

Key House Votes on 2015 House Bills

Roll Call Vote #45 - OTP/A on HB208, repealing the New Hampshire regional greenhouse gas initiative program.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **support** for RGGI, which imposes extra costs on power generators who in turn pass that cost along to ratepayers. It's a hidden tax. High electricity rates are an impediment to economic growth. Reducing costly mandates, or in this case modifying those mandates to be more cost neutral, is one way we can make New Hampshire more affordable and competitive. HB208 would have returned the revenue from that hidden tax back to the people from whom it was taken and provided some measure of relief for families and businesses.

Roll Call Vote #83 - ITL on HB548, establishing the federally-facilitated health exchange as the health exchange for New Hampshire.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **support** for establishing an extremely costly and problematic state run health exchange. Neighboring states like Vermont and Massachusetts have spent tens of millions of dollars attempting to construct and operate their own exchanges only to have them fail or work improperly. New Hampshire uses the federally facilitated exchange to avoid this risk.

Roll Call Vote #89 - ITL on HB650, requiring background checks for commercial firearms sales.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **support** for placing new restrictions and mandates on certain firearms sales that would impede the rights of law abiding gun owners and dealers.

Roll Call Vote #92 - OTP/A on HB276, providing that school districts shall not be required to adopt the common core standards.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **opposition** to preserving local control from the ever-encroaching federal department of education's controlling footprint. Parents and local school boards should be empowered to make decisions to best suit the needs of their students and children.

Roll Call Vote #104 - OTP/A on HB563, relative to funding for chartered school pupils.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **opposition** to increasing much needed funding for our charter schools. Charter schools have provided an important alternative to traditional public schooling and gives parents options in their child's education. Democrats are generally opposed to any school choice, and this vote highlights their continued opposition to providing meaningful education alternatives to parents and families.

Roll Call Vote #113 - ITL on HB684, establishing a state minimum hourly rate.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **support** for increased mandates on employers and small business owners by mandating a higher minimum wage, and increasing it over time. Our job creators know what it takes to attract and retain employees. We should be creating an economic environment where everyone has the opportunity to earn more without having to tell business owners how to run their businesses.

Roll Call Vote #114 - ITL on HB365, prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **support** for increased burden and regulations on businesses by prohibiting an employer from using an applicant's credit history when making hiring decisions. Employers need every tool possible to make smart hiring decisions. There are some occupations where a person's credit history could be required or of relevance to the duties the person is to perform. We should be making it easier for businesses to hire and grow, not stifle them.

Roll Call Vote #115 - ITL on HB600, relative to paid sick leave for employees.

A vote of **NAY** indicates support for increased burdens on employers. This would require a business owner to be responsible for covering the costs of providing employees with mandatory sick time. Businesses would bear the brunt of the direct cost of paying for sick days as well as time and costs associated with record keeping and retention. There are additional publication costs, regulatory burdens and potential enforcement placed on the NH department of labor. Employee benefits should be between the employee and employer, not mandated.

Roll Call Vote #145 - OTP on SB101, prohibiting the state from requiring implementation of common core standards.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **opposition** to preserving local control from the ever-encroaching federal department of education's controlling footprint. Parents and local school boards should be empowered to make decisions to best suit the needs of their students and children.

Roll Call Vote #147 - OTP/A on SB116, repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **opposition** to constitutional carry, which would give law abiding gun owners the ability to carry a concealed weapon without the burdensome and subjective process of applying for a permit from their local police agency.

Roll Call Vote #161 - OTP/A on SB179, relative to eligibility to vote.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **opposition** to implementing reasonable clarifications in our election laws and ensure ballots cast in New Hampshire elections are cast by duly qualified people. Our citizens should have a reasonable expectation that their vote will not be cancelled out by temporary visitors. The bill provided simple and straightforward factors to help determine, for the benefit of the voter and the election worker, the domicile of the voter and establishes that a person must be domiciled in the state for 30 days prior to the election.

Roll Call Vote #176 - Adopt CofC Report on SB169, relative to the use of electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards.

A vote of **NAY** indicates **support** for allowing the use of EBT cards in businesses that primarily engage in body piercing, branding, or tattooing; cigar stores and smoke shops; and marijuana dispensaries. These services are not necessary, and many would argue that it is an improper use of taxpayer funded EBT benefits to spend them there.

BUDGET BILLS:

ITL = Inexpedient to Legislate (Kill the Bill), OTP = Ought to Pass (Pass the Bill), OTPA = Ought to Pass with Amendment

Roll Call Vote #177 - Adopt CofC Report on HB1, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017

Roll Call Vote #178 - Adopt CofC Report on HB2, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

A vote of NAY indicates opposition to the responsible Republican budget proposal that included a 75% increase in funding for substance abuse treatment and recovery, fully funded meals of wheels, servicelink and other meaningful programs for our elderly, and opposition to moving forward with a funding plan for our university system and community colleges that allowed them to freeze in-state tuition.

A vote of NAY by Democrats also indicates support for the Governor's initial budget proposal which included tens of millions of dollars in new taxes and fees, including taxes on businesses, tobacco, and an increase on vehicle registrations.

A vote of NAY indicates opposition to the first business tax relief in 20 years, allowing New Hampshire to be more competitive and attract and retain jobs.

A vote of Nay indicates opposition to the fiscally responsible Republican budget that spends less than the budget that passed the legislature in 2009.

A vote of Nay indicates opposition to the fiscally responsible Republican budget that was built on realistic revenue estimates ensuring the state would not spend more than we can reasonably expect to collect in revenue.

A vote of Nay indicates opposition to the fiscally responsible Republican budget that has so far produced a \$100 million surplus that will be utilized, in part, to rebuild our state's Rainy Day fund.