

State House Action

Welcome to the State House "Action" tour, presented by the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance!

The New Hampshire State House is refreshingly open and accessible to members of the public.

Moreover, the State House is highly active on Thursdays, with lively debates and committee meetings.

The State House is busy today, with public hearings on 42 different bills! Any member of the public is always welcome to attend these hearings, to give direct feedback to the legislature. Below, we have singled out some of the more interesting of these bills.

You will notice that each sponsoring legislator has a letter grade next to their name. These ratings are based on pro-liberty and anti-liberty votes. *Pro-Liberty Votes* are for individual freedom of choice and personal responsibility, recognize the superiority of freedom over coercion, respect the citizen's right of self ownership, promote good government, and recognize that voluntary economic decisions are more productive than politically motivated schemes of bureaucracies. *Anti-Liberty Votes* replace self-governance with interventionist ownership, assume agencies backed by force are superior to voluntary choices backed by personal accountability, and assume a better economy can be designed by a central authority that compels communities to pay for policies the people do not willingly support.

Start Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Representative's Hall

Bill: HB565 - AN ACT prohibiting the use of leghold traps and conibear traps.

Description: This bill prohibits the use of the steel-jaw and padded steel-jaw leghold traps and conibear traps. The bill has been met by significant opposition from trappers and hunters, who object to governmental regulation of their private affairs. Due to the extreme public interest, the entirety of Representative's Hall has been reserved for most of the day. This will be an action-packed session!

Sponsors: Rep. Vaillancourt, (B+); Rep. Gile, (D); Rep. Leishman, (new legislator; no rating); Rep. Bettencourt, (A); Sen. Roberge, (C); Sen. Barnes, (C+)

Start Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Legislative Office Building, Room 101

Bill: HB567 - AN ACT lowering the legal drinking age to 18.

Description: Over the past few years, New Hampshire's laws have slowly been converging on a single "age of consent" -- a well-defined point at which a person becomes an adult, with all the responsibility that this entails. This bill is contentious, as there is concern about highway deaths.

Sponsors: Rep. T. Robertson, (D+)

Start Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Legislative Office Building, Room 101

Bill: HB614 - AN ACT relative to eminent domain.

Description: In 2006, New Hampshire's overwhelmingly voted to amend our state Constitution, prohibiting the use of Eminent Domain for the purpose of private development. This bill strengthens that constitutional article's protection of private property.

Sponsors: Rep. Villeneuve, (B); Rep. Itse, (A); Rep. Lund, (B); Rep. Ulery (B+); Rep. Manney, (C+); Sen. Roberge, (C)