

# Bill as Introduced

HB 637-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2011 SESSION

11-0868  
03/09

HOUSE BILL

**637-FN**

AN ACT

relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces.

SPONSORS:

Rep. S. Lindsey, Ches 3; Rep. Panek, Straf 3

COMMITTEE:

Judiciary

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ANALYSIS

This bill lowers the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces to 18 years of age.

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Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eleven*

AN ACT relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

- 1       1 New Section; Statutory Construction; Legal Drinking Age. Amend RSA 21 by inserting after  
2 section 50 the following new section:  
3       21:51 Legal Drinking Age. "Legal drinking age" means:  
4           I. Except as provided in paragraph II, 21 years of age.  
5           II. Eighteen years of age for a member of the armed forces, stationed in this state on active  
6 duty, if the state obtains a federal waiver or participates in a federal pilot program allowing the state  
7 to lower the legal drinking age to 18 years of age for members of the armed forces, stationed in this  
8 state on active duty, without subjecting the state to withholding of federal highway aid as specified  
9 in 23 U.S.C. section 158.
- 10       2 New Paragraph; Duties of Commissioner of the Department of Transportation; Publication of  
11 Notice. Amend RSA 21-L:4 by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraph:  
12           VII. If the state obtains a federal waiver or participates in a federal pilot program, as  
13 described in RSA 21:51, II, publish notice in newspapers of general circulation in every county of the  
14 state describing the waiver or the pilot program, its effect on the legal drinking age in this state, and  
15 the duration, if any, of the waiver or pilot program. The commissioner shall also provide for similar  
16 notice to be published by the office of legislative services in the rulemaking register and shall certify  
17 the publication of notice to the secretary of state.
- 18       3 Alcoholic Beverages; Food Products. Amend RSA 175:5-a, II to read as follows:  
19           II. It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or cause or procure to be sold any edible food  
20 product containing not less than ½ of one percent alcohol by volume, at 60 degrees Fahrenheit, to  
21 any person under the *legal drinking age* [~~of 21~~].
- 22       4 Liquor Licenses; Training. Amend RSA 178:2, III to read as follows:  
23           III. The commission shall develop and provide a training program which shall include, but  
24 not be limited to, information on state law, alcohol sales practices, criminal and civil liability, and  
25 management practices which are intended to reduce access to alcohol by persons under the *legal*  
26 *drinking age* [~~of 21~~] and overservice of alcohol to patrons.
- 27       5 Liquor Manufacturer License; Samples. Amend RSA 178:6, IV to read as follows:  
28           IV. A liquor manufacturer may provide to visitors at its facility samples of liquor for tasting.  
29 Samples shall not exceed ½ ounce, and shall not be provided to any persons under [~~21-years-of~~] *the*  
30 *legal drinking age*.
- 31       6 Alcoholic Beverages; Prohibited Sales. Amend RSA 179:5 to read as follows:

1 179:5 Prohibited Sales.

2 I. No licensee, salesperson, direct shipper, common carrier, delivery agent, nor any other  
 3 person, shall sell or give away or cause or allow or procure to be sold, delivered, or given away any  
 4 liquor or beverage to a person under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~] or serve an individual who is  
 5 visibly intoxicated or who a reasonable and prudent person would know is intoxicated. For all  
 6 deliveries of packages by common carrier or delivery agent marked "alcoholic beverages" or "alcoholic  
 7 products," the carrier shall obtain an adult signature. A licensed carrier shall not transport any  
 8 liquor, wine, or beverage that has been identified by the commission as originating from a person  
 9 who does not hold a valid New Hampshire direct shipper permit, provided that such identification  
 10 has first been provided to and received by the licensed carrier in writing. The commission shall  
 11 notify carriers by mail on a monthly basis of the identity of unauthorized shippers, which notification  
 12 shall be effective 15 days after such mailing.

13 II. No licensee, manager, or person in charge of a licensed premises shall allow or permit  
 14 any individual, who is under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~], to possess or consume any liquor or  
 15 beverage on the licensed premises.

16 7 Alcoholic Beverages; Sales. Amend RSA 179:6 through RSA 179:8 to read as follows:

17 179:6 Sale of Cider to Persons Under [21] *the Legal Drinking Age*. Notwithstanding any  
 18 other provisions of this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or cause or allow or  
 19 procure to be sold to any person under [~~21-years-of~~] *the legal drinking* age, cider containing not  
 20 less than 1/2 of one percent of alcohol by volume at 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

21 179:7 Sales to Persons Under [21] *the Legal Drinking Age*. The establishment of all the  
 22 following facts by a person making a sale of liquor or beverage to a person under the *legal drinking*  
 23 age [~~of 21~~] shall constitute prima facie evidence of innocence and a defense to any prosecution for  
 24 such sale:

25 I. That the person falsely represented in writing and supported by some official document  
 26 that he *or she* was [~~21-years-of~~] *the legal drinking* age or over;

27 II. That the appearance of the person was such that an ordinary and prudent person would  
 28 believe him *or her* to be [~~21-years-of~~] *the legal drinking* age or over; and

29 III. That the sale was made in good faith relying upon such written representation and  
 30 appearance in the reasonable belief that the person was actually [~~21-years-of~~] *the legal drinking*  
 31 age or over.

32 179:8 Statement From Purchaser as to Age.

33 I. For the purposes of RSA 179:7, any person making the sale of beverages or liquor to any  
 34 person whose age is in question shall require the purchaser to furnish any of the following  
 35 documentation that such person is [~~21-years-of~~] *the legal drinking* age or over:

1 (a) A motor vehicle driver's license issued by the state of New Hampshire, or a valid  
2 driver's license issued by another state, or province of Canada, which bears the date of birth, name,  
3 address, and picture of the licensee.

