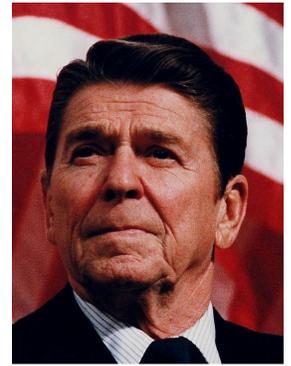


# House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"Trust but Verify"

The purpose of the House Republican Alliance is to preserve and strengthen the traditional principles and values of the Republican Party through the NH House of Representatives and throughout the state of NH, including fiscal restraint, personal freedom and responsibility, small government, free enterprise and strong families. We offer the following recommendations based on those principles, the Republican Party Platform and the NH and Federal Constitutions.

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

## Ways and Means

**CACR12**, Providing that an income tax on personal income shall be prohibited. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This constitutional amendment would ban a state earned income tax. Platform: "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees, including an income, sales and capital gains tax."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB458**, repealing certain inactive dedicated funds. **OTP/A Vote: 17-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, repeals various funds with minimal activity. Platform: "Keep state government lean" and tracking and reporting on unused funds is fat.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB480**, relative to sports betting. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 17-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill authorizes the Lottery Commission to set up sports betting facilities. On one hand, "we believe in free people," but also "Reject expanded ... gambling as a means ... increase spending."

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB600**, adding an exception to the real estate transfer tax for certain transfers by an investment trust. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, exempts from the real estate transfer tax a developer of affordable or low-income housing, provided that the tax was paid prior to the financing. Other similar sorts of transfers are also exempted. The Constitution requires "proportional and reasonable assessments, rates, and taxes."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB632**, relative to the education tax credit. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill repeals the education tax credit program, which allows private donors to reduce their BET, BPT or interest & dividend taxes by 85% of their donation to the program. The Platform: "Expand education tax credits."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB676**, repealing the collection of the state education property tax. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill repeals the "state" property tax, which actually supports local education. However, without cutting any spending anywhere, this bill creates a \$368 million hole in school budgets. Possibly some districts will raise taxes, in violation of the platform warning against downshifting; possibly the state will raise other taxes to replace this one. Platform: "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services."

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB700**, relative to valuation of utility company assets for local property taxation. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, sets uniform criteria for valuation of utility property (poles, mostly.) These have been assessed at widely varying rates by different municipalities, preventing the uniform tax application required by the Constitution.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

## Children and Family Law

**HB118**, requiring a child's primary health care provider to be notified of a report of suspected abuse or neglect and relative to access to the department of health and human services case record. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-2**

**HRA Analysis:** Sharing details of an investigation with a primary physician may result in violations of due process and erroneous conclusions by leading the doctor to a determination that is being sought. Platform: Ensure due process rights of those accused of child abuse or neglect.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB314**, relative to the submission of evidence prior to hearings in divorce cases. **ITL Vote: 18-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires the disclosure of evidence to the opposing party at least 5 days prior to the date of the hearing. The Constitution: Every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favorable to himself; to meet the witnesses against him face to face, and to be fully heard in his defense, by himself, and counsel.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB378**, raising the minimum age for marriage. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill forbids any marriage by any person under 18. No platform or constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB451**, relative to term and reimbursement alimony. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill provides that in alimony determinations where the application of guidelines would be unfair or unjust, the court may order such relief as justice may require. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**HB233**, relative to the group and individual health insurance market. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill establishes ACA provisions into NH law preemptively, in case Obamacare is repealed in the future. From experience we know that the ACA is clearly not affordable, and delivers inferior care. Platform: Support the repeal of Obamacare and oppose its implementation in New Hampshire.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB277**, establishing a commission to study a public option for health insurance. **OTP Vote: 11-7**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study committee, but the goal violates the Platform: Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector. Health care is definitely better handled by the private sector.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB520**, relative to availability of diaper changing stations in public restrooms. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require diaper changing stations in new construction and substantial renovations in places of public accommodation, starting in 2021. Republicans support family and community, but not one-size-fits-all mandates on businesses and property owners. Platform: 'Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.'

