



New Hampshire Liberty Alliance Gold Standard

HB 454 NAY/ITL HB 443 YEA/OTPA
HB 659 NAY/OTPA HB 621 NAY/ITL
HB 575 YEA/OTPA HB 624 NAY/OTP
HB 606 NAY/ITL HB 573 YEA/OTPA
HB 135 NAY/OTPA HB 357 ITL
HB 264 NAY/ITL HB 286 YEA/OTP
HB 290 YEA/ITL

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HB 454, requiring consent prior to the installation of smart meters.

Committee recommendation: Science, Technology, and Energy, 15–3 ITL

This bill, which would protect the privacy of individual rate payers, is **pro-liberty**:

- These meters can be an invasion of privacy and a back-door opening to outside control of devices within your house.
- Requiring the owner's permission protects their privacy while allowing those who want these features to have them.

**HB
454
NAY**
on
ITL

HB 659, increasing the tobacco tax.

Committee recommendation: Ways and Means, 11–7 OTP/A

This bill, which would increase the tobacco tax, is **anti-liberty**:

- This tax is regressive in nature and will be felt most by the poor and those on fixed incomes.
- New Hampshire already taxes cigarettes more than thirty other states.
- This tax will hurt the New Hampshire economy and reduce its competitive advantage with nearby states.

**HB
659
NAY**
on
OTP/A

HB 575, relative to hours of sales of on-premises liquor licensees.

Committee recommendation: Commerce and Consumer Affairs, 11–8 OTP/A

This bill as amended, which would expand local control for the hours of sales of on-premises liquor licensees, is **pro-liberty**:

- Businesses should have the freedom to set their own hours to satisfy market and consumer demands.
- The New Hampshire Constitution guarantees in Part I, Article 2: "All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights—among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; ... and, in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness."

**HB
575
YEA**
on
OTP/A

HB 606, relative to community rating.

Committee recommendation: Commerce and Consumer Affairs, 15–4 ITL

This bill, which would expand the community rating, is **pro-liberty**:

- This bill would expand the community rating ratio for the state and allow for a more competitive health insurance market.
- It would increase the flexibility of our market, making it more attractive to insurance companies, potentially giving New Hampshire citizens better health insurances prices and choices.

**HB
606
NAY**
on
ITL

HB 135, relative to physical force in defense of a person and relative to the definition of non-deadly force.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety, 12–6 OTP/A

This bill, which would infringe on the right to bear arms, is **anti-liberty**:

- The right to keep and bear arms is an original guarantee in our form of government. Both the U.S. and State constitutions hold these rights sacred and not to be infringed.
- There has been no demonstrated or reported problem with public safety since the enactment of the current “stand your ground” law.
- Any short-sighted overreaction to existing statute is emotion-based legislation with no statistical grounding.

**HB
135
NAY
on
OTP/A**

HB 264, relative to simple assault.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety, 16–4 ITL

This bill, which would lower the criminal penalties for minor assaults with no injury to a violation instead of a (currently) misdemeanor, is **pro-liberty**:

- It upholds Part I, Article 18 of the N.H. Constitution, that penalties are to be proportional to offenses.
- It may have the secondary benefit of reducing caseloads in the court system, saving taxpayers money and allowing law enforcement to focus on more serious crimes.

**HB
264
NAY
on
ITL**

HB 290, prohibiting unlicensed persons from openly carrying a pistol or revolver in public building.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety, 14–4 ITL

This bill, which would attach a Class B felony to persons open carrying in a public building, is **anti-liberty**:

- Like HB 135, this bill infringes upon the right to keep and bear arms, which is an original guarantee in our form of government. Both the U.S. and State constitutions hold these rights sacred and not to be infringed.
- There has been no demonstrated or reported problem with public safety caused by people openly carrying firearms on public property.

**HB
290
YEA
on
ITL**

HB 443, prohibiting prison privatization.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety, 13–5 OTP/A

This bill, which would prohibit the privatization of prisons, is **pro-liberty**:

- An inmate in a privately run prison does not have the same legal protections against abuse that an inmate in a state run prison has.
- It would put someone other than the State in the position of punishing crimes against the State.
- It upholds Part II, Article 88 of the N.H. Constitution: “All indictments, presentments, and informations, shall conclude, “against the peace and dignity of the state.’ ”

**HB
443
YEA
on
OTP/A**

HB 621, decriminalizing possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

Committee recommendation: Criminal Justice and Public Safety, 12–6 ITL

This bill, which would decriminalize small amounts of marijuana, is **pro-liberty**:

- In a free society, individuals should not be harshly punished for peaceful activities which do not harm others. Thus, it is more appropriate to punish simple marijuana possession with a citation and a fine than with a criminal conviction and possible jail time.
- Modeled after laws in other states, this bill would help avoid the unintended consequences associated with marijuana prohibition. By reducing the extent to which an individual's life is disrupted by a minor marijuana arrest, it would reduce the expense of the criminal justice system and allow law enforcement to focus its efforts on serious crimes.
- Part I, Article 18 of the N.H. Constitution states, in part: "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense. ... Where the same undistinguishing severity is exerted against all offenses, the people are led to forget the real distinction in the crimes themselves, and to commit the most flagrant with as little compunction as they do the lightest offenses."

**HB
621
NAY**
on
ITL

HB 624, waiving the residency requirement for in-state tuition rates for veterans attending the university system of New Hampshire.

Committee recommendation: Education, 17–3 OTP

This bill, which would grant special privileges to a specific class of citizens, is **anti-liberty**:

- It violates Part I, Article 10 of the N.H. Constitution: "Government being instituted for the common benefit ... and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men. ..."

**HB
624
NAY**
on
OTP

HB 573, relative to the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Committee recommendation: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs, 14–1 OTP/A

This bill, which would allow the use of therapeutic cannabis, 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, Article 7 of the New Hampshire Constitution.

**HB
573
YEA**
on
OTP/A

HB 357, prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions.

Committee recommendation: Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services, *no recommendation*

This bill, which would limit an employers' hiring practices, is **anti-liberty**:

- Government should not be dictating hiring practices for businesses.
 - This would increase the risks involved in hiring, making firms more reluctant to bring on new employees.
- Like many other well-intentioned measures this could result in detrimental effect on the people it seeks to help.
- Credit reports are less subjective criteria for evaluating the potential of new employees. Without the use of a pre-employment credit check, many employers will likely use other more arbitrary means in making a selection.
 - Only 13% of employers conduct credit checks on all job candidates, while 47% do for certain jobs. Typically those jobs are for senior personnel in critical positions. This bill is attempting to address a perceived problem, not a real one.

**HB
357**

ITL

HB 286, relative to broadband infrastructure.

Committee recommendation: Science, Technology, and Energy, 11–8 OTP

This bill, which would allow municipalities to bond to build open-access broadband infrastructure, is **pro-liberty**:

- It opens access to infrastructure while keeping the municipality **out** of the broadband business where they would be competing with private companies.
- It provides a mechanism for setting use-based access tariffs for cost recovery.
- It is enabling legislation that will result in public–private partnerships.

**HB
286
YEA
on
OTP**