

# 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.



## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

### LACK OF LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY ALERT:

**SB 300, relative to the system benefits charge**, was introduced into the Senate a week ago and may be passed by the Senate on January 13. If it is, then it may be brought to the House today with a motion to waive the rules and allow the bill to go to a vote without a committee hearing. We spend a great deal of time as legislators involved in committee work because we know that it is an irreplaceable part of the process to ensure that the consequences of legislation are understood and the language is appropriate. This bill changes the system benefits charge to allow for a greater percentage to go to the assistance of indigent persons instead of energy efficiency projects. That may be worthwhile, but it cannot be classified an emergency – winter came to NH as and when expected – and the additional funds that are newly allocated would not be available until February, at the earliest, anyway. The bill should go to the committee for a hearing so that we can make sure that the bill is needed and not flawed. Prior rushed efforts of the legislature have too often backfired.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose Motion to Suspend Rules**

## REGULAR CALENDAR

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**HB 160**, relative to physical force in defense of a person. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 11-5.**

#### Floor Amendment to HB 160

##### Proposed by Rep. Welch

Amend the bill by replacing sections 1 and 2 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Physical Force in Defense of a Person. Amend RSA 627:4 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. A person who responds to a threat which would be considered by a reasonable person as likely to cause serious bodily injury or death to the person or to another by displaying a firearm or other means of self-defense with the intent to warn away the person making the threat shall not have committed a criminal act.

2 New Paragraph; Criminal Threatening. Amend RSA 631:4 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. A person who responds to a threat which would be considered by a reasonable person as likely to cause serious bodily injury or death to the person or to another by displaying a firearm or other means of self-defense with the intent to warn away the person making the threat shall not have committed a criminal act under this section.

**HRA Analysis:** While the underlying bill deserves our support, the proposed amendment could have the unintended consequence of inviting gun owners to use a firearm to thwart an attack or threat under circumstances that would lead to his conviction of a crime if he

used that firearm. The amendment is well-intended, but could in practice defeat the rights of individuals to use firearms to defend themselves. [Article IX].

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose the Floor Amendment and the passage of the bill if amended (OTP/A); Support the passage of the bill unamended (OTP)**

**HB 523-FN**, requiring DNA testing of all persons convicted of a felony. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 15-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** “[S]afety and security for individual citizens” is expressly a goal that our party has established in its platform. [Article IX]. DNA testing of convicted felons will certainly promote that goal.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 665-FN**, relative to driving under the influence of drugs. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 9-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill appears to invoke conflict considerations of privacy and support for law enforcement

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**SB 205-FN**, making various changes to the criminal statutes. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** Essentially this bill increases the monetary threshold for certain property crimes such as criminal mischief (destruction of property), theft, bad checks, fraudulent credit card use, etc. before they become Class A Misdemeanors or Felonies. Given the inflation we have had, and will have, from the use of fiat currency, these changes seem necessary. We will better fulfill our party’s goal of “*offering steadfast support for our law enforcement*” [Platform, Article IX] by defining and punishing crimes based on a realistic assessment of their seriousness.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

## EDUCATION

**HB 368**, relative to annual goals in a home education program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 14-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** The collectivists really do hate the success of home schooling. It challenges their public employee unions, elitist sense of omnipotence, and desire to control all within their view. Bills such as this are the tools by which they will bring the same mediocrity to parental education of children that the statist professionals have brought to public elementary and secondary education. Article XI of our platform states that “[l]aws should be implemented to encourage school choice and competition and allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children.” HB 368 works to defeat that ideal.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**SB 59**, relative to the renovation and replacement of school buildings. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 10-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** By giving local school districts more flexibility, this bill effectively limits state intrusion in local education. Our platform promotes local control of education. [Article XI]. This bill does not.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

## ELECTION LAW

**HB 341**, relative to the date selected for the presidential primary election. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 15-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** Further strengthens our first in the nation primary. “*New Hampshire’s First-in-the-Nation Presidential Primary must be preserved.*” [Platform, Article III.]

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 626-FN**, requiring valid photo identification to vote in person. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 14-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** “*Voting in NH must be done by NH resident citizens only. To prevent voter fraud, we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registration and voting.*” [Platform, Article V.]

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose Amendment; But if Passes, Support OTP/A**

**SB 157**, relative to the procedure for listing candidates on election ballots and establishing a citizen-funded election task force. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 12-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This Bill provides for random placement of candidates and parties on ballots and appears to do so without partisan advantage. The citizen-funded task force is removed by the amendment to the bill.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

## ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

**HB 652-FN**, relative to the impact of demolition and construction projects on the environment. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 10-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would introduce a very expensive and unnecessary increased governmental intrusion into the already stressed construction industry. The NH GOP platform informs our constituents that we will be “*Working to prevent over-regulation of business.*” We can do so here by killing this bill.

