



# GOLD STANDARD

SB 446 NAY OTP  
 SB 450 YEA OTP  
 SB 469 YEA ITL  
 SB 493 NAY OTP  
 SB 540 NAY OTP  
 SB 609 NAY OTP  
 SB 697 YEA OTP  
 SB 712 NAY OTP  
 SB 719 YEA ITL



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020

**SB 450, relative to brew pubs allowing customers to bring dogs to outdoor areas.**

**Commerce: OTP 4-1**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill gives owners of brew pubs the option to allow customers to bring dogs to open-air patio areas.**

- Operators of these facilities should have the option to conduct business in a manner that they find appropriate and allow the market to decide if the decision is beneficial or not.
- This bill could be improved if it were expanded to apply to all restaurant open-air patios regardless of whether or not they hold a brew pub license under RSA 178:13.

**SB 450**

**YEA  
OTP**

**SB 493, relative to register of deeds fees used to support the land and community heritage investment program (LCHIP), and establishing a committee to study the economic impact of land conservation and to review the LCHIP surcharge.**

**Energy and Natural Resources: OTP 4-0**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases the fee for recording a deed, mortgage, etc. from \$25 to \$35.**

- This is a 40% increase over the existing fee and is estimated to extort an additional \$1.5 million in FY 2021 from New Hampshire property owners.
- This is not a 'fee for service' as the funds are not used to defray the cost of maintaining deed records, but rather funds a program unrelated to the property being registered.

**SB 493**

**NAY  
OTP**

**SB 712, establishing a surcharge on certain saltwater licenses and establishing a fund for derelict fishing gear and coastal cleanup.**

**Energy and Natural Resources: OTP 4-0**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill adds a new fee of up to \$25 on both commercial and non-commercial saltwater fishing licenses, forcing responsible anglers to cover the costs of cleanup for irresponsible anglers.**

- This bill attempts to address the problem of abandoned gear that contributes to coastal pollution such as micro-plastics by applying a new fee to existing license fees. For resident commercial saltwater licenses, based on committee testimony, this is up to a 50% increase in the license fees.
- The increased fees may result in an increase in people fishing without a license who may then be more likely to abandon gear.
- The portion of the bill that would redirect fines for littering in coastal waters or beaches and for abandoning fishing gear to the derelict fishing gear, coastal cleanup, and fishing for energy fund is acceptable.

**SB 712**

**NAY  
OTP**

**SB 540, repealing the emergency medical services personnel licensure interstate compact.**

**Executive Departments and Administration: OTP 4-1**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill raises protectionist barriers by preventing EMTs or paramedics who are nationally certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and licensed in their home state from being employed in New Hampshire without first completing NH's processes for licensing.**

- New Hampshire is still in the midst of an opioid crisis. Now is not the time to try a dangerous protectionist experiment that will complicate the process for businesses to attract qualified emergency personnel from other states.

**SB 540**

**NAY  
OTP**

**SB 697, allowing qualifying patients to access all the alternative treatment centers under the use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes law.**

**SB 697**

**Health and Human Services: OTP/A 5-0**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill allows qualifying cannabis patients to make purchases from any dispensary in the state.**

**YEA  
OTP**

- Patients should not be denied access to medicine simply because they are visiting a different area of the state.
- Oppose committee amendment 2020-0771s which implies that a medical cannabis card should be revoked for obtaining more than 2 ounces of cannabis in any 10-day period. Existing law already allows for revocation of a card for rules violations or other violations of the relevant RSA. It is worth noting that the NH Democratic platform contains "We believe that marijuana should be legalized, taxed, and regulated." — it makes little sense to support legalization for recreational use while penalizing patients who use cannabis for medical purposes.
- Whether committee amendment 2020-0771s is adopted or not, support passage of the resulting bill.

**SB 469, relative to shooting ranges.**

**SB 469**

**Judiciary: ITL 4-0**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill would allow municipalities to restrict shooting ranges through local ordinances, creating a patchwork of varying regulations around the state.**

**YEA ITL**

- The safest gun owners are those who train regularly with their tools. Limiting access to shooting ranges would lower firearm safety in the state.
- Hunters must train to assure that their shots are precisely placed, thereby avoiding animal suffering from inaccurate shot placement.
- As drafted, the bill would impact all citizens', including law enforcement's, ability to train.
- The "2 seconds between shots" rule proposed in 159-B:2(l) would allow municipalities to essentially ban multiple members from using a range at the same time.

**SB 719, relative to lost or stolen firearms.**

**SB 719**

**Judiciary: ITL 4-0**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill further victimizes crime victims.**

**YEA ITL**

- This bill requires a person who owns a firearm that is lost or stolen to report the event to police within 72 hours or face up to a misdemeanor charge. A study by the non-partisan RAND Corporation found no impact on public safety from lost or stolen firearms laws ([www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/lost-or-stolen-firearms.html](http://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/lost-or-stolen-firearms.html)). Note that the RAND corporation is rated as "Pro-Science, least bias and high for factual reporting" ([mediabiasfactcheck.com/rand-corporation/](http://mediabiasfactcheck.com/rand-corporation/)).
- Crime victims should not be further victimized by the state or fear reporting a crime four days after an event for concern that they may face charges for late reporting.

**SB 446, relative to airport fees for transportation network companies.**

**SB 446**

**Transportation: OTP 4-1**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill gives airports the authority to tax services that they are not providing.**

**Airports already have fees and don't need the authority to create new taxes.**

**NAY  
OTP**

- NH residents are continually feeling squeezed as taxes keep increasing. Allowing airports to arbitrarily charge taxes and fees for services they don't provide creates a dangerous precedent for other popular destinations to charge fees to transportation network companies.

**SB 609, relative to passenger restraints.**

**SB 609**

**Transportation: OTP 4-1**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill mandates the use of seatbelts.**

**NAY  
OTP**

- This bill is paternalistic in that it forces adults to wear seatbelts when traveling in motor vehicles.
- Since this bill allows for the violation as a primary enforcement, it increases the potential for contact between law enforcement and citizens, increasing the risk of adverse interactions that otherwise would be avoided.