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB558**, restricting the distribution of plastic straws. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This poorly worded bill seeks to restrict distribution of plastic straws. If it were enforceable, it would be an unreasonable restriction on businesses. Platform: Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB560**, relative to single-use carryout bags. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** HB560 This bill attempts to restrict the use of 'single-use' plastic bags. While more effort was put into defining the bags intended to be prohibited than the plastic straws, this bill still has a gaping loophole in its definition. "for the purpose of one-time use" fails to consider the value of these bags when you take your dog for a walk. Platform: Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB628**, re: universal changing stations in certain places of public accommodation. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill mandates universal changing stations, which are expensive space-filling mechanisms, for persons with a physical disability, in all facilities with a capacity to serve 1,500 or more persons per day, or stores with at least 40,000 square feet. Both of these thresholds are arbitrary, and it's unknown how many businesses will be affected or how much of a desire/demand there is for such facilities. This applies to buildings built after 2021. It would affect both private property owners and government institutions. The costs could be prohibitive, but that obstacle was ignored by supporters. This type of unfunded mandate is an affront to our platform statement: "We believe that low taxes are the result of low spending; that government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible, to always limit spending and growth of government, and to cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB654**, relative to surety required on construction loans. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 18-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes a change to the surety requirement for NHHFA contractors to allow other legal entities to bid on projects. It also gives monopoly status to NHHFA to manage Section 8 Housing program in New Hampshire. No platform issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB656**, establishing a commission to study the impact of financial initiatives for commercially insured members by drug manufacturers on prescription drug prices and health insurance premiums. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB664**, relative to vehicle repair standards. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill further inserts a government regulation between insurance companies and car repair outfits. It would require insurers to cover more repairs than are currently required, even when those are just recommendations and not factory requirements. This is a heavily regulated industry already; this adds another thin layer. Platform: "Minimize business regulations"

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB703**, re: providing notice of the introduction of new high-cost prescription drugs. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires drug manufacturers to provide pricing and marketing plans to the Department when introducing new products to this market. Penalties for not doing so timely are up to \$1,000 per day. While everyone agrees the costs of some pharmaceuticals are inordinately high, more government regulation is not the solution. Platform: "Minimize business regulations"

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB714**, relative to New Hampshire products purchased and sold by the liquor commission. **OTP Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill modifies the requirement that the Liquor Commission purchase and list for sale NH products in commission liquor stores. It adds some new designations on just how New Hampshire the products are, based on what percentage of the product was actually grown in the state. No platform issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB717**, prohibiting prescription drug manufacturers from offering coupons or discounts to cover insurance copayments or deductibles. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This is another attempt to micromanage drug companies and regulate how they do business in this state. It seeks to prohibit coupons that subsidize insureds' co-payments. Manufacturers offer these to gain sales over bioequivalent generics. We don't ban coupons in other businesses and product types; we should get out of the way and let the companies promote their brands as they deem best. There are many reasons for high drug prices, but coupons are not the culprit. Platform: "Minimize business regulations"

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## **Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

