



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

CACR 10 YEA ITL
CACR 11 NAY ITL
CACR 12 NAY ITL
HB 132 YEA ITL
HB 166 NAY OTP
HB 186 NAY OTP/A
HB 198 NAY OTP/A
HB 230 YEA ITL
HB 395 NAY ITL
HB 469 NAY ITL
HB 477 NAY ITL
HB 537 NAY OTP
HB 592 NAY OTP
HB 597 YEA OTP

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HB 597, relative to sales of beverages and wine hosted by other licensees.

Commerce and Consumer Affairs: OTP 18-1

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill gives New Hampshire wine makers and nano-breweries the option to sell their products at other licensed locations.

- This bill would allow a New Hampshire wine maker who serves consumers at their facility to invite a New Hampshire nano-brewery to sell and/or sample their products at the wine maker's location for a day. It would also allow nano-breweries to enter into a similar arrangement with a winemaker. This would slightly lessen existing restrictions on businesses and provide for greater consumer flexibility.
- This bill requires businesses who would like to exercise this new option to pay an annual fee of \$120. While businesses should not be forced to pay additional fees for the right to transact with willing customers, this bill does represent a small improvement over the existing prohibition on this activity.

HB 597

YEA OTP

HB 186, establishing a state minimum wage and providing for adjustments to the minimum wage.

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services: OTP/A 12-7

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill establishes a state-dictated minimum wage.

- Minimum wage laws decrease the number of entry-level jobs and make it harder for people of low skill to get their start in the workforce.
- Higher wages for everyone are better accomplished through job creation — more jobs means more competition to hire all workers.
- Employers and employees should be free to negotiate the terms of employment without interference.
- The very idea of a minimum wage is patronizing and demeaning as it implies that individuals don't know how much they're worth and are incapable of negotiating with an employer.

HB 186

NAY OTP/A

HB 469, relative to limiting amendments to warrant articles in towns that have adopted official ballot voting.

Municipal and County Government: ITL 17-2

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill assures that the intention of a warrant article in an SB2 town will not be changed by amendment.

- Changes made to a petitioned warrant article by a small minority that subvert its intent are disrespectful and discouraging to those who make an effort to participate in the process.

HB 469

NAY ITL

HB 132, relative to net neutrality.

Science, Technology and Energy: ITL 16-0

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill seeks to control network management policies of private internet service providers.

- According to the fiscal note, this bill would spend more than a half a million dollars per year of taxpayer funds to evaluate and enforce compliance, and this does not even consider the costs to New Hampshire businesses to service the regulatory infrastructure that the bill creates.
- The New Hampshire Department of Information Technology interprets the bill as requiring ISPs to operate under net neutrality principles in order to do business in the state and also to be eligible to be awarded contracts by the state.
- A year after the end of net neutrality at the federal level, internet speeds as measured by independent agents are more than 35% faster (www.recode.net/2018/12/12/18134899/internet-broadband-faster-ookla).

HB 132

YEA ITL

HB 166, relative to funding energy efficiency programs.

Science, Technology and Energy: OTP 10-9

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill repeals the requirement for legislative approval for increases to the system benefits charge, allowing the Public Utilities Commission to approve fee increases when such fees are used to fund wealth transfer programs.

- NH residents should not be subject to further increases to the systems benefits charge without approval of elected representatives.

HB 166

NAY OTP

HB 477, relative to allowance sales under the New Hampshire regional greenhouse gas initiative program.

Science, Technology and Energy: ITL 11-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill would rebate all funds from auction proceeds deposited into the Energy Efficiency Fund back to New Hampshire ratepayers.

- The costs of RGGI, which is effectively a carbon tax, are ultimately borne by ratepayers. It therefore makes sense for ratepayers to be rebated the proceeds from sales of carbon allowances.
- Reducing the effective electricity rate, as this bill does, will reduce overhead to NH businesses and help attract new business.

HB 477

NAY ITL

HB 198, repealing the prohibition on texting while driving.

Transportation: OTP/A 15-3

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill, as amended, increases the penalties imposed for violations of the prohibition against using mobile electronic devices while driving.

- The original bill sought to clean up the RSAs by removing an old RSA involving prohibiting text messaging specifically, which is now redundant with the general mobile-device-while-driving ban.
- The amended version still does that, but in addition severely raises the fines for such usage, as well as possibly suspending someone's license for a second offense.
- Handheld phone bans cause some drivers to hide their phone use by placing the phone in their lap and taking their eyes off the road, which is far more dangerous. Increasing the fines will only incentivize them even further to try to hide usage.
- Studies show that bans on use of handheld devices while driving have had no effect on accident rates (e.g. NE Burger, DT Kaffine, B Yu Transportation research part A: policy and practice 66, 162-172, and IIHS Status Report, Vol. 45, No. 2).
- Vote NAY on the adoption of amendment 2019-0412h, and NAY OTP/A if the amendment does get adopted. If the amendment is defeated, vote YEA OTP on the original bill.

