



GOLD STANDARD



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017

SB 8-FN, relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools.

SB 8

Education: OTP/A 13-6

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill provides fiscally responsible alternatives for approximately 50 school districts, which must already tuition out a portion of their student population.

**YEA
OTP/A**

- This bill as amended empowers districts without full K-12 in-district to contract with public and nonsectarian private schools, consistent with current practices in many districts.
- The amendment addresses accountability in ways consistent with existing statutes as well as to parents.
- This bill will expand more school choice options for children in rural areas of the state with few alternatives for a better educational fit.
- This bill also provides fiscally responsible options for school boards facing declining student populations and rising education costs.
- Just as school tuition programs expand choice for families, they provide fiscally responsible options for school boards given statewide student population declines and rising education costs.

SB 57-FN-A, making appropriations to the department of environmental services for the purposes of funding eligible drinking water and wastewater projects under the state aid grant program and relative to making an appropriation from the drinking water and groundwater trust fund to the department of environmental services to address drinking water contamination in Amherst.

SB 57

Finance: OTP/A 26-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would use state taxpayer money to fund selected municipal water projects.

**NAY
OTP/A**

- Local water projects should be funded locally. It's inappropriate to take money from NH communities that do not have central water systems in order to subsidize communities that do.

SB 131-FN-A, establishing a cross border drug interdiction program and making an appropriation therefor.

SB 131

Finance: OTP/A 24-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allocates funds to hire 5 state troopers to exclusively perform drug interdiction work.

**NAY
OTP/A**

- The War on Drugs has clearly failed; heroin was first federally regulated more than 100 years ago, yet is still beyond the control of governance even today. While it is tempting to look at the lists of arrests week after week in the paper and think we are just one more arrest from a solution, it is clear that the additional spending-and-enforcement approach is a failure.
- As with most government programs, once the new positions are created there will be significant pressure to retain the positions and their subsequent pension costs after the current "crisis" is over. This will likely result in more long-term spending than the fiscal note implies.
- "The available scientific evidence suggests that drug-related violence and high homicide rates are likely a natural consequence of drug prohibition and that increasingly sophisticated and well-resourced methods of disrupting drug distribution networks may unintentionally increase violence. From an evidence-based public policy perspective, gun violence and the enrichment of organized crime networks appear to be natural consequences of drug prohibition..." International Centre for Science in Drug Policy at <http://bit.ly/2sfOYdu>