4 (b) An identification card issued by the director of motor vehicles under the provisions of  
5 RSA 260:21, or any picture identification card issued by another state which bears the date of birth,  
6 name, and address of the individual.

7 (c) An armed services identification card.

8 (d) A valid passport from a country with whom the United States maintains diplomatic  
9 relations.

10 II. Photographic identification presented under this section shall be consistent with the  
11 appearance of the person, and shall not be expired and shall be correct and free of alteration,  
12 erasure, blemish, or other impairment.

13 8 Unlawful Possession or Attempt to Purchase Alcohol. Amend RSA 179:10 and RSA 179:10-a  
14 to read as follows:

15 179:10 Unlawful Possession and Intoxication.

16 I. Except as provided in RSA 179:23, any person under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21 years~~]  
17 who has in his or her possession any liquor or alcoholic beverage, or who is intoxicated by  
18 consumption of an alcoholic beverage, shall be guilty of a violation and shall be fined a minimum of  
19 \$300. Any second and subsequent offense shall be fined at least \$600. For purposes of this section,  
20 alcohol concentration as defined in RSA 259:3-b of .02 or more shall be prima facie evidence of  
21 intoxication. No portion of this mandatory minimum fine shall be waived, continued for sentencing,  
22 or suspended by the court. In addition to the penalties provided in this section, the court may, in its  
23 discretion, impose further penalties authorized by RSA 263:56-b.

24 II. Except for persons convicted on the basis of intoxication, any person under the *legal*  
25 *drinking* age [~~of 21 years~~] convicted of unlawful possession of liquor or beverage shall forfeit the  
26 same, and it shall be disposed of as the court directs. The proceeds, if any, shall be paid into the  
27 treasury of the county in which the proceedings were determined.

28 179:10-a Attempt to Purchase Alcohol. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any  
29 person under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21 years~~], who possesses beverage or liquor with the intent  
30 to purchase said beverage or liquor, and who does or omits to do anything which, under the  
31 circumstances as such person believes them to be, is an act or omission constituting a substantial  
32 step towards the purchase of an alcoholic beverage shall be guilty of a violation.

33 9 Hunting While Intoxicated. Amend RSA 214:20, II to read as follows:

34 II. While such person has an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more or in the case of a person  
35 under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~], 0.02 or more.

36 10 Evidence. Amend RSA 214:20-c to read as follows:

1       214:20-c Evidence. Upon complaint, information, indictment, or trial of any person charged with  
2 a violation of RSA 214:20 or 214:20-a, the court may admit evidence of the defendant's alcohol  
3 concentration, as defined in RSA 259:3-b, as shown by a chemical analysis of his *or her* breath,  
4 urine, or blood. Evidence that there was, at the time alleged, an alcohol concentration of 0.03 or less  
5 is prima facie evidence that the defendant was not under the influence of intoxicating liquor.  
6 Evidence that the defendant had, at the time alleged, an alcohol concentration of greater than 0.03  
7 but less than 0.08 is relevant evidence but is not to be given prima facie effect in indicating whether  
8 or not the defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor, but such fact may be considered  
9 with other competent evidence in determining the guilt or innocence of the defendant. Evidence that  
10 there was, at the time alleged, an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more is prima facie evidence that  
11 the defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor. In the case of a person under the *legal*  
12 *drinking* age [~~of 21~~] an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more is prima facie evidence that the  
13 defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor. The [~~foregoing~~] provisions of this section  
14 shall not be construed as limiting the introduction of any other competent evidence bearing upon the  
15 question of whether or not the defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

16       11 Implied Consent. Amend RSA 214:20-d, I to read as follows:

17       I. Any person who target practices, takes, or attempts to take wildlife in this state by use of  
18 a firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow and bolt, or any other weapon, shall be deemed to have given  
19 consent to physical tests and examinations for the purpose of determining whether that person is  
20 under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any controlled drug or any combination of intoxicating  
21 liquor and controlled drug, and to chemical infrared molecular absorption or gas chromatograph test  
22 or tests of any or any combination of the following: blood, urine, or breath, for the purposes of  
23 determining the controlled drug content of the person's blood or alcohol concentration if arrested for  
24 any offense arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was target  
25 practicing, hunting, taking, or attempting to take wildlife, while under the influence of intoxicating  
26 liquor or controlled drugs or any combination of alcohol or controlled drugs or while having an  
27 alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more, or in the case of a person under the *legal drinking* age [~~of~~  
28 ~~21~~], 0.02 or more. The test or tests shall be administered at the direction of a law enforcement officer  
29 having reasonable grounds to believe the person to have been hunting, taking, or attempting to take  
30 wildlife while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any controlled drug, or any combination of  
31 intoxicating liquor and controlled drug.

32       12 Informing First-Time Applicants of the DWI and Controlled Drug Laws. Amend RSA 263:6-a  
33 to read as follows:

34       263:6-a Informing First-Time Applicants of the DWI and Controlled Drug Laws. Before issuing  
35 a license to any person who has not been previously licensed to drive a motor vehicle in this state,  
36 the department shall inform the applicant of the following:

1 I. It is unlawful to drive with an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more, or, in the case of a  
2 person under ~~[21 years of]~~ *the legal drinking age*, 0.02 or more.

3 I-a. It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, possess, have under his or her control, sell,  
4 purchase, prescribe, administer, or transport or possess with intent to sell, dispense, or compound  
5 any controlled substance, except as authorized by law.

6 II. The penalties for violations of the DWI laws.

7 III. The administrative license suspension penalties for a refusal to take, or a failure to  
8 complete, a preliminary breath test or, upon arrest, any physical or chemical test for the purpose of  
9 determining a level of alcohol in your system.

