate cannabis for their own therapeutic use.**

**HB 472**

**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: ITL 14-7**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill permits qualifying patients and registered caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use.**

- Qualified patients and caregivers in all three neighboring states are protected from arrest if they cultivate a limited supply of cannabis. In Massachusetts, Maine, and five other states, all adults 21 years of age and older may now legally cultivate more cannabis plants than would be allowed under this bill. Currently, patients in New Hampshire are limited to purchasing cannabis at one of four dispensaries, and personal cultivation of cannabis is a felony offense.
- The House has voted five times since 2009 to grant patients this freedom, and there is no reason the House should change its position now.

**NAY ITL**

## HB 638-FN-LOCAL, repealing the New Hampshire health protection program.

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: ITL 13-6

# HB 638

### PRO-LIBERTY: This bill repeals the New Hampshire health protection program.

- This bill repeals the New Hampshire health protection program which will sunset at the end of 2018 due to continued reduction in federal funding. This program provides able-bodied, childless adults in NH above the poverty line with free health care.
- In 2016, the NHLA indicated that the "severability clause" in the bill would allow Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to pick and choose which portions of the law would be enforced, such as the work requirement. In November 2016, as we predicted in multiple issues of the Gold Standard in the 2016 legislative season, CMS rejected the work requirement (<http://goo.gl/j2nhaR>).
- Federal money always comes with strings attached; it is not free. The national debt, which is approaching \$20 trillion, is arguably the largest threat to national security.
- A free-market approach to health care should be the main priority of the legislature. This is the only way to sustainably lower costs and increase access for the majority of Granite Staters.
- Given the uncertainty in the federal law on which this program is based, **support the motion to recommit** if one is made, so that the bill may be amended if required in response to potential changes in the federal law upon which the existing RSA is based.

## NAY ITL

## HB 174, limiting jurisdiction of the superior courts over certain adequate education statutes and adequate education grants.

Judiciary: ITL 11-4

### PRO-LIBERTY: This bill removes jurisdiction of the Superior Court over education adequacy and funding.

- The General Court has constitutional authority to define the jurisdiction of the courts.
- The Supreme Court's rulings in Claremont wrongly equated "cherish" with "fund". The court should not be in the business of mandating funding levels; that is the role of the legislature.

# HB 174

## NAY ITL

## HB 441, relative to confidentiality in applying for public sector jobs.

Judiciary: ITL 8-6

### ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill exempts records of the initial screening process for employment in the public sector from the provisions of the Right-to-Know law.

- This bill exempts initial screening records of applications for public sector employment from 91-A requests.
- This could obscure the hiring of lesser-qualified applicants as records of better applicants would be unavailable for public inspection.
- Our constitution commands open and transparent government.

# HB 441

## YEA ITL

## HB 524, relative to participation in meetings open to the public.

Judiciary: OTP/A 9-8

### PRO-LIBERTY: This bill clarifies the definition of "emergency" for purposes of a quorum under the Right-to-Know law.

- Currently the word "emergency" is undefined, and as such is subjective and can be used to justify operating without a quorum for any reason.
- This bill clarifies the definition of "emergency" to include only instances of immediate peril to the public health or safety.
- There is a demonstrated need for this bill. The committee minority report indicates "The minority felt that immediate action should be taken whenever it is needed regardless of whether or not there is a disaster going on at the time". This interpretation of "emergency" shows that certain individuals are willing to corrupt the meaning of the word dramatically differently from its commonly-held usage, presumably so as not to restrain their actions. This interpretation severely undermines the intent of the law.

# HB 524

## YEA OTP/A

**HB 589-FN, repealing the law relative to providing certain parameters for access to reproductive health care facilities.**

**HB 589**

**Judiciary: ITL 9-8**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill repeals a violation of the First Amendment.**

- Whereas the NHLA has a policy of not taking positions on the issue of abortion in general, this bill's restoration of freedom of expression protected by the First Amendment merits our taking a position in support of this bill.
- This bill repeals the "buffer zone" created by SB 319 (2014) restoring the right of people to peacefully assemble, as provided by the protections of the First Amendment.
- The provisions of SB 319 have not yet been instituted, which calls into question the necessity of the statute.
- SB 319 pushes protesters away from the source and into neighboring properties. Buffer zones are reminiscent of the abhorrent "free speech zones" at Presidential events.
- Many of the complaints SB 319 looked to resolve are already covered by existing statutes.