**HRA Recommendation: Support INTERIM STUDY or ITL.**

**HB 675-FN**, requiring a refundable deposit on beverage containers. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 9-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is bad for business and unnecessary. It is a poster child for overregulation of business and life in general, all of which is opposed by our party.

**HRA Recommendation: Support INTERIM STUDY, if Interim Study Fails, Support ITL**

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**HB 401-FN**, relative to the membership of the retirement system board of trustees. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will improve the management of the NH Retirement System by reducing the influence of plan beneficiaries. This improvement will result in greater efficiencies with a goal of reducing government spending. Low taxes are the result of low spending and our platform supports low taxes and spending.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

**HB 410**, relative to the licensing of alcohol and drug counselors. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 17-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** the Platform, Section XIII, says we “*support efforts for higher quality health care and better access to health care,*” and this bill is a step in that direction.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

**HB 673-FN**, relative to withdrawal of political subdivisions from the New Hampshire retirement system. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** No constitutional or platform issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

## FINANCE

**HB 682-FN**, relative to court security and court security officers. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 14-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would have cost nearly 8 million dollars over the course of two years. While there might be some benefit in having county sheriffs begin to be responsible for court security, there is also a significant downside in cost. Div I looked long and hard at the costs involved. We finally believed that the costs might even be under-stated. In addition to all the training our sheriffs already get, they will receive \$195,000 each year for additional training --- this on top of the \$8 million cost for two years

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

## JUDICIARY

**HB 50**, repealing the law relative to screening panels for medical injury claims. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 18-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** Only with medical malpractice suits, is the plaintiff required to have a full evidentiary trial before a three-person panel prior to proceeding to a full jury trial. Article 14 of the Constitution mandates that legal remedies be prompt. A full evidentiary trial before a panel is costly and time consuming. This bill amended the law so as to allow for the panel hearing to be by offers-of-proof rather than full trials. Medical reports and expert opinions can be provided without the need for experts to be present. This is the same methodology utilized in other states. This slight change in the procedure will save time and money for the courts and all parties. It keeps the panel law in effect but makes the procedure less costly.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

**HB 191**, relative to liability of a landowner giving permission to ride bicycles on his or her property. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** Currently RSA 212:34 gives land owner immunity from suit for 13 recreational activities conducted on the owners land with permission. This bill adds one more category, Bicycling. The purpose of the statute is to encourage recreational activities on private property, by limiting liability. Our party recognizes “that frivolous lawsuits are burdensome to our legal system, a detriment to

the New Hampshire economy, and an abuse of the judicial process.” [Platform, Article X.]

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP**

**HB 219**, relative to hearings for incapacitated persons admitted to state institutions by their guardians. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** The purpose of this bill is to shorten the time between a non-voluntary State Hospital commitment of a ward under guardianship, and a commitment hearing requested by the ward. There was only one instance, under current law, where a ward requested a commitment hearing and the hearing was not promptly provided. This occurred when the ward caused his own delay as a result of firing three of his court appointed attorneys. Individual freedom is prized under our platform, but this bill is more of a feel-good effort. It does nothing more than shorten the notice times without offering any penalties for missing dates. The one positive element to the bill is that it provides for all commitment hearings to take place in Concord at the State Hospital, thus allowing for greater efficiencies.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

**HB 304**, relative to death with dignity for certain persons suffering from a terminal condition. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 14-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This is a technically and philosophically flawed bill. It authorizes a physician to prescribe lethal medication to a terminally ill patient or even one who is merely depressed as a result of his/her illness. Once the medication is prescribed, the physician has no further duties or responsibilities; the patient is left to his/her own resources as to taking the fatal pills or abandoning the medication. There are no safeguards to protect the patient or for the proper disposal of fatal pills not utilized. The bill requires no physician supervision. Currently all citizens have the power and ability to choose the time, place and method of death, but when government legislates suicide it promotes the process. Life is precious. Interim study gives this bill the dignified death it does not deserve, but a deserved death nonetheless. Our party [o]ppose(s) ... physician assisted suicide.” [Platform, Article VIII.]