10 IV. The fee for reissuance of a driver's license after suspension for any of the reasons stated  
11 above.

12 V. The penalties for unlawful transportation of an alcoholic beverage by a person under ~~[21]~~  
13 *the legal drinking age*.

14 VI. The penalties for unlawful possession of an alcoholic beverage by a person under ~~[21]~~ *the*  
15 *legal drinking age*.

16 VII. Any other information concerning driving responsibility that the director deems  
17 necessary.

18 13 Excess Alcohol Concentration. Amend RSA 265-A:2, I(b)-II to read as follows:

19 (b) While such person has an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more or in the case of a  
20 person under the *legal drinking age* ~~[of 21]~~, 0.02 or more.

21 II. No person shall operate or attempt to operate a boat while under the influence of  
22 intoxicating liquor or a controlled drug or any combination of intoxicating liquor and a controlled  
23 drug or drugs, or while such person has an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more or in the case of  
24 persons under the *legal drinking age* ~~[of 21]~~, 0.02 or more.

25 14 Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 265-A:3,  
26 II to read as follows:

27 II. While having an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more or, in the case of a person under  
28 the *legal drinking age* ~~[of 21]~~ at the time of the offense, 0.02 or more and, at the time alleged:

29 15 Implied Consent. Amend RSA 265-A:4 to read as follows:

30 265-A:4 Implied Consent of Driver or Operator to Submit to Testing to Determine Alcohol  
31 Concentration. Any person who drives, operates, or attempts to operate an OHRV, drives or  
32 attempts to drive a vehicle upon the ways of this state, or operates or attempts to operate a boat  
33 upon the public waters of the state shall be deemed to have given consent to physical tests and  
34 examinations for the purpose of determining whether such person is under the influence of  
35 intoxicating liquor or controlled drugs, and to a chemical, infrared molecular absorption, or gas  
36 chromatograph test or tests of any or all of any combination of the following: blood, urine, or breath,  
37 for the purpose of determining the controlled drug content of such person's blood or alcohol

1 concentration if arrested for any offense arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the  
 2 person was driving, operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of an OHRV,  
 3 driving, attempting to drive, or in actual physical control of a vehicle, or operating, attempting to  
 4 operate, or in actual physical control of a boat while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or  
 5 controlled drugs or while having an alcohol concentration in excess of the statutory limits contained  
 6 in RSA 265-A:2 or RSA 265-A:3. The test or tests shall be administered at the direction of a law  
 7 enforcement officer, peace officer, or authorized agent having reasonable grounds to believe the  
 8 person to have been driving, operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of an  
 9 OHRV, driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle, or operating or in actual physical control of  
 10 a boat while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled drugs or while having an alcohol  
 11 concentration of 0.08 or more, or in the case of a person under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~], 0.02  
 12 or more. A copy of the report of any such test shall be furnished by the law enforcement agency to  
 13 the person tested within 48 hours of receipt of the report by the agency by certified mail directed to  
 14 the address shown on such person's license or other identification furnished by the person. Results  
 15 of a test of the breath shall be furnished immediately in writing to the person tested by the certified  
 16 breath testing operator conducting the test. When the incident involves an accident resulting in  
 17 death or serious bodily injury to any person as provided in RSA 265-A:16, the prerequisites of  
 18 RSA 265-A:8 shall not apply. Properly trained personnel of the United States Coast Guard may  
 19 arrest and conduct tests on persons who are believed to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor  
 20 or controlled drugs, or a combination thereof, and who are in physical control of a boat operating  
 21 upon the public coastal waters of this state.

22 16 Preliminary Breath Test. Amend RSA 265-A:15, I to read as follows:

23 I. Any law enforcement officer, authorized agent, or peace officer, who has been certified by  
 24 the police standards and training council according to standards for such certification contained in  
 25 rules adopted by said council pursuant to RSA 541-A, having reasonable grounds to believe that a  
 26 person has been driving, operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of an OHRV,  
 27 driving, attempting to drive, or in actual physical control of a vehicle, or operating, attempting to  
 28 operate, or in actual physical control of a boat upon the public waters of the state while under the  
 29 influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled drug or while the person's alcohol concentration was  
 30 0.08 or more or in the case of a person under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~], 0.02 or more or in the  
 31 case of a person licensed to operate and operating a commercial vehicle or operating a commercial  
 32 vessel and licensed pursuant to RSA 270-E:22 at the time of the offense, 0.04 or more may, without  
 33 making an arrest, request that such person submit to a preliminary breath test for alcohol  
 34 concentration to be administered by the officer. The results of any test administered under this  
 35 section may be introduced into evidence in a court for any relevant purpose. Failure to submit to the  
 36 test shall not constitute a violation of this chapter. Evidence of a failure to submit to a preliminary  
 37 breath test shall not be admissible in court in any prosecution under this subdivision, except for the



1 purpose of determining whether the officer had probable cause to arrest the person. The provisions  
 2 of this section shall not limit the introduction of any other competent evidence bearing on the  
 3 question of whether a person charged with violating RSA 265-A:2, I(a), RSA 265-A:2, II, or RSA 265-  
 4 A:3 was under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any controlled drug. Nothing contained in this  
 5 section shall be construed to prevent or require a subsequent test pursuant to RSA 265-A:4. The  
 6 police officer requesting the test shall advise orally the person to be tested that his or her failure to  
 7 take the test or his or her taking of the test shall not be construed to prevent or require a subsequent  
 8 test pursuant to RSA 265-A:4. The results of the test shall be furnished immediately to the person  
 9 tested by the police officer administering the test and in writing, if requested.