**NAY ITL**

**HB 614-FN, relative to forfeiture of personal property.**

**HB 614**

**Judiciary: OTP 9-8**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill limits the conditions under which seized property may be transferred to a federal agency.**

- NH state law currently requires a criminal conviction before seized assets may go to forfeiture and provides due process protections for those who may have assets wrongly seized.
- The federal government makes available a program which bypasses the protections found in NH law.
- This bill restricts local and state agencies from accessing the less-protective federal program where the amount seized is less than \$100,000 in cash.
- This bill in no way restricts criminal investigations.
- This bill specifically reaffirms the ability of local and state agencies to participate in joint taskforce operations.

**YEA  
OTP**

**HB 617-FN, relative to jury trials for imposition of fines in zoning violations.**

**HB 617**

**Judiciary: OTP/A 8-7**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill as amended removes the authority to charge each day of a continuing violation of planning and zoning laws as separate offenses.**

- By allowing a separate violation for each day, municipalities can bypass the constitutional provision for jury trial where penalties exceed \$1500.
- RSA 502-A:15 provides that in cases in which the damages claimed exceed \$1,500, the defendant may file a written request for trial by jury, transferring the case from circuit court to superior court.
- The current statute allows municipalities to burden the circuit court with cases that would rise to the jurisdiction of superior court when multiple days of fines accumulate.
- Excessive fines and penalties should be open to judgment by a jury of one's peers.

**YEA  
OTP/A**

**HB 115-FN, establishing a state minimum wage and providing for adjustments to the minimum wage.**

**HB 115**

**Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: ITL 12-9**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill infringes on the freedom of workers and employers.**

- Workers and employers have a right to contract for whatever wage they wish. It is wrong for government to legally prohibit voluntary employment agreements.
- Minimum wage laws lower the number of entry-level jobs and make it harder for people of low skill to gain critical experience.
- Higher wages for everyone are better accomplished through job creation — more jobs means more competition to hire all workers.

**YEA ITL**

## **HB 130, prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions.**

**Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: ITL 12-9**

### **ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill limits employers' hiring practices.**

- The state should not be interfering in or dictating businesses' hiring practices.
- This would increase the risks involved in hiring, making firms more reluctant to expand or create new jobs. Like many other well-intentioned measures, this could result in detrimental effects on the people it seeks to help.

# **HB 130**

## **YEA ITL**

## **HB 194, permitting employers to pay wages to employees weekly or biweekly.**

**Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: OTP 11-9**

### **PRO-LIBERTY: This bill permits employers to pay wages to employees weekly or biweekly.**

- Employers and employees are perfectly capable of determining appropriate pay periods themselves without government interference.
- One size may not fit all. Certain businesses may have many part-time employees and therefore pay weekly, while others could have long-tenured full-time employees and want to enjoy the efficiency of biweekly pay.

# **HB 194**

## **YEA OTP**

## **HB 442, relative to criminal records checks in the employee application process.**

**Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: ITL 12-9**

### **ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill prohibits employers from asking a job applicant about his or her criminal history prior to an interview.**

- The state should not be interfering in or dictating businesses' hiring practices.
- The state should work to reduce the number of victimless crimes in order to reduce the number of people who are negatively impacted by their prior involvement in the criminal justice system.

# **HB 442**

## **YEA ITL**

## **HB 481, relative to the use of small capacity, light weight plastic bags by retailers.**

**Municipal and County Government: ITL 14-6**

### **ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows towns to require retailers to charge for plastic bags, or ban their use by retailers altogether.**

- Requiring reusable bags hurts health; after San Francisco's plastic bag tax went into effect, hospital admissions for bacterial infections rose significantly.
- Reusable bags result in more carbon emissions over their lifecycle than do lightweight plastic bags, even when they are discarded (<https://goo.gl/qTIF25>).
- Prohibiting retailers from providing plastic bags to customers is a violation of the rights of both retailers and their customers.

