



Gold Standard

LIBERTY WATCHLIST

SB153 – Relative to business practices between motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and dealers.

Committee report: Commerce & Consumer Affairs: OTP/A (15–0) Our recommendation: **NAY on OTP/A**

This bill, which further regulates business practices between auto manufacturers, distributors, and dealers, is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill interferes with the right to contract by putting restrictions on the agreements manufacturers can make with dealers to provide financing for vehicle purchases. This part of the bill has nothing to do with the “soft landing” that this bill is attempting to provide for New Hampshire businesses.
- It requires auto manufacturers to buy back the last twenty-four months of vehicles from a dealer whose franchise is terminated, even if the owner voluntarily terminates his own franchise. In no other business can one decide to close shop and force the manufacturer to buy back unsold merchandise.
- It imposes a 79.58% APR penalty on manufacturers who are more than ninety days late making these payoffs. The last session, the Legislature capped payday loans at 36% because people who were in financial trouble shouldn’t be forced to pay usurious rates—yet now the Legislature is actually requiring such usury, which will provide a windfall for dealers.
- The manufacturers to which this bill is a response—GM and Chrysler—are bankrupt, or nearly so. The money for this “soft landing” can only come from one place: another bailout funded by the American taxpayer.
- This bill was expedited through the hearing process and added to today’s calendar at the last minute. Legislation should never be passed with such haste, and this is especially troublesome given the particularly anti-liberty implications of this bill.

SB144 – Allowing the unemployment compensation trust fund to be charged for benefits paid for certain employee terminations.

Committee report: Labor, Industrial & Rehab. Services: OTP/A (10–4) Our recommendation: **NAY on OTP/A**

This bill, which extends unemployment benefits to people who voluntarily leave work for a variety of reasons, is **anti-liberty**:

- It extends benefits to those with *non*-work-related injuries or illness, to those who wish to accompany their spouse who wishes to relocate for his or her own employment, and to those who have a family member who becomes ill. Yet, none of these circumstances are the responsibility of the employer, and therefore it is improper to force them to pay for it.
- A major motivation behind this bill seems to be a \$21 million handout from the Federal Government. The State of New Hampshire should not allow itself to be enticed into passing legislation merely because the Federal Government offers what is essentially a bribe to do so.

*The New Hampshire Liberty Alliance is a non-partisan coalition of New Hampshire citizens working to increase individual freedom in the Granite State. Each year we compile voting records from a wide variety of legislation and release our **Liberty Rating**, grading our state legislators’ support of liberty. These Liberty Watchlists are an effort to highlight bills that, if passed, stand to substantially increase or decrease freedom in New Hampshire. Your vote on these bills may be used in our annual Liberty Rating.*

SB168 – Establishing the Coastal Watershed Alliance.

Committee report: Resources, Recreation & Development: OTP (18–0)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP

This bill, which establishes a new state bureaucracy, is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill would create a new, more powerful, statewide bureaucracy at considerable expense to the taxpayers. This would take money from all taxpayers and distribute it to favored municipalities for them to enforce more widespread and onerous restrictions on private property.

SB180 – Establishing an accountability system to ensure the opportunity for an adequate education and repealing the legislative committee on costing an adequate education.

Committee report: Education: OTP (15–1)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP

This bill, which imposes a new unfunded mandate on our local school districts, is **anti-liberty**:

- Such an unfunded mandate is contrary to **Part I, Article 28-a** of the New Hampshire Constitution.
- It creates a very complex, far-reaching system of reporting requirements for New Hampshire's public schools, yet does nothing to actually ensure our children receive an adequate education.
- The bill is over 2,500 words. Its complexity may prove difficult or impossible for public schools to comply with, without hiring additional dedicated staff in order to do so.

SB116 – Repealing the prohibition on political contributions by insurance companies.

Committee report: Election Law: OTP (10–7)

Our recommendation:

NAY on OTP

This bill, which repeals the prohibition on political contributions by insurance companies, is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill is an attempt to enforce a court decision from 1999 which began to allow corporations to make political contributions, but it goes too far. Instead of completely repealing this total prohibition on contributions by insurance companies, the State should instead require that all corporations must disclose their contributions to the Secretary of State. The NHLA believes that in order to have transparent, free, and fair elections, candidates and donors—especially corporations—should be held accountable through disclosure of all their contributions.
- The NHLA also recognizes that corporations are State-created entities, and as such, can rightfully be subject to regulation which would be unacceptable to subject a private individual to. A corporation is, essentially, a contract between a private individual, or group of individuals, and the State, in order to gain certain benefits from the State (such as limited liability and separate legal personhood), and as such, it is legitimate for the State to set requirements on the contract such as prohibitions on using corporate monies to influence the political system.
- Prohibiting corporations from making campaign contributions in no way infringes upon the rights of the employees, owners, or any other individuals, to make political contributions in their own name.

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