10 17 Penalties. Amend RSA 265-A:18, III to read as follows:

11 III. Any person who is convicted of an offense under RSA 265-A:2, I, RSA 265-A:3, or  
 12 RSA 630:3, II and the offense occurred while the person was under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~]  
 13 shall be sentenced according to the provisions of this section, except that in all cases the person's  
 14 driver's license or privilege to drive shall be revoked for not less than one year.

15 18 Administrative License Suspension. Amend RSA 265-A:30, I to read as follows:

16 I. If any person refuses a test as provided in RSA 265-A:14 or submits to a test described in  
 17 RSA 265-A:4 which discloses an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more or, in the case of a person  
 18 under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~] at the time of the violation, 0.02 or more, the law enforcement  
 19 officer shall submit a sworn report to the department. In the report the officer shall certify that the  
 20 test was requested pursuant to RSA 265-A:4 and that the person refused to submit to testing or  
 21 submitted to a test which disclosed an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more, or, in the case of a  
 22 person under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~], 0.02 or more.

23 19 Administrative License Suspension. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 265-A:30,  
 24 II(b) to read as follows:

25 (b) In the case of a person who submits to a test described in RSA 265-A:4 which  
 26 discloses an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more or, in the case of a person under the *legal*  
 27 *drinking* age [~~of 21~~] at the time of the violation, 0.02 or more, the suspension shall be for:

28 20 Administrative Review and Hearings. Amend RSA 265-A:31, II(d) to read as follows:

29 (d) Whether the person has refused to submit to the test upon the request of the law  
 30 enforcement officer or whether a properly administered test or tests disclosed an alcohol  
 31 concentration of 0.08 or more, or, in the case of a person under [~~21 years of~~] *the legal drinking* age,  
 32 0.02 or more;

33 21 Transportation of Alcoholic Beverages by a Minor. Amend RSA 265-A:45, I-II to read as  
 34 follows:

35 I. Notwithstanding RSA 265-A:44, II, no driver under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~] shall,  
 36 except when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or legal age spouse, transport any liquor or

1 beverage in any part of a vehicle. A driver violating this section may have his or her license or  
2 privilege to drive suspended for 60 days.

3 II. No person operating a boat while under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~] shall, except  
4 when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or legal age spouse, transport any liquor or beverage  
5 in any part of a boat with an intent to consume such liquor or beverage. Anyone violating this  
6 paragraph may, following a hearing, have his or her privilege to operate a boat on the waters of the  
7 state suspended for 90 days and may additionally have his or her license or privilege to drive  
8 suspended for 90 days.

9 22 Ejection of Guests. Amend RSA 353:3-c, II(b) to read as follows:

10 (b) Is less than [~~21 years of~~] *the legal drinking* age and possesses alcohol;

11 23 Facilitating a Drug or Underage Alcohol House Party. Amend RSA 644:18 to read as follows:

12 644:18 Facilitating a Drug or Underage Alcohol House Party.

13 I. A person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if such person owns or has control of the  
14 occupied structure, dwelling, or curtilage, where a drug or underage alcohol house party is held and  
15 such person knowingly commits an overt act in furtherance of the occurrence of the drug or underage  
16 alcohol house party knowing persons under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~] possess or intend to  
17 consume alcoholic beverages or use controlled drugs at such drug or underage alcohol house party.

18 II. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section if a person gives timely  
19 notice to a law enforcement official of the occurrence of the drug or underage alcohol house party or  
20 engages in other conduct designed to prevent the occurrence of such party, or takes action to  
21 terminate such party once underway.

22 III. In this section, "drug or underage alcohol house party" means a gathering of 5 or more  
23 people under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~] at any occupied structure, dwelling, or curtilage, who  
24 are unrelated to the person who owns such occupied structure, dwelling, or curtilage or has control  
25 thereof, where at least one person under the *legal drinking* age [~~of 21~~] unlawfully possesses or  
26 consumes an alcoholic beverage or controlled drug. "Occupied structure" has the same meaning as in  
27 RSA 635: 1, and "dwelling" and "curtilage" have the same meaning as in RSA 627:9.

28 IV. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the use of alcoholic beverages at legally  
29 protected religious observances or activities, or to those persons using a controlled drug under a  
30 physician's care where the use of the drug is consistent with the directions of a physician.

31 24 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2012.

LBAO  
11-0868  
01/19/11

**HB 637-FN - FISCAL NOTE**

**AN ACT** relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Due to time constraints, the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to provide a fiscal note for this bill at this time. When completed, the fiscal note will be forwarded to the House Clerk's Office.

**HB 637 FISCAL NOTE**

AN ACT relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Department of Transportation states this bill will increase state highway fund expenditures by \$2,519 in FY 2012 and each year thereafter. The New Hampshire State Liquor Commission states this bill may increase state liquor commission fund expenditures by an indeterminable amount in FY 2012 and each year thereafter. There will be no fiscal impact on state, county, and local revenues, or county and local expenditures.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill lowers the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces to 18. The Department of Transportation states the proposed legislation is dependent on the state's ability to obtain a federal waiver, or participate in a federal pilot program allowing the state to lower the drinking age for members of the armed services, without subjecting the state to the withholding of federal highway aid. In the event a waiver or pilot program is established for the state, the proposed legislation then requires the Department to publish notice, in newspapers of general circulation, in every county of the state describing the waiver or pilot program, its effect on the legal drinking age in the state, and the duration of the waiver or pilot program. The Department states the staff costs associated with the coordination of the required federal waiver, or establishment of a pilot program, and the associated efforts required to draft and publish notifications would be less than one full time equivalent and could be absorbed within the current budget. However, for purposes of estimating the fiscal impact of the proposed legislation, the Department assumes the waiver or pilot program would require public notice once per year, increasing states highway fund expenditures by \$2,519 in FY 2012 and each year thereafter.

