



SPECIAL ORDER

HB 1445 – Eliminating the meals and rooms tax on campsites.

Committee report: Ways & Means: ITL (10–9)

Our recommendation:

NAY on ITL

This bill, which reverses application of the meals and rooms tax on campsites, is **pro-liberty**:

- Last year's implementation of this new tax on campsites without a public hearing should be rescinded, and any such change should be subject to public commentary and scrutiny.
- This newly imposed tax will cause untold number of potential visitors to reconsider their visits to New Hampshire and go elsewhere or stay home, depriving the state's economy of the economic activity generated by such tourism.
- Campsite rentals are short-term rentals of real property, quite unlike hotel stays. There are no rooms or meals provided.

REGULAR CALENDAR

(starting with Health & Human Services)

HB 1555 – Adding an exemption from immunization for conscientious beliefs.

Committee report: Health & Human Services: ITL (12–7)

Our recommendation:

NAY on ITL

This bill, which exempts conscientious objectors from compulsory immunization, is **pro-liberty**:

- No vaccine or other medical treatment should be forced on any person. This is a human rights and personal health choice issue.
- The current religious exemption is an "all or nothing" exemption. The state of Texas recently added a conscientious belief exemption and saw their vaccination rates increase because the new exemption allowed individuals to choose vaccines they had skipped because of the "all or none" nature of the religious exemption.
- This bill will uphold citizens' rights as protected by **Part I, Art. 4** of the N.H. Constitution: "Rights of Conscience Unalienable."
- It will not repeal RSA 141-C:20-d, which requires unvaccinated children to remain home from school in the event of an outbreak.

HB 1564 – Relative to the regulation of attorneys by the supreme court ...

Committee report: Judiciary: ITL (11–8)

Our recommendation:

NAY on ITL

This bill, which gives sole authority to regulate attorneys to the N.H. Supreme Court, instead of the N.H. Bar Association, is **pro-liberty**:

- The Bar Association, by requiring membership therein to be mandatory for all attorneys who seek to practice law in the state, and subjecting them to its rules, is a monopoly in violation of **Part II, Art. 83** of the N.H. Constitution.
- This power of monopoly conferred on the Bar has effectively led to control of the legal system by a private corporation whose officers are not accountable to the people, and whose policies and rules are not subject to constitutional limitations.

HB 1655 – Relative to persons with mental illness and the corrections system.

Committee report: Judiciary: OTP (11–5)

Our recommendation:

YEA on OTP

This bill, which reduces the time period for trial in cases where the defendant is incarcerated, is **pro-liberty**:

- This bill will reinforce a jailed defendant's right to a speedy trial.
- This may ease the workloads of corrections staff, reduce county expenditures due to shorter periods of inappropriate incarceration, and free space for more dangerous criminals.

HB 1147 – Excluding value attributed to unexercised approvals in determining [property taxes].

Committee report: Local & Regulated Revenue: ITL (14–3)

Our recommendation:

YEA on ITL

This bill, which excludes the value of unexercised approvals from property tax land value assessments, is **anti-liberty**:

- The current definition of "market value" in RSA 75:1 means "the property's full and true value as the same would be appraised in payment of a just debt due from a solvent debtor." This is a fair definition.
- Adding special exceptions provides a tax break for a few individuals and increases the burden on the rest of the taxpayers.

HB 1126 – Relative to the Hooksett police commission.

Committee report: Municipal & County Government: ITL (11–6)

Our recommendation:

NAY on ITL

This bill, which allows the Town of Hooksett to expand its police commission from three to five members, is **pro-liberty**:

- This bill would empower the people of Hooksett to more effectively oversee law enforcement in their community.

HB 1343 – Establishing a joint committee on the constitutionality of [acts of the U.S. government].

