



# GOLD STANDARD

HOUSE AND SENATE SESSIONS -  
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2015



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## SB 116-FN, repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver.

# SB 116

NHLA Recommendation: **OVERRIDE Governor Hassan's Veto**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill eliminates an arbitrary legal distinction between concealed & open carry.**

- New Hampshire voters affirmed our inherent right to self-defense in 1982 with the adoption of Article 2-a. of the state Constitution: "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state."
- A requirement to have a license to carry a concealed firearm is an infringement on an individual's right to self-defense. This bill restores the right of law-abiding citizens to carry protection discreetly.
- Our neighbors Vermont and Maine, two states that allow concealed carry without a permit, do not "have far stricter regulations at the point of original purchase than New Hampshire does" as the Governor suggests in her veto message.
- The language of current statute can be selectively interpreted and enforced.
  - This bill eliminates unnecessary and obscure definitions of "open" versus "concealed" carry, which are difficult to interpret, have led to several lawsuits, and unfairly criminalize law-abiding citizens.
  - This bill replaces the subjectivity of the phrase "suitable person," which has in the past been used by biased officials for ethnic, racial, and gender discrimination, with the objective and easily understood phrase of "not prohibited by state or federal law."
- By making the license optional, this bill eliminates a waiting period that has prevented persons who may feel threatened (e.g. a woman suffering from a stalker) from carrying discreet protection when needed. It also facilitates license reciprocity requirements between NH and other states.
- Other states that have enacted constitutional carry have seen either no statistically significant change in violent crime, or a slight downward trend.

# OVERRIDE VETO

## HB 603, relative to student exemptions from the statewide assessment.

# HB 603

NHLA Recommendation: **OVERRIDE Governor Hassan's Veto**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill respects parents' right to refuse state assessments for their child.**

- This is a bipartisan issue with significant impact on all NH families. Both Nashua and Manchester high schools experienced a refusal rate of over 50%.
- Parents' rights should not be compromised over deliberate misunderstandings of NCLB, and scare tactics that threaten a loss of federal funding. Seven states (Utah, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington and California) already have opt-out provisions. No state or school district has lost federal funding due to lower participation rates, nor over opt out provisions.
- This bill is necessary to refute the Commissioner's Technical Advisories which school districts are inappropriately using to trample parents' rights.
- This bill makes it clear that there is no penalty for students exempted by parents from statewide assessments.

# OVERRIDE VETO