



# Gold Standard

## LIBERTY WATCHLIST

MARCH 24, 2009

### HB500 – Repealing the authority for an exclusive representative of an employee organization to conduct collective bargaining for employees.

Committee report: Labor: ITL (11-7) Our recommendation: **NAY on ITL**

This bill, which repeals statutes that allow a single union to represent public employees by written majority authorization, is **pro-liberty**:

- The minority should be able to choose their own union—or none at all—and not be forced into having the majority union negotiate for them.

### HB242 – Relative to taxpayer inventory blanks.

Committee report: Local & Regulated Revenue: ITL (12-5) Our recommendation: **NAY on ITL**

This bill, which repeals the requirement for census information to be collected on taxpayer inventory blanks, is **pro-liberty**:

- Some towns do this; others do not. The collected data is not used in support of any present lawful purpose: Its collection represents both an inconsistently applied and unnecessary requirement.
- Collecting this data is intrusive and needlessly violates people's privacy.

### HB596 – Relative to establishing a property tax credit for all taxpayers whose property taxes exceed 10 percent of household income.

Committee report: Local & Regulated Revenue: ITL (15-4) Our recommendation: **YEA on ITL**

This bill, which would increase property taxes on everyone who does *not* qualify for this new credit, is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill would unfairly shift the local property tax burden from some onto others. This could have a ripple effect, raising some people's taxes, thus entitling them to the credit, further raising others' taxes, and so on.

### HB393 – Authorizing municipalities to publish electronic legal notices.

Committee report: Municipal & County Government: ITL (16-2) Our recommendation: **YEA on ITL**

This bill, which would allow public bodies to substitute electronic notification for a newspaper posting of legal notices, is **anti-liberty**:

- Public bodies should be encouraged to publish notices both in print and electronically, but if they choose only one method, for the sake of openness and accountability it should be the most widely available source—in print.

### HB303 – Relative to motor vehicle emissions and motor vehicle idling.

Committee report: Science, Technology & Energy: ITL (11-8) Our recommendation: **YEA on ITL**

This bill, which sets time limits on the idling of trucks, is **anti-liberty**:

- The state should not be micro-managing independent trucking owner-operators, who are already struggling to survive.
- Fuel prices, not government mandates, provide ample incentives against excessive idling.

### HB524 – Establishing a permanent state defense force.

Committee report: State-Federal Relations: ITL (8-4) Our recommendation: **NAY on ITL**

This bill, which prevents the Governor from failing to organize and maintain the state guard, is **pro-liberty**:

- A state guard is necessary for the defense of this state.
- Such a force ensures the continued liberties of the people of this state in time of emergency, natural disaster, or invasion.

### HB34 – Relative to rules of the road.

Committee report: Transportation: OTP/A (12-4) Our recommendation: **NAY on OTP/A**

This bill, which prohibits text messaging and the use of two hands to type or operate an electronic device while driving, is **anti-liberty**:

- Distracted driving is already prohibited by existing statutes.
- This bill is overly vague, unenforceable as written, and violates state and federal constitutional rights.
- This is a matter of common sense that should not be legislated.

### HB525 – Prohibiting smoking in vehicles when child passenger restraints are required.

Committee report: Transportation: ITL (10–8)

Our recommendation:

**YEA on ITL**

This bill, which would provide the same penalties for smoking with children in a car as for not buckling them up, is **anti-liberty**:

- This is a violation of civil liberties and control of one's private property.
- This is a slippery slope toward controlling what one does in his or her own home, and is also a matter of common sense that should not be legislated.

### HB166 – Increasing the beer tax.

Committee report: Ways & Means: ITL (11–9)

Our recommendation:

**YEA on ITL**

This bill, which would increase the beer tax by 33%, is **anti-liberty**:

- Raising this tax is inappropriate in these tough economic times. A tax hike will likely lead to the closure of at least one New Hampshire brewery, thus being responsible for job losses.
- This increase would provide no new revenue to the state, but instead go into a fund that should rightly be financed privately or by charitable contribution.

### HB109 — Relative to consumer choice in health insurance.

Committee report: Commerce & Consumer Affairs: ITL (10–8)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on ITL**

This bill, which would allow insurance companies the ability to provide some forms of *à la carte* coverage, is **pro-liberty**:

- State mandates in health plans drive up insurance costs for everyone.
- For the working class and poor, *any* form of affordable health coverage is certainly better than none at all.

### HCR2 – Endorsing the National Health Insurance Act.

Committee report: Commerce & Consumer Affairs: OTP/A (11–6)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on OTP/A**

This resolution, which endorses a “single-payer” system of universal health care, is **anti-liberty**:

- State-funded healthcare inevitably leads to rationing of services: government agencies deciding which human lives are worth spending tax money on. Doctors and patients, not bureaucrats, should be the ones to make important medical decisions.
- Such a system creates a perverse incentive to legislate personal health choices, such as dietary regulations, to reduce costs.
- The failures of socialized medicine are evident in every country that implements it, and there is no reason to believe that a single-payer system in the United States would be any different.

### HB449 – Increasing the penalty for unlawful possession or release of criminal records.

Committee report: Criminal Justice & Public Safety: OTP (14–3)

Our recommendation:

**YEA on OTP**

This bill, which would increase the penalty for unauthorized use of criminal records, is **pro-liberty**:

- Violations of privacy, especially with regard to criminal records, are a serious threat to the liberty and safety of the public.

### HB614 – Relative to domicile of students for voting purposes.

Committee report: Election Law: OTP/A (11–7)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on OTP/A**

This bill, which would ensure that college students from out of state get to vote in all New Hampshire elections, is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill encourages non-residents to vote in our elections, which disenfranchises true residents of New Hampshire.
- It allows students to continue to claim residency in one state for tax purposes, but vote in this state, violating the spirit of Part I, Art. 12 of the New Hampshire Constitution.

### HB591 – Relative to the maximum initial retirement benefit for retirees in the N.H. retirement system.

Committee report: Executive Departments & Administration: ITL (10–8)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on ITL**

This bill, which would limit an employee's pension to no more than 100% of their base pay, is **pro-liberty**:

- A pension check should certainly not exceed what the pay rate was when the employee was still working.

### HB648 – Relative to the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Committee report: Health & Human Services: OTP/A (13–7)

Our recommendation:

**YEA on OTP/A**

This bill, which would make legal under New Hampshire law the use of marijuana only for the purpose of treating debilitating medical conditions, is **pro-liberty**:

- Doctors and patients, not bureaucrats, should be the ones to make important medical decisions.
- This bill does not violate federal law. States are not required to enforce federal law, and the U.S. Attorney General has declared that the federal government will *not* prosecute patients in states with this type of legislation.
- Federal interference in state medical law is a violation of state sovereignty, as protected by Part I, Art. 7 of the New Hampshire Constitution.