The State Liquor Commission states the proposed legislation specifies the drinking age would be lowered only for members of the armed forces, stationed in this state, and on active duty. Based on this language, the Commission assumes the drinking age would not be lowered for active service members stationed outside of the state or for military reservists or New Hampshire National Guard members not on active duty. The Commission states this particular aspect of the proposed legislation would make enforcement efforts more difficult and therefore more costly as identification of legal versus non-legal drinkers may become more

difficult to determine. Additionally, the Commission notes the proposed legislation may result in the need for greater enforcement efforts, as this bill may; increase the numbers of inexperienced drinkers; contribute to an increase in the number of liquor related accidents based on an increase in 18 to 20 year olds driving into New Hampshire from other states to drink or purchase alcohol; and an increase in the use of fake identification cards. The Commission is unable to quantify to what extent the proposed legislation would increase the difficulty of, or need for, liquor enforcement efforts, but claims any increase would result in an increase in state liquor commission fund expenditures.

The Department of Safety and the New Hampshire Municipal Association state the proposed legislation will have no fiscal impact.

# Speakers



# Hearing Minutes



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 637-FN

**BILL TITLE:** relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces.

**DATE:** March 1, 2011

**LOB ROOM:** 208                      **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 11:00 am

**Time Adjourned:** 12:30 pm

(please circle if present)

**Committee Members:** Reps. Rowe, Sorg, Souza, Hagan, Silva, Andolina, Giuda, LaCasse, McClarren, Murphy, Palmer, Peterson, Tregenza, Wheaton, Walt, Potter, Weber and Watrous.

**Bill Sponsors:** Rep. S. Lindsey, Ches 3; Rep. Panek, Straf 3

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

**Rep. Panek, co-sponsor**

Introduced the bill. Previously in the military. We ask military to put their lives on the line. You're an adult but you cannot drink a beer. We ask them to possibly die for our country but they cannot drink. There are United States bases that allow drinking under the age of 21, for all active duty only.

**Rep. Lindsey, sponsor**

Very you service members can be in the military, they should be able to have beer. Some higher ups in the military don't agree with this bill. This bill is for the enlisted personnel. Small percentage is under age; but this is an important step.

**Ann Rice, Attorney General's Office -- opposes**

Attorney Generals Office is campaigning to underage drinking due to health problems drugs and alcohol will add to the problems the military faces. This bill has come up several times and it has failed every time.

**Stephen Burritt, Adjutant General -- opposes**

Brigadier General retired. Recognize the fight for country. Many will suffer post-traumatic stress. When they come back home, some suffer trying to get back into society. The drug of choice is alcohol. Leads to family problems. Define an active duty service member, IDs do not declare on or off-duty.

**Peter Thomson, New Hampshire Highway and Safety- opposes**

Try to curb alcohol uses on highways, reducing alcohol deaths on highways. Concerned about those under 21 having knowledge about drinking and driving. Huge step backwards if the drinking age is lowered.

**Rick Bailey, New Hampshire Department of Motor Vehicles - opposes**  
Increasing under age drinking would not be a positive change in reference to driving. As an Air Force Officer in Germany, younger airmen did not make good decisions when drinking was involved.

**Bill Watson, New Hampshire Department of Transportation – (only for question, no stand or testimony).**

**Valerie Morgan, Bureau of Drugs and Alcohol - opposes**  
Works with hundreds to reduce underage drinking. The health affects are numerous and the brain development is not here yet to act rational – concerns are safety and control.

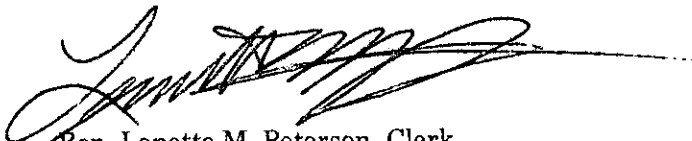
**Dana Mitchell, Dover, NH – opposes**  
Retired police officer. Identification issues (IDs) always come up with drinking. This would complicate the process even more. Age would not be the only factor, whether they are active military or not, where they are stationed, are they even in the military?

**Claire Ebel, New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union – opposes**  
Law of the State of New Hampshire is against the law to treat one group of people differently than others. This bill is unconstitutional.

**\*Deidra Maynard, Tina Gibbons (member of the Dover ROTC program) Dover Youth 2 Youth – oppose**  
Oppose bill because 1) legal drinking age is 21 allowing for more brain development. 2) Members of the military underage could get alcohol from 18 year olds in the military and 3) no boot camp on alcohol safety. Addiction could be a problem drinking younger than the legal age.

**Tricia Lucas, New Futures – opposes**  
Organization works on prevention of alcohol and drug abuse. Lower age to miles from the borders of Canada and Mexico would lead to lower drinking age. Most base commanders do not lower the age. Bills submitted in 2002, 2207, and 2008 were voted inexpedient to legislate. From 1970 to 1975 21 states lowered the drinking age to 18; motor vehicle deaths climber. MADD (Mothers against Drunk Drivers) started and through President Reagan the drinking age moved to 21 yrs. Not a majority issue, brain development continues to develop into the mid-twenties. The frontal lobe level- responsible for rational thinking, planning, problem solving, etc.

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. Lenette M. Peterson, Clerk

6/1

Lenette will  
sign notes  
next week

Wed 6/8

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 637

BILL TITLE: relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces.

