



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

GOLD STANDARD

HB 1 NAY CofC
 HB 2 NAY CofC
 HB 564 NAY CofC
 HB 696 NAY CofC
 SB 1 NAY Override
 SB 10 NAY CofC
 SB 267 NAY CofC
 SB 279 NAY CofC
 SB 290 NAY CofC



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JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS - THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019

Senate Bills

SB 10, (New Title) relative to the state minimum hourly rate.

Committee of Conference: Reject House amendment and accept new amendment

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 mean more competition to hire all workers.
- Employers and employees should be free to negotiate the terms of employment without interference.
- Economic conditions and cost of living vary dramatically across the state. A "one-size-fits-all" approach to a minimum wage will put unreasonable pressure on areas of the state with limited employment opportunities and lower costs of living.
- 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.

SB 10

NAY CofC

SB 267, relative to the release of student assessment information and data.

Committee of Conference: Accept House amended version with new amendment

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill exposes student data to testing entities and imposes no penalties if they share or fail to protect this sensitive information.

- Giving testing entities students' names and Unique Pupil Identifiers defeats the purpose of UPIs, which are intended to protect student identities.
- RSA 189:67 already allows testing entities to access student names or UPIs, not both.
- The Committee of Conference recommendation removed the penalties for inappropriate use of this data that were in the Senate version.
- Schools and families may already maintain a file of the scores and reports from year to year; this bill is not necessary.

SB 267

NAY CofC

SB 279, relative to access to fertility care.

Committee of Conference: Accept House amended version

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill mandates new coverage for health insurance, driving up rates for everyone, and will require funding of expensive treatments from the state's general fund for those purchasing coverage on the ACA marketplace.

- In 2018 the average annual premium for employer-based family coverage rose 5 percent, outpacing inflation (www.ncsl.org/research/health/health-insurance-premiums.aspx). Part of the reason for the increase is continued increases in state-mandated services such as those included in this bill.

SB 279

NAY CofC

SB 290, relative to the New Hampshire granite advantage health care program.

SB 290

Committee of Conference: Accept House amended version with new amendment

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows the use of general funds for expanded Medicaid in New Hampshire.

NAY CofC

- Medicaid is a welfare program for able-bodied adults in their working years. The medical insurance provided has features such as no premiums, no co-pays, no deductibles, and non-emergency transportation that are simply not available to workers with full-time jobs. These benefits create a strong disincentive to full-time employment and career advancement. This bill expands these negative incentives by reducing work requirements and eliminating them entirely for homeless individuals providing a disincentive for establishing a residence.
- A free-market approach to health care should be the main priority of the legislature. This is the only way to have sustainably lower costs and increase access for the majority of Granite Staters.

House Bills

HB 1, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

HB 1

Committee of Conference: Accept Senate amended version with new amendment

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill makes appropriations in excess of current tax sources and significantly increases spending.

NAY CofC

- This budget dramatically increases New Hampshire spending going beyond the excessive levels requested by the governor.
- The level of spending proposed will require new taxes that will forever alter the fiscal landscape of New Hampshire.
- This budget applies one-time surplus funds as recurring spending increases, which dramatically increases the risk of needing future tax increases.
- This budget increases government taxation and spending at a rate of almost \$1000/person for this biennium.

HB 2, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

HB 2

Committee of Conference: Accept Senate amended version with new amendment

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill includes a tax on earned income, and sets the state up for future expansion of taxes on income.

NAY CofC

- The Committee of Conference report leaves intact a retroactive BET/BPT tax increase on small businesses, something that impacts 133,000 (>50% of the work force) small businesses in the state: www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/advocacy/2018-Small-Business-Profiles-NH_0.pdf
- This bill imposes new regulations and taxes on "Electronic cigarettes", making it more expensive for people to switch off of traditional tobacco products.
- It creates a 20% additional fee for Real ID compliant drivers licenses, disenfranchising those of low income who would choose this form of ID to travel by air.
- Along with HB 1, this bill spends all but \$5 million of the \$166 million left over after the 2018-2019 biennium. Worse yet, much of this spending is inappropriately allocated to ongoing expenses rather than one-time items.
- This bill raises business taxes \$125 million over current law, and \$35 million over the House budget. This is about an 8% increase in business taxes at a time when such revenues are already way up.
- Rather than pump up taxes and spending as though these good times will never stop, it would be much more prudent to take last year's excess and pay down some of the state's debts and unfunded pension liabilities. When times are good and school enrollments are down, government should be declining, not increasing.

HB 564, (New Title) relative to possession of firearms on school property.

Committee of Conference: Reject Senate amendment and accept new amendment

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill creates unarmed victim zones in and around schools.

- This bill would ban law-abiding adults from carrying a firearm into an area designated as a so-called "safe school zone" and would deny a mother who walks to pick up her child at school a tool to protect herself and her children.
- Studies have shown no correlation between the enactment of gun-free zones and improved safety (www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/gun-free-zones.html).
- This bill criminalizes the mere possession of a physical item.
- Requires a public hearing with the local school board before a person can get permission to protect themselves or their families.

HB 564

NAY CofC

HB 696, establishing a protective order for vulnerable adults.

Committee of Conference: Accept Senate amended version with new amendment

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows a person to be deprived of their property without a hearing when a peace officer has probable cause to believe a vulnerable adult has been neglected.

- This bill allows a vulnerable adult or guardian of a vulnerable adult to seek a protective order for neglect, which is defined by new section 173-D:2 VIII as *"an act or omission which results or could result in the deprivation of essential services or supports necessary to maintain the minimum mental, emotional, or physical health and safety of a vulnerable adult"*.
- This bill compels peace officers to seize weapons from a defendant without a trial in cases when the weapon is 'involved' in the neglect per the proposed 173-D:11 I(a). This is a needlessly vague standard that is subject to confusion and abuse and violates due process.
- Hearings under this bill are made in a proceeding where the normal rules of evidence need not apply as 173-D:4 V, as proposed, includes *"In any proceeding under this chapter, the court shall not be bound by the technical rules of evidence and may admit evidence which it considers relevant and material."*

HB 696

NAY CofC

Vetoed Bills

SB 1, relative to family and medical leave.

Governor: Vetoed

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill creates a new tax on employee wages of at least 0.5% to implement a new family medical leave program.

- Employees and employers should be free to negotiate benefit programs such as paid family and medical leave insurance without the state forcing all to participate.
- The commissioner of the Department of Employment Security will be empowered to raise the tax rate or lower the benefits, up to 10%, without legislative approval.
- There is a cap on benefits at 85% of the average salary, so workers who make over the average salary will be paying for benefits that they cannot collect and are disproportionately impacted by the legislation.
- The current short-term disability insurance market will be negatively impacted by government interference in the insurance marketplace.
- Long term, the fiscal note for the program estimates that the state of NH will need 43+ additional employees and \$6.6 million per year that would need to be subsidized by the participants.

SB 1

NAY Override