

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION SHEET



freedom

“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 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.

Bill Number	Committee	Committee Vote	HRA recommends
HB 110	Environment & Agriculture	OTP/A 11-6	Oppose OTP/A
HB 173	ED&A	OTP/A 10-9	Oppose OTP/A
HB 183		Vetoed by the Governor	No Recommendation
HB 226	Commerce	OTP/A 17-3	No Recommendation
HB 326	ED&A	Interim Study 9-7	Oppose OTP/A
HB 331	Commerce	ITL 17-3	Support ITL
HB 350	Labor	OTP/A 11-9	Oppose OTP/A
HB 403		Vetoed by the Governor	Vote NO
HB 424	Education	ITL 11-9	Oppose ITL
HB 435	Education	ITL 10-9	Oppose ITL
HB 473	ED&A	Interim Study 14-5	No Recommendation
HB 474	Education	OTP/A 11-7	Oppose OTP/A
HB 492	Criminal Justice	ITL 11-7	No Recommendation
HB 498	Criminal Justice	OTP/A 10-7	Oppose OTP/A
HB 505		Vetoed by the Governor	No Recommendation
HB 525	Children & Family	OTP/A 15-0	Support OTP/A
HB 544	Commerce	ITL 20-0	Support ITL
HB 562	Commerce	OTP/A 17-3	Oppose OTP/A
HB 585	Commerce	OTP/A 11-9	Oppose OTP/A
HB 627	ED&A	ITL 12-7	Oppose ITL
HB 660	Environment & Agriculture	ITL 12-8	Support ITL
HB 675	Criminal Justice	OTP/A 10-8	Oppose OTP/A
SB 92	Commerce	OTP 12-8	No Recommendation
SB 190	Resources	OTP/A 16-2	No Recommendation

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

Governor 's Veto of HB 183

HB 183, Relative to processing absentee ballots.

HRA Analysis: This bill, which allows towns to start processing absentee ballots as soon as two hours after the polls open, passed the House on the consent calendar. No Senate changes were incorporated. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

Governor 's Veto of HB 403

HB 403, establishing a committee to study end of life decisions.

HRA Analysis: This bill was opposed by the HRA when it first passed, and the final version is no better. The Platform, Part V, reminds us to “oppose euthanasia and physician assisted suicide.”

HRA Recommendation: Vote NO to sustain the Governor's Veto.

Governor 's Veto of HB 505

HB 505, relative to the economic development advisory council.

HRA Analysis: This bill, which modifies the membership of this advisory council, passed the House on the consent calendar, and on a voice vote to accept the minor Senate amendment. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 REGULAR CALENDAR, PART ONE

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 525-FN, raising the age of minority for juvenile delinquency proceedings from 17 to 18 years of age. **OTP/A. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would change New Hampshire's age of majority in judicial actions to agree with Massachusetts and new Federal requirements, as well as the age of adulthood for voting and nearly everything else (except drinking). Since these individuals are the offenders most likely to be rehabilitated, keeping them away from hardened criminals supports the constitutional understanding that “the true design of all punishments being to reform.” (Part 1, Article 18.)

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 544, repealing the prohibition on a state-based health exchange. **ITL. Vote 20-0.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform, Part III, reminds us to “oppose the implementation of Obamacare in New Hampshire.” This bill will have floor amendment to expand Medicaid – oppose all such amendments and support Republican procedural motions!

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

SB 92, prohibiting multiple prescription drug failures. **OTP. Vote 12-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill seems like nit-picking over-regulation – but since it only applies to insurance companies that already micromanage the sequence of drugs they'll pay for, and may ensure some patients don't have to repeatedly suffer through a series of drug failures before getting to the medication their doctors wanted them to have in the first place, it's hard to oppose.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 498, permitting firearms used military or veterans groups in the compact part of a town. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-8.**

HRA Analysis: Current statute prohibits discharge of a firearm within the “compact part” of a town or city without written permission from the town. This bill would allow armed forces personnel, military re-enactors or public safety agencies to discharge guns or cannons within the “compact part” of a town or city without written permission from the town. No Platform issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

HB 675-FN, authorizing and regulating the use of license plate scanning devices. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: Republicans support law enforcement and the rule of law. We also highly value individual freedom and everyone's right to be free from constant surveillance by the state. Concerns about the loss of privacy and likely erosion of freedom of travel that come with these devices dictate a conservative approach that falls on the side of individual liberty. The prohibition against broad, blanket searches and seizures is enshrined in the constitution. “Every subject hath a right to be secure from all unreasonable searches and seizures of his person, his houses, his papers, and all his possessions.” (Part 1, Article 19)

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.

EDUCATION

HB 424-FN, on review of chartered public school applications by the state board of education. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 11-9.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would require the state BOE to process charter school applications in a professional manner, meeting deadlines and assisting the school to complete its application if incomplete. This is no more than we expect of any government agency. The Platform, Part I, calls for initiatives to “foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.