DATE: 2011 3-1-11

LOB ROOM: 208

Time Public Hearing Called to Order:

Time Adjourned:

11:00 am  
12:30 pm

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Rowe, Sorg, Souza, Hagan, Silva, Andolina, Giuda, LaCasse, McClarren, Murphy, Palmer, Peterson, Tregenza, Wheaton, Wall, Potter, Weber and Watrous

Bill Sponsors: Rep. S. Lindsey, Ches 3; Rep. Panek, Straf 3

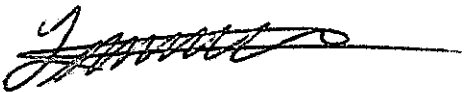
TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Panek - prior military. we ask military to put their line on the line, you're an adult, but you can't drink a beer. We ask them to possibly die for country, but they can't drink. There are US bases that allow drinking under the age of 21. For all active duty only.

Rep. Lindsey - (S) very young service members can be in the military they should be able to have beer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rep. Lenette M. Peterson

Some higher ups in military don't agree with this bill, this bill is for the enlisted personnel. Small percentage are under age; but an important step.

Ann Rice (O) Att Gen. Office is campaigning to under age drinking due to health problems. Drugs + alcohol will add to the problems military faces. This bill has come up several times and it failed every time.  
Att. Gen. Off.

Stephen Burritt (O) recognize the fight for country, many will suffer post-traumatic stress. When they come back, some suffer trying to get back into society. The drug of choice is alcohol, leads to family problems. Defining an active duty service member, IDs ~~can~~ do not declare on or off duty.  
Brig. Gen. ret.  
Adjutant General

Peter Thomson (O) try to curb alcohol uses on highways, reducing alcohol deaths on highways. Concerned about under 21 having knowledge about drinking and driving. Huge step backwards if the drinking age is lowered.  
NH Hwy + Safety

Rick Bailey (O) increasing under age drinking, would not be a positive change in ref. to driving. Air Force Officer in Germany, younger air men did not make good decisions when drinking was involved.  
NH DMV

Bill Watson (-) only for questions, no stand or testimony  
NH Dept. Trans.

Valarie Morgan (O) works w/1000's working to reduce under age drinking. The health affects are numerous and the brain development is not their yet to act rational. concerns are safety and control.  
Bur. Drugs + Alcohol

Dana Mitchell (O) ID issues always come up with drinking. This would complicate the process even more. Age would not be the only factor, is active or not, where stationed, are they  
retired police office

HB 637 (1)

even in the military -

Claire Ebel - (O) law of state of NH it is against the law  
NH CLU to treat one group of people differently than others  
This bill is unconstit.

\* Deidra Maynard - active JR ROTC. 1) legal drinking age - brain  
Tina Gibbons development 2) ~~any~~ members of military  
Dover Youth 2 Youth under age could get alcohol from 18yo olds  
in military. 3) no boot camps on alcohol safety  
addiction could be a problem drinking younger  
than legal age.

\* Tricia Lucas (O) prevention alcohol/drug abuse. lower age 50  
New Futures miles from borders of Canada/Mexico should  
lead to lower drinking age. Most base commanders  
do not lower the age. 2002, 2007 both times  
ITL 2008 - ITL

1970-1975 - 21 states lowered drinking to 18  
motor vehicle deaths climbed. MADD started +  
through Pres. Reagan drinking age moved to 21  
Not a majority issue, brain dev. is very clear  
frontal lobe devel. last mid 20's. Rational  
thinking lobe.

# Testimony

## Fatal Crashes 1997-2010 w/Operators under 21 years

	All Ops under 21 yrs	Ops under 21 yrs At Fault in crash	%	# Under 21 At Fault Ops with BAC .02+
<b>1997</b>	24	21	87.5%	6
<b>1998</b>	24	21	87.5%	3
<b>1999</b>	23	20	87.0%	4
<b>2000</b>	21	18	85.7%	7
<b>2001</b>	24	17	70.8%	6
<b>2002</b>	17	11	64.7%	1
<b>2003</b>	22	19	86.4%	3
<b>2004</b>	40	32	80.0%	7
<b>2005</b>	26	16	61.5%	6
<b>2006</b>	19	17	89.5%	8
<b>2007</b>	24	18	75.0%	2
<b>2008</b>	23	20	87.0%	5
<b>2009</b>	16	14	87.5%	4
<b>2010</b>	17	17	100.0%	4
	<b>320</b>	<b>261</b>		<b>66</b> <b>25.3%</b>



# Youth Youth

Telephone: 603-516-3273  
46 Locust Street • Dover, New Hampshire 03820  
[www.doveryouth.com](http://www.doveryouth.com)

Hello I am Deidra Maynard and I am a tenth grader at Dover High School. I am an active member of Dover Youth to Youth which is a drug and alcohol prevention program.

Hello I am Tina Gibbons and I am also a tenth grader at Dover High School and a member of Dover Youth to Youth. You may have noticed I am dressed in my uniform. I am also a member of the Dover ROTC program. After graduating high school I plan on joining the military. However, I am not in uniform because of this hearing, but because I am attending an ROTC event immediately following this testimony. We are here today to oppose House Bill 637.

There are several reasons why we are opposed to this bill. The legal drinking age is twenty one, one of the reasons it is twenty one is that a person's brain has not fully developed until their early twenties. While any organ is developing and growing it is more susceptible to chemicals and toxins such as alcohol. The legal drinking age is twenty one and not eighteen for this specific reason. To be eighteen years old and in the military is the same biologically as being eighteen years old and not in the military.

Another reason we do not support this bill is because members of the military under the legal drinking age could easily supply alcohol to their peers who are not in the military. This could provide access to a lot of underage drinking.

Military personnel are highly trained. When an eighteen year old enlists they are sent to weeks and weeks of very intense boot camps, taught how operate advanced machinery, constantly tested in their position, and closely supervised. There is no boot camp for how to safely drink alcohol. Although military members are mature enough to fight for our country, and leave their home and family- it does not mean they can't develop drinking problems such as addiction, alcohol poisoning, or depression.