# **HB 481**

## **YEA ITL**

## **HB 432, relative to enforcement of parking prohibitions.**

**Transportation: OTP 10-4**

### **ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill removes law enforcement agency discretion for issuance of a \$250 fine when a vehicle that does not display a special plate or placard is parked in a designated parking space for persons with a walking disability.**

- Law enforcement agencies should not be forced to prosecute minor violations without discretion. For example, a person with an obvious disability utilizing a rental vehicle who is not in possession of their placard would be required to be fined even if the officer clearly identifies that they would meet the intent of the current law. While a person who forgets their placard would always run such a risk if ticketed without the officer witnessing their entrance/exit from the vehicle, an officer should not be forced to choose between violating the law and acting as a mindless automaton of the state.
- Smaller law enforcement agencies may not have adequate funds to prosecute all of the parking violations brought to them under this law, and should have the ability to decide which cases are worth pursuing.

# **HB 432**

## **NAY OTP**

## HB 553-FN, relative to biennial motorcycle inspections.

Transportation: ITL 11-3

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill changes the vehicle inspection requirement for motorcycles from annual to biennial.**

- Per the minority report, the average rider puts 2,500 miles per year on a motorcycle, and it is unlikely that a component will wear out in 5,000 miles driven in a two-year span, except tires and brakes, if the rider abuses those components.
- 33 states require no periodic safety inspection of motorcycles. This includes states with longer driving seasons. A reduction to a biennial inspection system is a modest improvement without any evidence of a loss of safety for either riders or the public.
- Citizens and motorcycle enthusiasts who wish more frequent inspections can pay for more frequent inspections if they desire.

# HB 553

## NAY ITL

## HB 560-FN-A-LOCAL, establishing keno.

Ways and Means: OTP/A 20-3

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows small businesses to provide a gaming service to customers.**

- This bill avoids the pitfall of granting a monopoly (or duopoly) by allowing small businesses to host keno, and also honors the NH Constitution: "free and fair competition is an inherent right of the people".
- Many NH residents cross the border to Massachusetts to play keno already. This bill will benefit them as well as tourists who like to play keno.

# HB 560

## YEA OTP/A

## HB 576-FN, increasing the amount of inspection sticker fees to be transferred to the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund.

Ways and Means: ITL 13-9

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases the fee for vehicle inspection stickers, and allocates the increase to the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund.**

- NH drivers continue to get overtaxed, while infrastructure falls into disrepair. Further taxing drivers who need transportation to support themselves and their families adds insult to injury.
- The state's largest polluters are not car drivers. Forcing them to pay more while giving subsidies to coal-burning power plants sends the wrong message.

# HB 576

## YEA ITL

## HB 581-FN, establishing a credit against business profits taxes for media production expenditures in New Hampshire.

Ways and Means: ITL 23-0

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a credit against business profits taxes for media production expenditures made in New Hampshire.**

- This crony-capitalist bill would subsidize media production at the expense of all other businesses.
- Government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers.

# HB 581

## YEA ITL

## HB 365-FN, relative to awarding attorney's fees under the right-to-know law.

Judiciary: OTP 10-8

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill awards attorney's fees when a petitioner is successful in a right-to-know lawsuit where it is ruled the lawsuit was necessary in order to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Right-to-Know law or to address a purposeful violation.**

- The Right-to-Know law is supposed to increase transparency in our government. It should be accessible to all NH citizens and not just the few who have the means to fund legal battles in the event of a bureaucratic mistake.
- This is a small but important change to the current law. It will make government more accountable for abuses of RSA 91-A and may provide better training to the people who hold our public records as a result.
- Support the motion to reconsider then support YEA OTP.

# HB 365

## YEA Recon.