Committee report: State–Federal Relations: ITL (10–7)

Our recommendation:

NAY on ITLThis bill, which creates a joint committee to review the constitutionality of acts, etc., by the U.S. government, is **pro-liberty**:

- **Part I, Art. 7** of the N.H. Constitution states: “The people of this state have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state; and do, and forever hereafter shall, exercise and enjoy every power, jurisdiction, and right, pertaining thereto, which is not ... by them expressly delegated to the United States of America in congress assembled.” As such, any power exercised by the federal government that was not *expressly delegated* is contrary to the Constitution.
- While it is the duty of every legislator to review complaints of federal usurpation of our state’s sovereignty, each year the federal government creates thousands of pages of new laws—far too many for legislators to review.
- For the same reasons that the N.H. legislature forms dedicated committees to review proposed N.H. legislation and recommend courses of action, it is prudent to form a dedicated committee to review federal legislation.

HB 1661 – Making distributions from [LLCs] subject to the interest and dividends tax only if they have transferable shares.

Committee report: Ways & Means: Interim Study (11–7)

Our recommendation:

**NAY on INTERIM STUDY
YEA on OTP**This bill, which repeals the extension of the interest and dividends tax to certain LLCs, is **pro-liberty**:

- Many small businesses operate as LLCs simply for purposes of liability reduction, and their owners pay federal taxes like other proprietorships; many pay the business profits tax where applicable, too. To single them out for double taxation will continue to have a chilling effect on small business and thus hamper job growth and economic development.

HB 1180 – Relative to the use of clotheslines.

Committee report: Commerce & Consumer Affairs: ITL (13–4)

Our recommendation:

YEA on ITLThis bill, which requires landlords, homeowners associations, etc., to allow clothesline use by tenants, is **anti-liberty**:

- This bill is an infringement upon the fundamental right of private individuals to voluntarily contract with one another for services.
- Parts of this bill prohibit municipalities and health regulators from prohibiting clotheslines on private property. This *would* make the bill **pro-liberty** if not for the sections imposing similar prohibitions on private parties.

HB 1486 – Prohibiting the mandating of fire sprinkler systems in certain dwellings.

Committee report: Commerce & Consumer Affairs: OTP/A (15–3)

Our recommendation:

YEA on OTP/AThis bill, which forbids the state fire marshal and towns from mandating residential sprinklers, is **pro-liberty**:

- The unelected building code review board and fire control board have adopted codes that mandate residential sprinklers, pending legislative approval. This bill clearly denies that approval.
- Sprinklers do save live from fires, but at a significant cost. A mandate would force people to give up other, more effective safety measures in order to pay for sprinklers.
- N.H. has both a very low level of residential fire deaths and a very high cost for sprinklers, due to both the climate and the absence of public water systems. The combination means that sprinklers are much less cost-effective here than elsewhere in the country.
- Nothing in this bill prevents a home buyer or builder from installing sprinkler systems if they decide to do so.

HB 1580 – Relative to home schooling.

Committee report: Education: ITL (12–7)

Our recommendation:

NAY on ITLThis bill, which exempts homeschooled children from compulsory attendance requirements, is **pro-liberty**:

- The compulsory attendance law was never intended to apply to parents who were instructing their children; it was directed at those few parents who were not undertaking their obligation to instruct their children in a responsible manner.
- This bill does not prevent the state from using existing statutes to protect children from abusive or neglectful parents.
- It restores due process, which includes equal treatment under the law, the presumption of innocence, and protection against searches or seizures without probable cause.
- The current home education law, RSA 193-A, which presumes parents are guilty until proven innocent via annual evaluations, mandates something not required of any other educators in the state.
- Despite recommending ITL, the House Education subcommittee concurred that the constitutional language in this bill is valid.
- With the Board of Education set to approve rules (Ed 315) much like what was killed in HB368, this bill is even more necessary.

HB 1188 – Relative to nominating a political organization by nomination papers.

Committee report: Election Law: OTP/A (8–6)

Our recommendation:

YEA on OTP/AThis bill, which changes the number of petitions required to nominate a political organization by nomination papers, is **pro-liberty**:

- Candidates for office should be treated equally under the law no matter their political affiliation. Current law sets a lower petitioning threshold for major parties than for independent or third party candidates. For example, an independent needs 150 certified signatures to run for state representative, while a Republican or Democrat needs just five.
- New Hampshire’s ballot access laws are currently more restrictive than the national average. This bill is a step in the right direction.

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.