Another concern we have is that it is well known that the younger a person starts drinking the more likely they will develop drinking problems later in life. So we do not want to do anything which would encourage earlier drinking.

There are other ways to show our military personnel respect without putting their health at risk or harming them. We are asking you to vote no on House Bill 637. Thank you for your time and we would be happy to answer any of your questions.

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# NEW FUTURES

Advocating, educating and collaborating  
to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug problems in New Hampshire

March 1, 2011

The Honorable Robert H. Rowe, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Room 208  
Legislative Office Building  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: New Futures' Opposition to HB 637 (relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces)

Dear Representative Rowe and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I appear today in my role as Policy Director at New Futures. New Futures is a nonprofit, nonpartisan New Hampshire advocacy organization working to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug problems in New Hampshire. Over the past five years we have involved in a number of bills related to the minimum legal drinking age in New Hampshire. New Futures is strongly opposed to HB 637 and supports current law, in effect since 1984, which establishes 21 as the minimum legal drinking age in New Hampshire. My testimony today will address:

- The scope of the problem of underage drinking in New Hampshire
- Why reducing the legal drinking age is bad public policy
- The negative consequences of a lower legal drinking age
- Response to the arguments made in support of HB 567

## Scope of the Problem of Underage Drinking

- Alcohol is the #1 youth drug problem in NH.
  - 37.7% of NH high school students report alcohol use in the last 30 days; 24% report binge drinking – five or more drinks in a short period of time – in the last 30 days. Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2009 (YRBS 2009).
  - Underage alcohol use is six times more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report).
- There are widespread harms associated with underage drinking.
  - Alcohol is a key factor in the three leading causes of death in young people: traffic accidents, homicides, and suicides (Center for Disease Control, 2006). In 2009, 23.2% of New Hampshire high school students reported that in the last 30 days they had

10 Ferry Street, Suite 307 ♦ Concord, NH 03301  
Phone (603) 225-9540 ♦ Fax (603) 415-9543  
[www.new-futures.org](http://www.new-futures.org)

ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol; 8.5% of high school students reported driving after drinking alcohol (YRBS, 2009).

- Young people who drink are more likely to engage in a broad range of risky behaviors including drinking and driving, high-risk sex, and violent behavior (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 2007).
- Underage drinking creates a serious economic burden for New Hampshire. Research suggests that underage alcohol consumption costs New Hampshire \$178 Million per year considering violence, traffic accidents, high-risk sex, property crime, unintended injuries, poisonings and psychosis, fetal alcohol syndrome and alcohol treatment (Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 2009).

### Reducing the Legal Drinking Age is Bad Public Policy

- Drinking adversely affects the brain development of adolescents and young adults.
  - Research has established that brain development continues through our mid twenties.
    - The frontal areas of the brain that are responsible for planning, problem solving, and impulse and emotional control develop later and therefore are unlikely to exert control over the less mature centers of action and emotion.
    - The impulse control areas of the brain in young adults – already less mature to start with – are especially vulnerable to alcohol.
  - Drinking during the critical period of adolescence and early adulthood may permanently harm the brain (White & Swartzwelder, 2005).
  - Short-term or moderate drinking impairs learning and memory far more than in youth than in adults.
- The risk of alcohol problems increases when drinking starts at an early age.
  - Youth who drink before they turn 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence during their life time than those who start drinking at age 21. Each year of delay reduces the risk. (National Epidemiological Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, 2002).
  - In New Hampshire, 19.3% of high school students had their first drink of alcohol before age 13 (YRBS, 2009).
- Lowering the legal drinking age will make alcohol available to an even younger population.
  - The practices and behaviors of 18 years-olds are particularly influential on younger teens and will model drinking to this younger population.
  - Legal access to alcohol for 18 year-olds will provide more opportunities for younger teens to obtain it illegally from older peers.

### Reducing the Legal Drinking Age for Members of the Armed Forces is Bad Public Policy

- The research that describes the process of brain development and the impact of alcohol applies to all young people – regardless of whether they are students, working, or serving in the armed forces. There is nothing to suggest that military training will accelerate the maturation of the adolescent brain or reduce the impact of alcohol use on its functioning and development.
- The discussion about reducing the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces is not about maturity, it is about development and how alcohol affects impairment, decision – making, and physical readiness.
- Military policy (10 U.S.C 2683/DoD Instruction 1015.10), with few limited exceptions, requires military installation commanders to adopt the same drinking age as the state in which the military base is located.
- In 2007, Acting Surgeon General of the United State, Dr. Kenneth P. Moritsugu issued *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking*. The Call to Action identified as a concern problems among underage military drinkers including: serious consequences (15.8%); alcohol-related productivity loss (19.5%); and as indicated by AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test) scores, hazardous drinking (25.7%), harmful drinking (4.6%), and possible dependence (5.5%).
- Given what we know about the strain the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are placing on the members of our armed forces and the concerns about post traumatic stress and substance abuse, why would want to put the health and safety of our young people serving in the military at additional risk?

### We Know that Consequences of a Lower Legal Drinking Age are Dangerous and Costly

- Between 1970 and 1975, 29 states reduced the legal drinking age. Many states soon witnessed significant increases in alcohol-related traffic accidents and MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) lead the fight to return the legal drinking age to 21. President Reagan signed the MLDA (Minimum Legal Drinking Age) in 1984.
- Since 1984 it is estimated that annually the lives of 1000 youth (27,000 lives since the adoption of the MLDA) have been saved.
- A study released in 2005 debunks the myth that youth in Europe, where drinking ages are lower, are responsible drinkers. The study shows that the great majority of European countries have higher intoxication rates among youth than does the US – European youth drink more often, drink more heavily, and get drunk more often than American youth (PIRE, 2005).