**HB109**, requiring background checks for commercial firearms sales. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill defines 'commercial sale' so broadly that it would encompass any movement of a firearm from one person to another and thereby require all transfers to be made through a licensed dealer. Constitution: All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights - among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property; and, in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB208**, relative to the justified use of deadly force upon another person. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would simply add defense of another within one's home and curtilage as a justifiable reason for the use of deadly force against a person using violence in the commission of a felony. Constitution: All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB394**, relative to crop theft. **OTP/A Vote: 18-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended changes the standards required to charge agricultural vandalism. The changes cause two problems: first, the \$500 minimum would be excessive for an apple stolen from an orchard; second, in the case of greater than \$10,000 loss the lower standard of 'recklessly' leaves out 'knowingly,' opening a large loophole to a felony charge. Constitution: All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB514**, imposing a waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a firearm. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill imposes a 7 working day waiting period (plus weekends and holidays!) before any firearm may be transferred to the buyer. Hunters, law enforcement and military buying long guns are exempt. This makes it impossible for a person to obtain a handgun for self defense in a timely manner. The Constitution asserts: "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB605**, relative to criminal penalties for possession, transfer, or manufacture of animal fighting paraphernalia with the intent to be present at, aiding in, or contributing to such fighting. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is seeking to limit animal fighting contests. The language is expansive and overly broad, and would allow the use of circumstantial evidence in support of a charge. Constitution: "No person shall be... deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## Education

**HB529**, prohibiting a school district employee from assisting a person convicted of sexual misconduct with a minor child. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill prohibits school personnel from testifying or providing personnel records in support of a person convicted of sexual abuse of a child, even off duty and as private individuals. While the Platform requires: "strict laws against sexual predators" the Constitution guarantees free speech.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

## Environment and Agriculture

**HB280**, designating the red-tailed hawk as the state raptor. **OTP Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a symbol. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB494**, relative to removal or containment of contaminants from the Coakley Landfill. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to do what is already required by law. DES was emphatic in explaining to the committee that this bill will provide them no additional tools or authority than they already possess. The committee amendment removes the requirement for DES to declare the site one of "imminent danger". The platform states "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits."

**HRA Recommendation:** Support the committee amendment; Oppose OTP or OTP/A

## Executive Departments and Administration

**HB121**, relative to the regulation of massage establishments. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a new license for massage or bodywork establishments, with a fee to be set in rules with no limitations. Funds an inspector and sets up new requirements for establishments. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB133**, repealing the licensing requirement for open-air shows and repealing the laws related to the keeping of billiard tables. **ITL Vote: 14-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill repeals ancient, little used laws that require town licenses for open air shows and keeping billiard tables. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB562**, relative to the state building code. **OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill enacts the full suite of 2015 building codes. During hearings last year it was stated that when these codes are fully enacted, 8-14 thousand dollars will be added to the cost of an average new home. The platform states that we should minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork, these codes will increase all of those.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB624**, establishing a commission to study management systems and customer service of New Hampshire government agencies. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB662**, establishing a commission to study occupational licensing reforms. **ITL Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HCR3**, relative to welcoming communities. **OTP/A Vote: 15-4**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a resolution. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Finance

**HB110**, relative to the cost of fiscal analysis of legislation relating to the retirement system. **OTP Vote: 18-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires actuarial analyses required by legislation be paid by general funds, not pension funds. The Constitution mandates that "All of the assets and proceeds, and income therefrom, of the New Hampshire retirement system... shall be held, invested or disbursed as in trust for the exclusive purpose of providing for such benefits and shall not be encumbered for, or diverted to, any other purposes."

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB713**, (New Title) relative to transportation of pupils. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires school districts to provide transportation to kindergarten students, at their own expense. The Constitution, Article 28-a, prohibits unfunded mandates.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## Fish and Game and Marine Resources

**HB442**, relative to coyote hunting. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would ban the hunting of coyotes from April 1 through August 31. Coyotes are non-native predators who have moved into a niche within NH and had a population explosion. The present system we have is working and is helping to keep the coyote population in check. The Platform states "Promote conservation of... sensitive ecosystems, wildlife..." and "Recognize that private property owners are the most effective land stewards and have a fundamental right to freely use and enjoy their property".