HB 435-FN, relative to funding for chartered public school pupils. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 10-9.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would simplify the calculations of state “adequacy aid” for charter schools by setting it at half the average total cost in other public schools. The Platform, Part IV, urges us to “encourage school choice and competition,” and increasing state funding to charter schools by almost 6% (just over \$1 million) is a reasonable way to do so.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 326-FN, relative to licensure of polysomnographers. **MAJ: INTERIM STUDY. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 9-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would create a mandatory license for yet another tiny, specialized profession, increasing the size and complexity of government in favor of a group that has national certification and no record of consumer harm or complaints. The Platform, Part I, reminds us to “minimize business regulations, licenses, and paperwork.”

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study, oppose OTP/A.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 350, prohibiting discrimination against the unemployed. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform, Part I, reminds us to “minimize business regulations, licenses, and paperwork.” Employers should be able to choose from qualified applicants, not just applicants. What this bill tries to do is impossible to prove, and ultimately will force an additional financial burden on employers, who will need to defend themselves from frivolous allegations of discrimination.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SB 190-FN, relative to admission fees for certain persons at state parks and historical sites. **OTP/A. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, cuts back on some, but not all, of the special breaks and discounts granted over time to different interest groups. The state park system's operations are self-funded, primarily by fees, so the value of these discounts has to be made up by increased fees from those who are not members favored groups. There would be no free entrance and use of enterprise functions (example: ski lifts, The Flume) for seniors (admission to parks would still be free), and no free admission for legislators unless on state business. In addition, the cost of discounted admissions given to state employees via a collective bargaining agreement will be borne by the employing state agency. And finally, the bill repeals the statutory discount coupon program. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

REGULAR CALENDAR- PART TWO

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 226, establishing a committee to study the promotion of New Hampshire wines. **OTP/A. Vote 17-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, would require the Liquor Commission to promote New Hampshire wines. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

HB 331, relative to wine manufacturers. **ITL. Vote 17-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would allow New Hampshire wine manufacturers to act as wholesalers of beer and wine, including that made by others, at a mandated, minimal markup, giving them a tremendous advantage over other wholesalers. The Constitution, Part 2. Art. 83, warns us that “Free and fair competition ... is an inherent and essential right of the people.”

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 562, relative to the interest rate on title loans. **OTP/A. Vote 17-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, would increase title loan makers' reporting requirements, to both regulators and customers. The committee amendment deletes the interest rate limits that would make it impossible for title loan companies to operate. The Platform, Part I, reminds us to “minimize business regulations.”

HRA Recommendation: Support the committee amendment, oppose OTP/A.

HB 585, relative to insurance parity for optometrists. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 11-9.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, would require insurance companies to pay equally for optometrists and ophthalmologists, rather than allowing providers to negotiate their payments. The Platform, Part I, reminds us to “minimize business regulations.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

SB 180, establishing a recovery fund for victims of the Financial Resources Mortgage (FRM) fraud and continually appropriating a special fund. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would pay restitution to investors caught in the FRM fraud, losing their investments after FRM went into bankruptcy, primarily because the commercial real estate market collapsed. One of the Platform Principles is “free people, free markets, and free enterprise,” and having the state take responsibility for making these investors whole – absent clear evidence of official wrongdoing – completely violates this Principle.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 492-FN-L, relative to the legalization and regulation of marijuana. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, would decriminalize marijuana, regulate its production and sale, similar to alcohol, and tax it heavily (\$30/ounce when delivered to a retailer, plus 15% of the retail price). No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

EDUCATION

HB 474, relative to eligibility for in-state tuition rates at the university of New Hampshire. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would grant in-state tuition rates to illegal aliens, thereby declaring them to be lawful residents of New Hampshire. The Platform, Part IX, reminds us to “oppose any form of amnesty for illegal aliens”, and this would be amnesty.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 110, requiring persons who record cruelty to livestock to report such cruelty. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-6.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, would *require* anyone who witnesses such a crime to report it to the police. While cruelty to animals is heinous, neither the Constitution nor the Platform justifies imposing such a new duty on our citizens.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

HB 660-FN, requiring the labeling of genetically engineered foods. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 12-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would mandate labeling of foods sold in New Hampshire containing, or processed with, genetically engineered products, as defined in the bill. Besides being more of a national issue, the market is currently moving to voluntarily label GMO free foods, which elegantly solves this problem. The Platform, Part I, reminds us to “minimize business regulations.”

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 173, repealing the authority for supplemental allowances in the judicial retirement plan. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-9.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, would quintuple the amount available used for one time payments. The state pays 75% of a judge's salary into the judicial retirement system now, and any further draining will only make it worse. As the Platform reminds us, “low taxes are the result of low spending.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

HB 473-FN, retirement system status of the university system police force. **MAJ: INTERIM STUDY. MIN: ITL. Vote 14-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would put the university police into the state retirement system as Group II (police/fire). One the one hand, more funds would flow into the system; on the other hand, more pensions would be due eventually and the university would have to spend more. In addition, the police must stay in Social Security, and Group II is designed for jobs that aren't in SS.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

HB 627-FN, considering accumulated leave as service time in calculating retirement benefits. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 12-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would ensure that pensions are set by base salaries only, bringing the system marginally closer to the Constitutional mandate: “no pension shall be granted, but in consideration of actual services.” (Part I, Article 36)

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.