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL; if Fails, Support Interim Study, But Oppose OTP,**

**HB 379**, exempting certain meetings concerning collective bargaining from the right-to-know law. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill was sponsored by one community, Nashua. Nashua requested that strategy meetings relating to collective bargaining be exempt from the Right to Know Law. While secret strategy meeting will make the process easier, it is contrary to NH Const. Part 1, Art. 8, that government should be open, accessible and responsive. The minority feels that Nashua has not shown that the current process is sufficiently restrictive to allow for government behind closed doors.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, vote ITL**

## **LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

**HB 108**, establishing an employers' private right of action to enforce the payment of workers' compensation coverage. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 14-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** Our platform recognizes that frivolous lawsuits are burdensome to our legal system, a detriment to the New Hampshire economy, and an abuse of the judicial process. This bill allows employers to file civil action in court against other employers who they believe (without proof) are misclassifying employees. Enforcement of labor law is the job of the Department of Labor, not private employers.

**HRA Recommendation: Support REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY or INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

**HB 133**, requiring employers to report certain information regarding outsourcing to the department of labor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 10-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** Our platform calls for preventing over-regulation of business. This bill adds yet another reporting requirement on certain businesses (even if they haven't been outsourcing), without knowledge of whether the data collected will be for or against businesses in the future.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

**HB 271**, relative to relevant information in a workers' compensation claim. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** Our platform supports the privacy of individuals. This bill was filed for an isolated incident where personal information was mistakenly released. While the intent of the bill was noble, the end result was overly punitive to one segment of the industry, while not holding others responsible for their part of the process. In this regard, the bill is not ready for prime time.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE or REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY**

**HB 662-FN**, relative to paid sick leave for employees. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 9-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is gross over-regulation of business, with the state telling businesses what they must offer as sick-time benefits to their employees. This is counter to our platform.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support INTERIM STUDY or ITL

## LOCAL AND REGULATED REVENUES

**HB 484**, relative to the definition of charitable organizations for raffles and games of chance. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 12-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience.

**HB 487**, allowing municipalities to adopt a property tax exemption for compliance with green building standards. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 10-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** Although the Platform urges us to “Encourage the use and private development of renewable energies,” having a statute that the committee admits is liable to unintended consequences will not do that efficiently nor effectively.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Interim Study

**HB 630-FN-A**, relative to live racing in New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 15-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience.

## MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**HB 646-FN-L**, relative to county and state obligations for costs for nursing care and services, and for court orders for children services. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience.

## RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**HB 218-FN**, relative to the state park fund. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 15-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill rectifies the differences in how the State Park Fund operates in actuality versus what was conceived under statute. No Constitution or Platform issues here.

**HRA Recommendation:** No Recommendation.

**HB 222**, relative to fill and dredge permits in wetlands. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** The Chapter Laws of 2008 established a commission to study land development regulations and the effects of land development within upland areas that may affect wetlands and surface water of the state. The commission is made up of both regulators and stakeholders. They have spent much of a year working to develop a fair regulation concerning the affects on wetlands of development in adjoining uplands. They look to complete their effort in late 2010. Over the objections of most members of the commission, the RR&D Committee voted to impose their own regulation embodied in HB222. The Department of Environmental Services, the supposed “beneficiary” of this bill, opposed it and has called it a “lawyers dream.” It is opposed by the Department of Transportation and the New Hampshire Municipal Association. A leading proponent of the bill is the Conservation Law Foundation who many may have heard of concerning the delays to the Rte 93 construction. Whereas the GOP Platform states that we will work “to prevent over-regulation.” In addition, the platform “Recognizes that frivolous lawsuits are burdensome to our legal system, a detriment to the New Hampshire economy, and an abuse of the judicial process.” This bill is at best premature and at its worst a litigation nightmare.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OPT/A, then Support ITL

**HB 558-FN**, establishing procedures for leasing state parks for use by private entities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill started out as a device to prevent the leasing of Cannon Mountain Ski area and morphed into a procedure to provide enough red tape and interference to possibly prevent the leasing of any state park as the state park system struggles to make itself more efficient. For example, for every lease there would be a committee formed (with local participation) that would hold hearings and exist for the life of the lease. In addition, surrounding towns would get some of the proceeds from the lease and the attorney general could supply them a lawyer if they felt they deserved a bigger piece of the pie! The NHGOP Platform recognizes that “Our parks...are valuable assets.” To manage them other than for the benefit of ALL New Hampshire residents is clearly wrong.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL**

**HB 681-FN**, relative to aquatic resource compensatory mitigation. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 14-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** In order to develop land on which there may be wetlands, a developer is required to mitigate the wetland damage by purchasing other wetlands, or creating wetlands in the area, to compensate. There is now the option to deposit the money that would have gone to local mitigation into a fund that would allow for purchase of more significant acreages in the future. This is a good thing. However, this bill would increase the administrative fee to participate in the fund from 5% to 20% of the monies donated. The DES states that this surcharge is because federal funding to administer the fund is ending and this would be the amount necessary to pay for 2 people. It should be noted that the RR&D Committee defeated an amendment that would have taken the funding from the fund itself and not as a surcharge or administrative fee. The NHGOP Platform is replete with admonitions concerning excessive fees and taxation.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL**