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

## Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

**HB293**, relative to employee credit privacy. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill forbids use of credit reports in employment decisions. This information is useful to some employers, and imposing this regulation prohibits businesses from using whatever information is available to them. Platform: Minimize business regulations

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP (a suitable floor amendment may allow "Vote your conscience" on OTP/A)

**SB1**, relative to family and medical leave. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** Like HB 712, this bill mandates all employers pay a half-a-percent of payroll to the State, allowing them to pass the percentage on to their employees. This effectively creates an State income tax, which the platform opposes. Also like HB 712, this bill does not apply the mandate to municipal employers without union contracts, create a special "class of men" based on their government affiliation and union status, which may violate Articles Pt. 1st, 10 and Pt. 2nd, 5. In addition, this bill extends some provisions to small employers that are exempt from federal requirements due to their size, reducing the limit of 50 employees down to 20 with respect to restoring the employee to their old position and paying for medical benefits while the employee is out on leave. This would discourage small businesses, increase small business regulation and make New Hampshire small businesses less competitive relative to States with lower regulatory burdens, the opposite of our platform positions.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## **Municipal and County Government**

**CACR8**, relating to the right to govern. Providing that the people of the state may enact local laws that protect health. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This constitutional amendment would allow localities to pass laws protecting their "health" that would infringe on the rights of others to freely enjoy their lives and property.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB144**, relative to changes in property assessments. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires municipalities to notify the property owner of changes in the assessed value, except as a result of a building permit or the five year revaluation of all property. The cost of this notification, however minor, is an unfunded mandate, prohibited by Article 28-a of the Constitution.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB241**, relative to the homestead exemption. **ITL Vote: 17-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill attempts to use the homestead exemption as a shield against homes being seized for non-payment of taxes, and punitively doubles the exemption if notice is not applied. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB312**, relative to municipal regulation of tiny houses. **OTP/A Vote: 17-1**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill creates a study committee. No platform or constitutional issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB370**, relative to membership on city and town planning boards. **Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill removes the prohibition against appointed city planning board members holding other municipal office, and permits any 2 appointed or elected members of a city or town planning board to serve on other municipal boards or commissions, subject to certain restrictions. No Platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB415**, relative to the official ballot referendum form of town meetings. **OTP Vote: 18-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill moves the approval of SB2 status from the election ballot to town meeting, allowing a tiny minority to block or push SB2 on a town. The Constitution states: Nor are the inhabitants of this State controllable by any other laws than those to which they, or their representative body, have given their consent.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB423**, relative to budget committee membership. **ITL Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes the ex-officio selectman member of the budget committee a non-voting member. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB443**, relative to municipal watering restrictions. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds commercial lawns and fields to those that municipalities may ban watering during droughts. The majority amendment exempts playing fields, golf greens, and grass farms, including sod. The minority amendment also exempts newly seeded fields. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB540**, relative to the issuance of bonds by the county for redevelopment districts in unincorporated places. **OTP/A Vote: 18-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows a county to create a redevelopment district in an unincorporated area and issue bonds for such development. It is yet another attempt to fund redeveloping the Balsams, using county assurances. The Constitution: the general court shall not authorize any town to loan or give its money or credit directly or indirectly for the benefit of any corporation having for its object a dividend of profits. This applies to counties as well.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB576**, relative to municipal and district budget committees. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill enforces the "no means no" policy by forbidding transfers into budget line items that were explicitly zeroed out by the budget committee. Once the budget has been approved with zero funding for a given item, the governing body should not fund that item by transfers. The constitution demands transparency in government.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB618**, relative to the definition of contracts relative to official ballot default budgets. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill deletes the definition of "contracts" in the default budget calculation, making it allowable to include the amounts for contracts with a escalation clause. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## **Resources, Recreation and Development**

**HB204**, establishing a committee to review and update the penalties for contaminating drinking water and groundwater. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** As introduced, this bill established a committee to review the penalties for contaminating the drinking water and groundwater in NH. This bill was amended and moved directly to increases in fines for violations of water laws. The Platform says "Prefer incentives to penalties and issue warnings before fine." Look for a motion to table as the same issue is handled relative to both drinking water and air in a bill in ST&E.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support motion to table, oppose the committee amendment, oppose OTP/A