HB 198

NAY OTP/A

HB 230, prohibiting smoking in motor vehicles when a passenger is under 16 years of age.

Transportation: ITL 11-7

ANTI-LIBERTY: This unenforceable bill gives police officers an excuse to pull drivers over.

- This bill is unenforceable; since minors don't carry ID, there is no way an officer could tell what their age is.
- Interactions between police officers and private individuals should be minimized, not encouraged. *At best* traffic stops take valuable time away from already time-strapped, hard-working individuals. At worst, since situations can escalate out of control, they could end in arrest for completely unrelated reasons.
- With this bill, somebody could be pulled over for vaping, even though studies show that vaping is a safer alternative to traditional tobacco cigarettes and has a very low risk factor to public health and safety (bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2458-14-18#Sec17). The bill only mentions the smoking of "tobacco products" and does not differentiate vaping from cigarettes. An officer could even pull someone over just for seeing water vapor in the car, even if the person is vaping a tobacco-free solution.

HB 230

YEA ITL

HB 395, relative to number plates for motor vehicles.

Transportation: ITL 13-7

PRO-LIBERTY: This bill removes the requirement for vehicle owners to install a state-mandated front license plate on passenger vehicles.

- Many vehicle types do not include mounting brackets for a front plate, which requires owners to damage/drill into the bumper to install a mount. The state should not require owners to damage their vehicles.
- 20 states in the US and 9 (of 13) Canadian jurisdictions do not require front license plates at all while another 7 states do not require them depending on certain circumstances. Vermont no longer requires a unique front plate as of 2012. Rear-plate-only vehicles are already on our roads.

HB 395

NAY ITL

HB 537, relative to the release of motor vehicle records.

Transportation: OTP 15-4

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows the commissioner of motor vehicles to release personal information to the public.

- The authority given to the commissioner in this bill is extraordinarily broad and intrusive. It would allow the commissioner of motor vehicles to release to the public any person's name, age, height, weight, eye color, photograph, or computerized image at the commissioner's discretion.

HB 537

NAY OTP

HB 592, relative to OHRV operation and license.

Transportation: OTP 15-4

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill repeals a provision of the OHRV statute that allows those 12 and older to travel on the road where permitted.

- The current law allows younger drivers to develop their skill while under adult supervision after having successfully completed an approved snowmobile or OHRV training program. This bill would remove that liberty and result in a situation where a young person is legally able to drive a motor vehicle under adult supervision as part of the training toward getting a license but would be prohibited from operating an OHRV.
- OHRV riding is an important piece of the economic puzzle in the north country; any imposed contraction will be harmful.

HB 592

NAY OTP

CACR 10, relating to a state income tax. Providing that revenue from any state income tax shall be returned to the cities, towns, school districts, and counties to assist in property tax relief.

Ways and Means: ITL 16-1

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill provides misleading voter's guide information for a constitutional amendment that attempts to limit how future income tax proceeds would be spent.

- This proposed constitutional amendment states that "any personal income tax enacted in the state shall be returned to the cities, towns, school districts, and counties to assist in property tax relief." while the voter instructions state that "if an income tax is ever enacted, the revenue from it would be used only to reduce property taxes." There is no guarantee in the amendment that the total property tax bill would be less than a prior tax bill — simply that the funding 'would assist in relief', which could be interpreted as offsetting a planned increase in total spending enabled by the new tax.

CACR 10

YEA ITL

CACR 11, relating to taxes. Providing that a broad-based sales tax shall be prohibited.

Ways and Means: ITL 12-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This CACR would modify the Constitution to prevent the adoption of any new sales taxes.

- New Hampshire has a strong economy based on not collecting sales taxes. Business at the borders with other states would be hurt if a long-term sales tax were adopted.
- Sales taxes disproportionately impact lower income families, as a larger portion of their income is spent directly on products within the state.
- New Hampshire derives much of its income from tourism. Allowing a sales tax would negatively impact our tourism.

CACR 11

NAY ITL

CACR 12, relating to taxes. Providing that an income tax on personal income shall be prohibited.

**CACR
12**

Ways and Means: ITL 12-8

PRO-LIBERTY: This CACR would modify the Constitution to prevent the adoption of an income tax.

NAY ITL

- Taxation of earnings from labor is on a par with forced labor.
- Allowing citizens to keep more of their money would benefit those who want to work harder and earn more.
- New Hampshire has a well-established brand identity as a non-income, non-sales tax state. Establishing in the Constitution the prohibition on an income tax would incentivize companies to locate in New Hampshire to take advantage of this provision. This would increase economic activity in the state.