



# Gold Standard

LIBERTY WATCHLIST

## SB5 – Prohibiting retailers from disclosing private customer information to foreign states in connection with the collection of certain sales and use taxes.

Committee report: Commerce & Consumer Affairs: OTP/A (14–0)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on OTP/A**

This bill is a noble attempt to protect New Hampshire businesses against tax enforcement efforts by other states, but its methods are **anti-liberty**:

- It places new restrictions on New Hampshire retailers, *prohibiting* them from sharing customer information with other states' tax authorities. Placing such prohibitions on private citizens is anti-liberty, no matter how well-intentioned.
- A business could potentially be caught in a no-win situation, violating the other state's laws by refusing to divulge such information, or violating New Hampshire law by complying.
- A pro-liberty way to deal with the situation that inspired this bill might be for the General Court to instruct the Attorney General's office to defend New Hampshire businesses by suing other states that threaten them.

## SB19 – Relative to government immunity from lawsuits for municipal dog parks.

Committee report: Judiciary: ITL (11–6)

Our recommendation:

**YEA on ITL**

This bill, which grants municipalities additional immunity against lawsuits, is **anti-liberty**:

- *No one* should be allowed to be immune from legitimate lawsuits. Private citizens are held responsible for injuries or damages they cause to another—why should the State and its political subdivisions be exempt?
- If municipalities cannot be held financially responsible for their dog parks, what motivation do they have to deal with safety hazards?

## SB33 – Allowing lobbyists and those connected with lobbyists to sit on committees established by the judicial branch.

Committee report: Judiciary: OTP/A (11–0)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on OTP/A**

This bill, which allows lobbyists to participate in committees established by the judiciary, is **anti-liberty**:

- Allowing lobbyists on these committees will give them undue influence over the judiciary, and potentially lead to increased favoritism and corruption.

### SB53 – Establishing professional guardians and removing the oath requirement in annual reports of the guardian.

Committee report: Judiciary: OTP (11–6)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on OTP**

This bill, as a whole, is not anti-liberty. However, the removal of the requirement that guardians file their annual reports under oath is **anti-liberty** and should be removed from the bill, or failing that, the bill should be ITLed:

- The oath requirement potentially serves as a deterrent to intentional misrepresentation—fraud. Why would the state want to make it easier for guardians to get away with committing fraud?

### SB17 – Relative to Selective Service registration upon driver's license application or renewal.

Committee report: Transportation: ITL (12–2)

Our recommendation:

**YEA on ITL**

This bill, which changes the Selective Service checkbox on drivers license forms from opt-in to opt-out, is **anti-liberty**:

- Requiring someone to opt *out* of something runs the risk that they will accidentally end up involved in something that they didn't intend. Signing up for Selective Service is a major decision that every young adult must make himself, and there should be no chance that he do so accidentally.
- It is not the responsibility of the New Hampshire DMV to enforce Federal law.

### SB182 – Establishing a committee to study business tax credits.

Committee report: Ways & Means: OTP/A (18–1)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on OTP/A**

This bill, which creates a committee to study business tax credits, is **anti-liberty**:

- Using the tax system to manipulate private businesses through the granting of tax credits for certain practices is velvet-gloved fascism. It is attempting to coerce businesses to do things that they cannot be outright forced to do through law.
- If taxes are high enough such that tax credits can be used to manipulate them to do other than what is in their best interests, or they believe themselves to be unable to do what is in their best interests, then taxes are too high to begin with.
- Tax credits as an alternative to tax cuts are “un-American”—they are the use of government to alter behavior, rather than simply punishing bad behavior and leaving all the rest to self-determination.

*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.*