**HB325**, relative to control of marine pollution and aquatic growth. **OTP Vote: 15-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows public boat access facility owners to require boaters (under penalty of law) to utilize the best technology (anything from a garden hose to sophisticated wash stations) made available to them at these access areas for the purpose of preventing the spread of invasive species. It must be used twice, upon entering and upon leaving the lake. Platform: prefer incentives to penalties and issue warnings before fines.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB326**, relative to the definition of prime wetland. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows discontinuous areas to be designated as "prime wetlands" which have significant restrictions on development. No recompense is available for landowners who may find them unable to use their property due the new designation or the imposition of required setbacks from prime wetlands. Platform: "Recognize that private property owners are the most effective land stewards and have a fundamental right to freely use and enjoy their property."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB475**, establishing a shoreland septic system study commission. **OTP/A Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill looks to establish a commission to study shoreland septic systems. Unfortunately, the commission, as constituted, assumes the problem, presupposes the culprit and already has the solution: Grandfathered systems are being singled out as targets. If a system is proven to have failed, regardless if permitted or grandfathered, it should be fixed. If a system has NOT proven to have failed, regardless if permitted or grandfathered, all should be treated equally. A basic tenet of our common law is equal protection.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## **Science, Technology and Energy**

**HB358**, relative to combustion of wood residue at municipal waste combustors. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would hurt established businesses that provide energy for the grid. The DES maintains that emissions are within the established limits. Platform: "Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with businesses."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB365**, relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the limit for net metered systems from 1 megawatt to 5. Net metering of this magnitude shifts costs from the customer generators to the general ratepayers, since they pay full retail, not wholesale, for any excess or untimely power generated. Platform: work to reduce energy costs.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB464**, relative to the definitions of solar energy systems and wind-powered energy systems for assessed value of real estate exemptions. **OTP/A Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill clarifies the definitions of solar and wind energy systems. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB466**, relative to the capacity of electricity customer generators for eligibility for net energy metering. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the limit for net metering, which shifts tens of millions of costs from the customer generators to the general ratepayers. Platform:work to reduce energy costs.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB568**, relative to the New Hampshire energy strategy. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, attempts to add carbon generation and climate change to the scope of the state energy strategy; the Governor's Office of Strategic Initiatives has already addressed the issue. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB582**, relative to the regional greenhouse gas initiative cap and trade program for controlling carbon dioxide emissions. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** RGGI is a tax on energy. Platform: "Work to reduce energy costs and remove NH from RGGI."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB614**, increasing penalties for air pollution. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill doubles penalties in existing law, and states that they can be applied for every day of violation. But in most cases these penalties are not applied by DES, serving only as a stick to encourage good behavior. The Constitution asserts: "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense" and penalties that are not equitably applied violate that clause.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB715**, relative to electrical energy storage. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would enact an energy storage mandate; were it an economically viable idea, no mandate would be needed. Platform: We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## **State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs**

**HCR7**, urging the president and congress to adopt a policy renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a resolution. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