### The House Has Defeated Efforts to Reduce the Legal Drinking Age Three Times Since 2006.

- In 2006, this committee recommended HB 1647 (an act relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces), inexpedient to legislate by

a vote of 17-2. The House adopted the committee recommendation by voice vote.

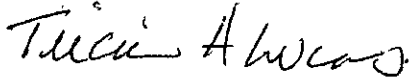
- In 2007, this committee unanimously recommended HB 567 (relative to lowering the legal drinking age), inexpedient to legislate by a vote of 17 – 0. The House adopted the committee recommendation by a vote of 234 – 31.
- In 2008 the Local and Regulated Revenues unanimously recommended HB 588 (relative to lowering the legal drinking age), inexpedient to legislate by a vote of 17 – 0. The House adopted the committee recommendation by voice vote.

Response to Argument Made in Support of HB 637

- Argument: If people aged 18 – 20 can vote and join the military and fight for their country why shouldn't they be able to drink?
- Response:
  - Ages of initiation vary – one may vote at age 18, drink at 21, rent a car at 25 and run for president at 35. Such ages may appear arbitrary but they take into account the requirements, risks, responsibilities, and benefits of each act. Deferred drinking reduces the risks of harm to the developing brain, developing alcohol dependence or abuse late in life, and engaging in high risk behavior.
  - The issue is not maturity, it is brain development and the impact of alcohol on the developing brains of adolescents and young adults. The act of voting or firing a weapon does not adversely affect a young adult's brain but consumption of alcohol, particularly in excess, will. Given what we know about brain development and the impact of alcohol on the developing brain, why would we want to put any of our young people – especially those in the military – at additional risk?

Thank you for your attention to this testimony. For the reasons stated herein, New Futures respectfully requests that the committee vote HB 637 inexpedient to legislate.

Sincerely,



Tricia H. Lucas, Esq.  
Policy Director  
New Futures

# Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
EXECUTIVE SESSION on HOUSE BILL 637-FN

**BILL TITLE:** relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces.  
**DATE:** March 1, 2011  
**LOB ROOM:** 208

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. J. Hagan

Seconded by Rep. J. Wall

Vote: 15-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: YES NO

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rep. Lenette Peterson, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB ~~637~~ 637

BILL TITLE: exempting from nondisclosure the records of accidents involving and violations by county, city, and town employees and officials.  
DATE: {Type DATE} 3/1/11  
LOB ROOM: 208

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:  
Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:  
Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Hagan

Seconded by Rep. Wall

Vote: 15-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: YES or NO  
(Type VOTE)

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rep. Lenette Peterson, Clerk



# JUDICIARY

Bill #: 637 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

PH Date: 3/1/11

Exec Session Date: 3/1/11

Motion: ITL

Amendment #: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Rowe, Robert H, Chairman	✓	
Sorg, Gregory M, V Chairman	✓	
Souza, Kathleen F	✓	—
Hagan, Joseph M	✓	
Silva, Peter L		✓
Andolina, Donald C	✓	
Giuda, J. Brandon	✓	
LaCasse, Paul D	✓	
McClarren, Donald B	✓	
Murphy, Brian JX	✓	
Palmer, Barry J	✓	
Peterson, Lenette M	✓	
Tregenza, Norman A	✓	
Wheaton, Gary W	✓	—
Wall, Janet G	✓	
Potter, Frances D	✓	
Weber, Lucy M	✓	
Watrous, Rick H	✓	
	15	1
TOTAL VOTE:		

# Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 2, 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on JUDICIARY to which was referred

HB 637-FN,

AN ACT relative to lowering the legal drinking age for  
members of the armed forces. Having considered the same,  
report the same with the following Resolution: RESOLVED,  
That it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Joseph M. Hagan

FOR THE COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	JUDICIARY
Bill Number:	HB 637-FN
Title:	relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces.
Date:	March 2, 2011
Consent Calendar:	YES
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

The committee has the highest respect for and extends the greatest thanks to our service members who have not reached their 21st birthday. However, lowering the legal drinking age to 18 would lead to loss of federal highway funds. Additionally, numerous witnesses, including members of the New Hampshire National Guard, The Department of Transportation, law enforcement agents unanimously testified that alcohol consumption is especially problematic in this age group and ought to be discouraged by the force of law.

Vote 15-1.

Rep. Joseph M. Hagan  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### JUDICIARY

**HB 637-FN**, relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces.  
**INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joseph M. Hagan for JUDICIARY. The committee has the highest respect for and extends the greatest thanks to our service members who have not reached their 21st birthday. However, lowering the legal drinking age to 18 would lead to loss of federal highway funds. Additionally, numerous witnesses, including members of the New Hampshire National Guard, The Department of Transportation, law enforcement agents unanimously testified that alcohol consumption is especially problematic in this age group and ought to be discouraged by the force of law. **Vote 15-1.**

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE:

Judiciary  
HB 637

BILL NUMBER:

TITLE:

DATE:

3.1.11

CONSENT CALENDAR:

YES

NO

OUGHT TO PASS

OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT

INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2<sup>nd</sup> year of biennium)

Amendment No.

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

The committee has the highest respect for and extends the greatest thanks to our servicemembers who have not reached their 21st birthday. However, lowering the legal drinking age to 18 would lead to loss of highway funds. Additionally, numerous witnesses, including members of the NH National Guard, the Department of Transportation, law enforcement agents unanimously testified that alcohol consumption is especially problematic in this age group & ought to be discouraged by the force of law.

COMMITTEE VOTE:

15/1

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

- Copy to Committee Bill File
- Use Another Report for Minority Report

Rep.

Joseph M. Hager  
For the Committee