



NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

# GOLD STANDARD



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SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

## SB 84, relative to zoning procedures concerning residential housing.

Commerce: OTP/A 5-1

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill prevents towns from requiring large lot size minimums for single family homes.

- Property owners should be able to build homes at whatever density they believe the housing market will support.
- This bill moves existing law in a pro-liberty direction by allowing a builder to construct more homes on their land.

### SB 84

### YEA OTP/A

## SB 176, relative to the state minimum hourly rate.

Commerce: ITL 3-1

**ANTI-LIBERTY:** This bill raises the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

- This bill violates the liberty of workers and employers to set the terms of employment by more than doubling the minimum wage rate.
- The result of recent minimum wage increases, like the 2024 increase in California to \$20 for fast food workers, has led to job loss and cutting of hours for employees ([hoover.org/research/high-minimum-wage-laws-hurt-many-workers](https://www.hoover.org/research/high-minimum-wage-laws-hurt-many-workers)).

### SB 176

### YEA ITL

## SB 97, relative to intra-district public school transfers.

Education: OTP/A 3-2

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill allows parents to transfer their children to another public school, public academy, or an approved private school within their resident district as long as such school has the capacity to accommodate the student. It also allows the transfer of students to a school outside of the district when it's in the best interest of the student.

- School choice is paramount to the success of public education. If parents have the ability to change schools, teachers and administrators are effectively in competition with other schools for their students. Competition will yield a better result for the student.
- This bill makes capacity at a transfer school within the district the only criteria; administrators do not have the discretion to deny a request except for being out of space for new students at a school.
- Transfers to another district require that there is a benefit for the student's academic, physical, personal, or social needs.

### SB 97

### YEA OTP/A

## SB 203, relative to administration of the education freedom accounts program.

Education: ITL 3-2

**ANTI-LIBERTY:** This bill requires that households who participate in the Education Freedom Accounts program meet income qualifications each year.

- Current law states that once a student is approved for an Education Freedom Account, they do not need to qualify again. This bill rolls that back and requires families to meet the financial requirements each year.
- This bill encourages families not to increase their income beyond 350% of the poverty line. It effectively incentivizes them not to accept promotions, not to re-enter the workforce, and not to work more hours if they so desire, exclusively in order to maintain their EFA eligibility.

### SB 203

### YEA ITL

**SB 205, requiring schools to offer free or reduced cost breakfast and lunch to children who meet federal income eligibility guidelines.**

**SB 205**

**Education: ITL 3-2**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires schools to provide 2 meals per day (breakfast and lunch) to low-income students.**

**YEA ITL**

- Current law requires that only 1 meal per day be provided. This bill requires lunch and also breakfast if school is not delayed. This is a doubling of the existing free-and-reduced-meal mandate.
- Schools should not provide lunches at all. Parents should be responsible for feeding their children, not the government.

**SB 207, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.**

**SB 207**

**Education: ITL 3-2**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill moves management of Education Freedom Accounts from a private contractor (the Children's Scholarship Fund NH) to the Department of Education.**

**YEA ITL**

- There have been no issues with the management of Education Freedom Accounts. This is an attempt to gain control of the program and increase government bureaucracy.
- This is a solution in search of the problem. The current system works fine and is more cost-effective than having the government run it.

**SB 293, relative to using enrollment in Medicaid as a measure of eligibility for school lunches.**

**SB 293**

**Education Finance: ITL 3-2**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill increases school funding by defining more students as economically disadvantaged.**

**YEA ITL**

- Between 2001-2019, public schools in New Hampshire increased their total expenditures per student on an inflation-adjusted basis by 66.8 percent, from \$11,336 in 2001 to \$18,905 in 2019. This means that New Hampshire public school students had 66.8 percent more in inflation-adjusted taxpayer funding devoted to their education in 2019 than in 2001 ([jbartlett.org/2025/01/higher-spending-lower-results-why-more-money-doesnt-equal-better-schools](http://jbartlett.org/2025/01/higher-spending-lower-results-why-more-money-doesnt-equal-better-schools)).
- Despite massive increases to the amount of funding for public education, some lawmakers continue to advocate for throwing more money at the problem.
- Rather than increasing funding, lawmakers and state agencies should be finding ways to live within their means.

**SB 295, expanding the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts.**

**SB 295**

**Education Finance: OTP/A 3-2**

**PRO-LIBERTY: This bill removes the income eligibility requirements for Education Freedom Accounts; however, the amendment caps the number of EFA recipients to 10,000 children in 2025-2026.**

**YEA  
OTP**

- Education Freedom Accounts allow parents to have a say in how their children are educated by directing tax dollars to the education of the parents' choosing.
- The amendment caps the number of children who get education freedom at 10,000 in school year 2025-2026. It's not really education freedom if you have to win a lottery to get it.
- We recommend that the Senate vote down the amendment and pass SB295 as introduced.
- While we prefer the bill as introduced, the amended bill is also considered pro-liberty.

**SB 214, enabling no-excuse absentee registration and voting.**

**SB 214**

**Election Law and Municipal Affairs: ITL 3-2**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill removes the requirement of having a reason to request an absentee ballot, paving the way for ballot harvesting.**

**YEA ITL**

- Ballot harvesting is the process of collecting and delivering absentee ballots. It is dominated by special interests and is enabled by weak absentee voting laws.
- Efforts to weaken absentee requirements put less power into the hands of voters and more power into the hands of special interests who seek to influence the outcome of free and fair elections.

**SB 144, authorizing the state to report mental health data for firearms background check purposes and providing for processes for confiscation of firearms following certain mental health-related court proceedings and for relief from mental health-related firearms disabilities.**

**Judiciary: ITL 3-1**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill is a 'red flag law'. It compels the state to report mental health information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, for the purpose of denying an individual the right to bear arms.**

- A red flag law is any law that allows the government to take away the right to possess a firearm from a citizen who has committed no crime.
- Mental health is hard to diagnose and is often subjective. The taking of a person's rights should not be based upon what might be subjective criteria.
- Once a person is on this list and no longer able to bear arms, it is next to impossible to be removed from the list.
- Often, mental health issues are acute (short term, temporary). Giving someone a lifetime ban on their right to bear arms based upon what might be a temporary issue is a violation of their civil rights.
- An unintended consequence of this legislation is that gun owners with mental health issues will not seek help due to fear of their firearms being confiscated.

## YEA ITL

**SB 83, establishing an elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf property tax exemption reimbursement fund, authorizing video lottery terminals, renaming the lottery commission, and creating a voluntary statewide self-exclusion database.**

# SB 83

**Ways and Means: OTP/A 3-2**

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill legalizes video lottery terminals, but gives most of the revenue generated to the pension fund for Police and Firefighters.**

- We support the legalization of video lottery terminals.
- We oppose the majority of the state's revenue from them being earmarked for the Group II pension fund. This eliminates the discretion of lawmakers to make the best use of those funds.
- The funds should go to local governments (via the elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf property tax exemption reimbursement fund) or to the state General Fund.

## NAY OTP/A