## **Transportation**

**HB321**, relative to authorized organizations producing multiple decal designs in the multi-use decal number plates program. **OTP Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow those organizations authorized to issue license plate decals to issue multiple designed decals. For example, this would allow UNH to issue more than one decal. No platform or constitutional; issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB395**, relative to number plates for motor vehicles. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would provide that a passenger vehicle shall only be required to display one number plate on the rear of the vehicle. It was argued that a single plate would be more environmentally sound and cost less to produce while police opposed the single plate as they scan front plates for ID; it was mentioned that the cash lane at toll booths only captures the front license plate for the EZ pass. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB397**, relative to drivers' licenses for New Hampshire residents who do not possess a social security card. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would create new procedures for allowing undocumented aliens to obtain a NH drivers' license, such as presenting an expired alien registration card. NH DMV stated that they may not be able to verify the authenticity of the paperwork being presented. While the bill has a penalty section for disclosing information gathered, it also refers to RSA 260:14 and all the exceptions under which gathered information can be disclosed. The amendment changes the penalties to a class B misdemeanor. Lacking the inability to authenticate foreign paperwork could lead to stolen identities. Platform: Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB471**, relative to indicating citizenship on drivers' licenses and nondrivers identification cards. **ITL Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill would have the NH drivers license and ID cards indicate whether or not the holder is a citizen of the United States of America by having the notation of either 'US Citizen' or 'Non-US Citizen'. While the license is issued by NH DMV to show the holder is allowed to drive it also is used as identification for voting in NH. Platform:...to prevent voter fraud we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registering and voting.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB498**, prohibiting OHRV operation on class V ways. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill prohibits OHRV operation on town roads. Localities can regulate this by ordinance, and it is appropriate to have it be a matter of local control. Platform: Maintain local control of ... local services.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB507**, relative to registration of commercial motor vehicles and operator's/drivers' licenses. **ITL Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** More than anything this bill highlights the taxation that is attached to registration and licensing; more than \$300,000,000 per year. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB549**, relative to gold star number plates. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows family members, as well as mothers, to get a gold star plate. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB669**, relative to gender identity information included on drivers' licenses and nondrivers' identification cards. **OTP Vote: 15-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows a driver's license to indicate M, F, or X. Since this document is widely used for identification, having it be ambiguous makes it less useful for its intended purpose, or there is no reason to indicate sex at all. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## Removed from Consent Calendar

### Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**HB536**, adding biometric information to the consumer protection act. **OTP Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds to consumer protection the improper use of biometric information. While we support personal privacy, we oppose overly broad or poorly written statutes. This legislation uses language like what "the individual reasonably expects" regarding how the information is used and using or retaining a person's "behavioral characteristics" can be a crime, subject to fines of treble damages. The intent is good, especially in light of last year's approve NH constitutional amendment on privacy being a natural right.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

## **Municipal and County Government**

**HB409**, relative to the maximum optional fee for transportation improvements charged by municipalities when collecting motor vehicle registration fees. **OTP Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows a doubling of the optional registration fee from \$5 to \$10. Turnout in local elections is notoriously low, allowing a very small minority of citizens to burden all citizens. Platform: Require super-majorities to raise taxes.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## **Resources, Recreation and Development**

**HB139**, prohibiting smoking in state parks. **OTP/A Vote: 19-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows the commissioner to adopt rules restricting smoking in state parks and other facilities operated by the department of natural & cultural resources. On one hand, the platform insists that we believe in free people; on the other, "Promote conservation of open space, sensitive ecosystems, wildlife, scenic vistas, historic and cultural landscapes, and especially New Hampshire's state historic sites." Unrestricted smoking can be dangerous in some of these locations.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support committee amendment, oppose OTP, vote your conscience on OTP/A

**HB192**, abolishing fluoridation in water. **OTP Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** In the 1940's, fluorides started to be added to public drinking water to combat tooth decay. The practice has continued to the present. The question is simple. Without a clear and present danger of an existential threat, should a government deliberately add chemicals to the public water supply for the sole purpose of mass inoculation, especially when there now exists modern, more effective and safer ways to accomplish the same goal? The NHGOP Platform states "We believe, above all else, in the founding principle that all people are created equal, endowed by our Creator with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control." Water sustains life. Liberty is defined as "the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views." In this case we have government and quasi-government entities deciding for the individual what chemicals shall be introduced into their body. In furtherance of this they are using the public water supply. This is not just a Liberty issue, it is just common sense. What's next? Put Saltpeter in the Water to Cure Toxic Masculinity?

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB512**, relative to dogs on hiking trails in state parks and state forests. **ITL Vote: 15-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows dogs to be off leash in state parks and state forests if the dog is able to be under the voice or physical control of the owner. No Constitutional or Platform Issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation