



GOLD STANDARD



HB 208-FN, relative to allowance sales under the New Hampshire regional greenhouse gas initiative program.

HB 208

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Recommendation: OTP/A, 3-2

ANTI-LIBERTY: By eliminating the existing rebate to residential ratepayers, the senate amendment increases a stealthy tax on NH electricity consumers.

NAY OTP/A YEA OTP

- The NHLA supports HB208 as passed by the House, without Senate amendment #2015-1970s.
- Electric rates are already high in NH. Efficiency projects that are truly fiscally responsible can and will be funded by electricity consumers themselves. It is unfair to force all ratepayers to fund projects for specific consumers, whether private or governmental.
- Money raised through RGGI originally slated to support energy efficiency programs, instead was misappropriated into the general fund in 2010. Passage of the House version of this bill would prevent this from happening again.

HB 572-FN-L, relative to taking land by eminent domain for gas pipelines and requiring payment of the land use change tax when land is taken to build energy infrastructure.

HB 572

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Recommendation: OTP/A, 4-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill protects the rights of property owners whose land is being taken by eminent domain.

YEA OTP/A

- Under current law, companies taking private land for the development of a high pressure pipeline may only take land to be used for the pipeline, without compensating owners for damage to the value and usability of property immediately adjacent to the pipeline. This bill would provide at least some protection to homeowners against this unfair practice.
- If companies wish to acquire land for the construction of a high pressure gas pipeline, they should acquire it from property owners on a consensual basis, not using force via eminent domain.

HB 383, relative to the immunization/vaccination registry.

HB 383

Health and Human Services Committee Recommendation: ITL, 2-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would be used to expand a state administered vaccine registry.

YEA ITL

- This bill changes the registry from opt-in to opt-out, burdening patients to take action to protect their vaccination records from being collected by the government.
- The burden MUST be on the state to obtain permission to collect vaccination data, not on individuals to fight to maintain their privacy.
- This bill fails to create policies to fully inform citizens on how or when all of their immunizations may be subsequently tracked without their knowledge or consent, if they do not choose to opt-out of the registry.
- Despite legislative efforts to the contrary, a registry would allow the state to place those who refuse vaccines on a list which could subsequently be used for discriminatory purposes. For example, in many states with vaccine registries, health care providers have used the registry to refuse care for children based on the fact that they are not immunized.
- Any time private information is collected and shared, there is inherent risk of a security breach.
- This is a matter for private health care providers. There is no need for the state to track private medical records.
- There is no need for this bill, or for a government registry. 97% of school children already receive vaccines, the remaining 3% have medical or religious exemptions.

HB 270, granting immunity from criminal prosecution to a person who reports a drug related emergency.

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: OTP/A, 5-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill protects Good Samaritans from being charged with possession as a result of requesting medical help for a drug overdose.

- Fear of prosecution for drug possession discovered as a result of emergency personnel responding to overdose reports discourages people from calling for emergency medical help.
- Immunity from prosecution creates an incentive for bystanders to take responsible action that will help save lives. A person calling for medical help should not fear prosecution.
- Results from more than 30 other states with this law show that overdose deaths will be decreased without interfering with police work.
- Police in Massachusetts are championing the effects of their 911 immunity law where overdose deaths in were almost half as frequent, per capita, as in New Hampshire last year.
- Overdose deaths in NH have more than quadrupled since Good Samaritan legislation failed to pass the Senate in 2014. Many of those lives could have been saved had that bill passed. More will die without passage of this bill.

**YEA
OTP/A**

HB 468

HB 468-FN, requiring a warrant to obtain electronic device location information.

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: OTP/A, 5-0

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill will prohibit government agencies from tracking the location of citizens without a warrant.

- HB468 comports with part one article 19 of the NH Constitution and the fourth amendment to the US Constitution.
- HB468 defends the privacy rights of NH citizens, and clarifies that government agencies shall not track their movements without a warrant from a judge based on probable cause.
- Technology has enabled some agencies in the U.S. to intercept cell phone signals and track citizens secretly, without oversight. This bill would prevent that from happening in NH.

**YEA
OTP/A**

HB 618

HB 618-FN, relative to penalties for the possession of marijuana.

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: ITL, 4-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill brings New Hampshire slightly closer to a responsible drug policy.

- The N.H. Constitution provides that “all penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense,” but our state’s penalties for marijuana possession are no longer supported by public opinion and they are far more severe than those found in other New England states.
- Currently, N.H. treats all marijuana possession as a crime punishable by up to a year in jail. This bill would reduce the penalty for possessing up to one-half ounce of marijuana to a violation bringing it more closely into line with the more sensible policies of our neighboring states.
- Vermont passed a similar law in 2013; it led to an 80% reduction in criminal marijuana cases the following year. With fewer possession cases, police and prosecutors are free to spend their time solving crimes where innocent people have been victimized.
- There is no evidence that reducing marijuana penalties has led to negative outcomes in the 19 states where it has been tried. This reform is long overdue in New Hampshire.

**NAY
ITL**

HB 486

HB 486, authorizing towns and cities to establish special assessment districts.

Public and Municipal Affairs Committee Recommendation: OTP/A 3-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would allow for additional taxes.

- This bill would be used to further raise taxes on people who are already struggling to pay property taxes, by allowing the majority of their neighbors to create special taxing districts for improvements.
- Could create a double tax for municipal services that are already being paid for, but not received.
- There is no requirement that all residents receive notice of a proposed district during the collection of signatures or the submission of an "improvement plan". The first residents and owners may hear of a proposed plan is when receiving notice of the hearing, putting those who might propose an alternative at a significant disadvantage.

**NAY
OTP/A**