



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

HB 628 Oppose
HB 656 NAY IS
HB 1104 YEA OTP/A
HB 1214 YEA IS
HB 1313 YEA OTP
HB 1610 YEA ITL
HB 1632 YEA ITL
HB 1678 NAY ITL
HB 1763 NAY OTP/A



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018

HB 1313, relative to prohibitions on carrying a loaded firearm on an OHRV or snowmobile.

HB 1313

Resources, Recreation and Development: OTP 11-7

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill repeals the prohibitions on carrying a loaded pistol or revolver on an OHRV or a snowmobile.

YEA OTP

- This bill is largely a housekeeping bill to align remaining sections of NH law with the constitutional carry provisions enacted in 2017.
- New Hampshire voters affirmed our inherent right to self-defense in 1982 with the adoption of Article 2-a. of the NH Constitution: All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state.
- Under current law, OHRV or snowmobile drivers may be forced to leave firearms unattended in their vehicles or unload them under less-than-ideal conditions prior to engaging in recreation.

HB 1214, prohibiting the sale of certain furniture with flame retardant chemicals.

HB 1214

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: IS 20-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill bans the sale and distribution of new upholstered furniture for residential purposes that has been treated with flame retardant chemicals while still allowing their use in public facilities including schools.

YEA IS

- This bill enacts a broad ban against treatment of furniture with all current and future chemicals that offer flame retardant properties. This is a legislative overreaction to incomplete science on a specific subset of chemicals by preemptively banning all future uses of treatments with flame retardant properties.
- Proponents of the legislation express concern over limited science which suggests potential health impacts of certain legacy flame retardants to firefighters and children while still allowing children to be exposed to the treatments while in schools.
- The public already has an increasing number of options available for purchasing flammable furniture, including options at NH retailers such as Ethan Allen (https://www.ethanallen.com/en_US/faqs.html).
- While ITL is the appropriate vote, IS is acceptable.

HB 1610, requiring sellers of real property to disclose certain information concerning environmental hazards.

HB 1610

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: ITL 19-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill interferes in private commerce by creating new mandates for sellers of real property.

YEA ITL

- This bill requires sellers of real property to provide notice to buyers of environmentally hazardous sites within one mile of the property, and to disclose water test results if a source of MTBE or perfluorinated chemicals is identified within one mile of the property.
- This is a burdensome and unrealistic requirement.

HB 1632, relative to the labeling of bottled water.

HB 1632

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: ITL 17-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires bottled water to be tested for the presence of certain chemicals and labeled with certain results of such tests.

YEA ITL

- New labeling requirements would place an undue burden on retailers, wholesalers, and producers throughout the state and region.
- If there is a widespread public outcry for such labeling, companies (both producers and retailers) will ultimately lead the charge to satisfy customer demand.

HB 1678-FN, reducing the penalty for certain first offense drug possession charges.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: ITL 18-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill reduces the penalty for certain first offense drug possession charges from a felony to either a felony or a misdemeanor.

- Allowing for flexibility of charges for victimless crimes reduces the negative impact of the failed war on drugs.

HB 1104-FN, (New Title) relative to dredge and fill permit time limits; relative to time limits under the administrative procedure act; and relative to online filing with the secretary of state's office.

Executive Departments and Administration: OTP/A 7-6

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill limits the time for agencies to act on permits and enforces these limits by presuming non-action is approval.

- This bill, as amended, establishes time limits in several areas in an effort to streamline the process for certain state agency actions. This helps to hold state agencies accountable to action within reasonable time frames.
- This bill also requires the Secretary of State to allow online business and corporate filings by January 1, 2020. While a small improvement, this helps to reduce the burden of interaction with the state.

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

Finance: OTP/A 15-11

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill, as amended, creates a new mandate on employers and institutes a market distorting/state-mandated price fixing scheme for family medical leave insurance.

- As amended, this bill interferes in the private insurance marketplace by setting a government-selected withholding rate for an insurance product.
- It places a new mandate on private employers to provide family and medical leave insurance from a state-approved list of insurers unless self-insured.
- There are multiple proposed similar federal programs under consideration. Passing any form of state-mandated program now is likely to incur costs for both private employers and state taxpayers that may well be wasted/duplicate efforts.
- Support the majority amendment 2018-1111h but regardless of whether amendment fails or passes, oppose HB 628.
- If the amendment 2018-1111h fails, the bill reverts to its prior form of a government-run program where employees can opt-in anytime, but can only opt-out when starting employment and the opt-out requires an onerous use of a notary. In addition the bill would add more than 40 state employees, increasing the size of state government, and spends nearly \$10 million over 4 years on salaries alone.
- In the prior form of the bill, high-earning workers would have every reason to opt-out since the program would not be financially beneficial to them, contributing to the likelihood of fund insolvency. There was also no provision for fund insolvency; the state and all taxpayers would be on the hook for the mandates that the bill prescribes if the program fails.
- The state of Washington passed similar legislation in 2007, which they *still* have not been able to implement to this day.
- **This bill will be weighted very heavily on the NHLA annual scorecard.**

HB 1678

NAY ITL

HB 1104

YEA OTP/A

HB 628

Oppose

HB 1763-FN-A, establishing a road usage fee and making an appropriation therefor.

HB 1763

Finance: OTP/A 21-5

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases fees on most vehicles without reducing other fees/taxes to offset the increase.

- This bill adds a new road usage fee based on the miles per gallon efficiency of the vehicle with a graduated fee for vehicles above 20 MPG. In 2018, even large-class vehicles often have EPA ratings exceeding this metric, resulting in this new fee likely applying broadly to the majority of vehicles. In fact, the fleet average MPG including all passenger cars and light trucks sold after 2014 is estimated to be at least 31 MPG (<https://goo.gl/ndWWaC>).
- This bill simply raises more revenue; it does not reduce other taxes or fees in any way. If there is simply a desire to ensure that road maintenance burden is shared by all drivers, this new fee should be accompanied by a reduction in other fees.
- This bill will encourage drivers to purchase less fuel-efficient vehicles, resulting in more fossil fuels being burned in NH.
- This bill will hurt elderly drivers the most. According to the Federal Highway Administration drivers over the age of 65 drive an average of 7,646 miles per year, yet this bill will tax them an extra 30% more than they drive on average.

NAY OTP/A

Pulled from Consent

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

HB 656

Ways and Means: IS 23-0

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

- This bill, which allows limited personal possession and cultivation of marijuana for adults 21 and older, already passed the House in a 207-139 vote on January 9.
- The bill would legalize cultivation of six plants, three of which could be mature. It would not regulate or tax the market. Adults in Massachusetts, Maine, five other states, and Washington, D.C. 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.
- Vote NAY IS and then YEA OTP.

NAY IS