



# New Hampshire 2021 Legislative Agenda

*Americans for Prosperity is dedicated to bringing people together to change our public policies and our government for the better. Our mission is to help every person rise and reach their full potential by removing the barriers holding them back.*

## SB 61

### **Bringing Right to Work Protections to Workers**

Sponsor: Sen. John Reagan

New Hampshire private sector workers should be afforded the same rights that public sector workers received in the wake of the Janus ruling in 2018, that makes clear that no one should be forced to join or pay a union in order to keep their job. Additionally, making the Granite State the only Right to Work state in the Northeast would provide a distinct competitive advantage that would mean more and better jobs right here.

## HB 10

### **Expanding Employer Tax Relief**

Sponsor: Speaker Sherm Packard

Law changes in 2019 included tax increases on businesses that are projected to receive a \$41.3 million hit this fiscal year alone – and that’s not even counting removing the final round of tax relief that had been in law. To get New Hampshire’s economy surging again, we need to stop raising taxes on job creators and give them relief to get their companies running at full strength again. Lawmakers should build on the success earlier rounds of tax relief had on our state’s economy and resulting record revenues.

## HB 568

### **Phasing out the Interest & Dividends Tax**

Sponsor: Rep. Norm Silber

While the first two bills would greatly benefit working age Granite Staters,

as well as those soon to move into the workforce, phasing out the Interest & Dividends (I&D) tax would benefit retired New Hampshire residents. The majority of I&D taxpayers are 65 and over, and this tax induces many of these seniors to move to states, like Florida, Tennessee and Texas, that do not tax this income. Phasing out this tax would allow many of these seniors to stay here and would make New Hampshire truly income tax free.

## HB 20

### **Creating Education Freedom Accounts**

Sponsor: Speaker Sherm Packard

This pandemic has underscored the need for families to have more options and greater control over their children’s education. Education Freedom Accounts will allow the money to follow the child to whichever education pathway is best for their unique needs and talents. This will be a great step towards giving every child the opportunity to succeed by having a more personalized approach to education.

## HB 405

### **Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses**

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Harrington

The barriers associated with occupational licensing have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. To more effectively manage the crisis, many states (including NH) suspended licensure requirements for health care workers from other states. This helped bring more workers to New Hampshire who were qualified/licensed in their home state without having to go through a burdensome process of getting a New Hampshire license. This same policy should apply to all licensed fields to make it easier to move to NH and work in a field in which the new resident is already qualified.

HB 597

## Protecting Online Privacy

Sponsor: Rep. Keith Erf

In 2018, 81% of voters added protection of citizens' privacy from governmental intrusion to the New Hampshire Constitution. This bill would require that law enforcement get a warrant before accessing Granite Staters' data stored in a cloud. This will protect individuals' privacy from unnecessary government snooping.

HB 331

## Strengthening Protections from Asset Forfeiture

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Sylvia

In 2016, the New Hampshire legislature passed a law restricting the use of civil asset forfeiture by state agencies. Unfortunately, since its passage into law, police agencies have circumvented the law by utilizing the federal Equitable Sharing program - which allows federal authorities to seize and forfeit one's property under federal law. This bill would rein in the use of that program to ensure that only in rare circumstances can an agency forfeit the property of an accused without first acquiring a conviction.

HB 290

## Expanding Options for Direct Payment in Health Care

Sponsor: Rep. Mark McLean

In 2019, the Legislature passed a bipartisan bill to legalize direct primary care, where doctors and patients can contract for direct payments, without involving third party payers, such as Medicare, Medicaid or insurance companies. This bill would extend this model to health care facilities, which would

legalize facilities that exclusively take direct payments. This would provide another option for more Granite Staters to access quality, affordable and personalized health care.

HB 234

## Protecting Free Speech Rights on Public College Campuses

Sponsor: Rep. Joe Alexander

Free speech is the cornerstone of higher education. The University System of New Hampshire should not only uphold free speech, but openly encourage free expression and debate. Speech codes and restrictions on public discourse do a disservice to students attending public universities by not exposing them to different ideas and points of view. This bill would have USNH be a leader in protecting free speech by welcoming different points of view to campus.

HB 373

## Removing the State from the Transportation and Climate Initiative

Sponsor: Rep. Jeanine Notter

In 2012, the Legislature passed a law requiring legislative approval on cap-and-trade schemes for transportation fuels. That law, however, still authorized the state agencies to continue to collaborate in the development of the Transportation and Climate Initiative, a cap-and-trade program. Now, some models show this thinly veiled gas tax would raise the price of a gallon of gas or diesel by 30 cents or more, disproportionately hurting low-income Granite Staters. The bill would remove New Hampshire entirely from TCI by eliminating the authorization for agencies to continue to work on the plan.

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