

FREEDOM INDEX.US

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



Does Your Legislator Vote for Freedom?

Scan to view Howard Pearl's voting history.
freedomindex.us/8334/

View the Freedom Toolbox

Scan to learn more about the Freedom Index, view legislative alerts, and deepen your understanding of the U.S. Constitution and America's founding principles. Visit freedomindex.us/tools



Howard Pearl

New Hampshire
Senator, SD-017 (R)

freedomindex.us/8334/

67
Lifetime
Freedom
Score

2025 NH Legislative Scorecard

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. SB13 Invalidating Illegal-alien Drivers Licenses (Passed 15 to 8 on 1/30/2025). Makes certain out-of-state driver's licenses invalid in New Hampshire if those licenses were issued specifically to illegal aliens.			YES ★
2. SB295 Education Freedom Accounts (Passed 16 to 8 on 3/27/2025). Expands eligibility for the state's Education Freedom Account program by removing the household-income cap.			YES ✗
3. SB287 Voter ID (Passed 16 to 8 on 3/27/2025). Requires certain absentee-ballot applicants to provide proof of identity with their application.			YES ★
4. HB557 School Budget Transparency (Passed 15 to 8 on 5/15/2025). Requires school budget ballots to include additional information for voters, such as the proposed budget's estimated tax impact and other school-district performance or cost data.			YES ★
5. HB649 Vehicle Inspections (Rereferred 19 to 3 on 5/15/2025). Would remove New Hampshire's requirement for annual passenger-vehicle safety inspections and on-board diagnostic emissions tests. <i>Estimated benefit per household: +\$6.14/year.</i>			YES ✗
6. HB377 Prohibit Puberty Blockers for Minors (Passed 16 to 8 on 6/26/2025). Prohibits doctors from providing puberty blockers or hormone treatments to minors.			YES ★

Scorecard Votes: 67%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Invalidating Illegal-alien Drivers Licenses

SB13 made certain out-of-state driver's licenses invalid in New Hampshire if those licenses were issued specifically to noncitizens who cannot prove lawful presence in the United States.

The New Hampshire State Senate passed SB13 on January 30, 2025 by a vote of 15 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because persons unlawfully present in the United States ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in New Hampshire, let alone be considered eligible for a state-issued form of identification or license. Rather than pursue blatantly unconstitutional and anti-American policies that undermine the rule of law and erode the value of citizenship, each of the several states should use its powers reserved under the 10th Amendment to end the illegal-migrant invasion and provide for the public safety.

2. Education Freedom Accounts

SB295 expands eligibility for the state's Education Freedom Account program by removing the household-income cap, making the program available to all otherwise-eligible students rather than only those from lower- and middle-income families.

The New Hampshire State Senate passed SB295 on March 27, 2025 by a vote of 16 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the nays because education is not the role of government—it is the responsibility of a child's parents or family. This bill, under the appealing but misleading guise of "school choice," expands the government's monopoly on K-12 education, which seeks to displace traditional private schools and homeschooling in favor of universal state-sponsored schooling. Its exchange of public subsidies for curriculum and other regulatory controls effectively turns every participating student into a government-school student. The best "school choice," by far, is for parents to choose not to place their child's education in the hands of the state. Educational and economic freedom cannot be achieved by forcing other citizens to furnish their hard-earned tax dollars to fund all that now entails a compulsory, failing, and government-run K-12 school system.

3. Voter ID

SB287 requires certain absentee-ballot applicants to provide proof of identity with their application. Specifically, it requires a copy of the voter's photo ID when applying for an absentee ballot, and creates a verification process for some voters who ask to have their absentee ballot mailed to an address different from the one on the official checklist.

The New Hampshire State Senate passed SB287 on March 27, 2025 by a vote of 16 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because states should exercise their authority under Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the 14th Amendments, to implement free, fair, and secure elections, thereby guaranteeing equal protection of the right of citizens of the United States to vote. Requiring proof of identity for certain absentee-ballot applicants is a reasonable way to help protect election integrity and ensure that ballots are sent only to eligible voters.

4. School Budget Transparency

HB557 requires school budget ballots to include additional information for voters, such as the proposed budget's estimated tax impact and other school-district performance or cost data, so residents have more context when voting on school budgets.

The New Hampshire State Senate passed HB557 on May 15, 2025 by a vote of 15 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because taxpayer-funded education is not the proper role of government, and this measure gives taxpayers a clearer picture of how their money is being spent. Requiring more detailed information on the ballot helps expose the true cost of school budgets and makes it harder for local officials to quietly enact tax increases and reckless spending without voters fully understanding the financial impact.

5. Vehicle Inspections

HB649 would remove New Hampshire's requirement for annual passenger-vehicle safety inspections and on-board diagnostic emissions tests, while also eliminating funding tied to the motor vehicle air-pollution abatement fund.

The New Hampshire State Senate rereferred HB649 to committee on May 15, 2025 by a vote of 19 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because mandatory emissions inspections—pushed by the federal government under the Clean Air Act—infringe on the Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, 10th, and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Such programs subject citizens to unnecessary government intrusion and further erode personal liberty and state sovereignty. Additionally, emissions-testing schemes advance the globalist goals embodied in the United Nations' Agenda 2030, which seeks to centralize control over energy, transportation, and environmental policy at the expense of local and state authority.

6. Prohibit Puberty Blockers for Minors

HB377 prohibits doctors from providing puberty blockers or hormone treatments to minors when those treatments are intended to alter the child's gender or delay puberty for that purpose.

The New Hampshire State Senate passed HB377 on June 26, 2025 by a vote of 16 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because Marxists and leftists are pushing their woke agenda—telling everyone that one can choose his or her own gender and pronouns. Scientifically and biblically, there are only two genders. States should push back against gender mutilation.