



## HB 1285 – Relative to the exemption of certain firearms ... made in N.H. from federal law and regulation.

Committee report: Commerce & Consumer Affairs: ITL (11–8)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on ITL**

**YEA on INTERIM STUDY**

This bill, which states that firearms that do not travel in interstate commerce are not subject to federal regulation, is **pro-liberty**:

- The General Court's defense of states' rights has precedent in our rejection of federal Real ID legislation.
- Large corporations selling firearms in interstate commerce will not be affected by this.
- The people most affected by this will be hobbyists who manufacture their own firearms (permitted under federal law), and may wish to sell or give them away, which is not currently legal without paying special occupational taxes, filing federal forms, and making several types of markings on the firearm (maker, maker's location, caliber, etc.).
- Sending this to interim study will compare it with HB1433, a bill substantially similar but lacking penalty clauses for violations.
- An interim study will consider the results of the similar bills in the two states in which they have passed, and the twenty other states in which similar bills are being considered.

## HB 1558 – Prohibiting the sale of certain energy drinks to minors.

Committee report: Commerce & Consumer Affairs: ITL (17–2)

Our recommendation:

**YEA on ITL**

This bill, which would prohibit the sale of certain energy drinks to minors, is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill seeks to replace parental responsibility with new prohibitions and regulations.
- Many drinks and other products contain caffeine in excess of 80 milligrams per 8 fluid ounces—yet energy drinks are singled out under this bill.
- This bill would place an additional burden on many small business, requiring them to card people buying energy drinks.
- Should this bill pass, a parent giving their teenager an energy drink would be subject to a fine.

## HB 1402 – Repealing the crime of adultery.

Committee report: Criminal Justice & Public Safety: OTP (15–2)

Our recommendation:

**YEA on OTP**

This bill, which would repeal criminal penalties for committing adultery, is **pro-liberty**:

- This law has gone unenforced for decades. Leaving such laws on our books creates confusion and disrespect for the law.
- Adultery is a violation of a marriage contract—a private contract between two parties—and should not be punished criminally.
- This bill makes *no change* to the handling of adultery with respect to divorce proceedings.

*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.*

## HB 1652 – Allowing purchase and use of marijuana by adults, regulating ... and imposing taxes ...

Committee report: Criminal Justice & Public Safety: Interim Study (16–2) Our recommendation: **YEA on INTERIM STUDY**

This bill, which would legalize, tax, and regulate marijuana, is **pro-liberty**:

- Marijuana prohibition has not worked, sending hundreds of thousands of Americans into the criminal justice system each year, mostly for simple possession of marijuana.
- Adults have a fundamental right to make choices about how they treat their bodies, including what substances they ingest.
- Although the NHLA generally opposes new or increased taxes such as the ones included in HB1652, they may be appropriate in this instance because:
  - “Sin taxes” may be considered a user fee when used to address potential costs to society from the taxed activity.
  - Keeping the price of marijuana artificially high through taxes would more closely mirror the current street price, and bring much-needed revenue to the general fund—instead of letting the profit go to street gangs and drug cartels.
  - Taxing and regulating marijuana would improve the *status quo* so significantly that these taxes are an acceptable compromise in exchange for this expansion of personal liberty.
- Interim study will create the opportunity for a polished bill to be brought before the House next year, after looking at many variables and options such as selling marijuana in state liquor stores, clarifying existing prohibitions on transporting marijuana, and considering whether adults should be able to grow their own small amounts at home.

## HB 1435 – Relative to the practitioner–patient relationship in the dispensing of prescriptions.

Committee report: Health & Human Services: OTP/A (16–2) Our recommendation: **NAY on OTP/A**

This bill, which would require that prescriptions submitted online establish a doctor–patient relationship, is **anti-liberty**:

- Free markets and free choice in the purchase or provision of health-improving products are always superior to top-down, one-size-fits-all regulation.
- We should be expanding and facilitating doctor–patient choices, not restricting them.
- Further criminalizing of drug and device prescriptions leads to a greater, more costly burden on the state’s judicial system and could prevent patients from getting needed medication.
- The language is vague enough to be very difficult and expensive to enforce, and the regulations would be complex enough to lead to both innocent unintended violations and exploitation of loopholes.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### HB 1654 – Relative to state house security.

Committee report: Legislative Administration: ITL (15–0) Our recommendation: **YEA on ITL**

This bill, which would prohibit the carrying of deadly weapons into the State House, is **anti-liberty**:

- **Part I, Article 2-a** of the New Hampshire Constitution reads: “All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves.” Forcing people to waive this right in order to participate in their government is anti-liberty.
- As the recent tragedy at a Las Vegas Courthouse demonstrated, criminals do not obey the law and will not be deterred by metal detectors. Instead, it will be the law-abiding citizens who will be disarmed and put at risk.
- This bill has a four-year estimated cost of almost \$1,000,000.

### HB 1675 – Relative to eliminating payment of certain travel expenses for members of the general court ...

Committee report: Legislative Administration: ITL (16–0) Our recommendation: **NAY on ITL**

This bill, which would save taxpayers over \$7,000,000 per year, is **pro-liberty**:

- Such a large cut in spending would go a long way toward closing the yawning budget deficit New Hampshire is facing.