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY**

**HB 213-FN**, requiring the bureau of emergency communications to develop and maintain a statewide emergency notification system. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 17-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is to set up a reverse 911 notification system. The money has already been collected per federal requirement (E-911 surcharge) and can only be spent on E-911 and this system qualifies. Cell phone users can opt in if they choose. The state party platform notes that, "*The New Hampshire Advantage cannot survive without safety and security for individual citizens.*" [Article IX.] This legislation will promote safety and security.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 571-FN**, relative to limited driving privileges for certain persons whose licenses have been revoked or suspended and relative to DWI convictions. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** The effort was to allow those with a first time offense to continue to drive to and from work in order to keep them employed and off of government support programs. There are issues with the language that create a problem for police to enforce the policies intended in the bill, those issues need to be addressed.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 579-FN**, establishing motor vehicle learners' permits and relative to youth operators' licenses. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 8-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires learning drivers to pay an additional fee to sit for a written exam before they are allowed to start their driving hours with a parent or guardian. The bill however fails to truly address youth driver issues. There are no accidents to date that could be cited for the committee involving learning drivers. Teenagers who are licensed do have a higher incident of accidents, but that issue is best addressed by increasing the driving time requirements, as done last session, and to ensure more hours of practice that included night driving.

This bill also creates a new administration in the DMV with new employees hired to handle this additional testing estimated to cost 1 Million Dollars in the first year with increases each year due to employee salaries and benefits. The estimated revenue from the new fee is \$600,000 per year, leaving a budget deficit each year of operation.

This creates an unfair hardship on parents by the cost of the first year of driving from \$50 for licensing to \$70 in addition to driver's education instruction.

The bill is opposed by the Driver's Educators Association. Current New Hampshire law requires youth drivers who wish to have a license at the age of 16 to complete 40 hours of driving with 10 hours at night, driver's education classes, an eye exam, a written test, and a driving test. Having 2 written exams is a waste of the taxpayer dollars that will have to cover the estimated \$400,000 short fall for the first year alone.

Due to the increase in the size of government, increase on taxation and fees to citizens the HRA opposes this bill

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA; Support ITL**

## **WAYS AND MEANS**

**HB 597-FN-A-L**, revising the property tax relief program in order to cap education tax payments at one percent of adjusted gross income. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 11-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** The Platform states that we “*Support initiatives that lower property taxes for those in need,*” but this bill would only offset the state education tax, which is the smallest element of the property tax. It would complicate the tax relief program while being less effective.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Interim Study or ITL.

**HB 642-FN-A-L**, establishing a flat rate education income tax and relative to the statewide enhanced education tax and certain other taxes. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 16-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** We oppose income taxes. [Platform, Article IV.]

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL.

**HB 656-FN-L**, relative to collection of the education property tax and establishing a program to rebate certain excessive property tax payments of eligible taxpayers. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 11-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, creates a new centralized bureaucracy to collect the state education tax *at the same rate it's now collected*. It looks like a way to prepare for another statewide tax ... while the Platform recommends “*Maintaining a locally controlled tax system*”.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Interim Study or ITL.

**SB 44**, establishing a commission to review all fees charged by the department of environmental services. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** The Platform states that we recommend “*Keeping state government lean to minimize its burden on taxpayers and businesses*”. Whether or not this commission would be a better way to do so is not obvious.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

## **BILLS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**HB 380**, relative to long-term care. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 14-0.** (Removed by Rep Vaillancourt)

**HRA Analysis:** The majority report recognizes that the “Long-term Care Commission” proposed by this bill is duplicative of current efforts. The GOP platform establishes a goal of “[k]eeping state government lean to minimize its burden on taxpayers and businesses.” [Platform, Article VI.] Redundant commission and overlapping mandates will not achieve this goal.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Interim Study or ITL; Oppose Recommendation, OTP or OTP/A.

## **LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

**HB 631-FN-L**, relative to public employee collective bargaining negotiations under the public employee labor relations act. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 17-0.** (Removed by Rep Burrige)

**HRA Analysis:** This bill does not achieve the goal of more quickly resolving public employee labor negotiations, but makes them complicated by replacing a single fact finder with a panel of three and adding to the deadlines for an impasse to be resolved. Making governmental operations unnecessarily complicated does not achieve our party’s goal of a lean government. [Platform, Article VI.]

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Interim Study or ITL; Oppose Recommendation, OTP or OTP/A.

**HB 663-FN**, relative to working families' flexibility. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 11-2.** (Removed by Rep Vaillancourt)

**HRA Analysis:** It used to be if you wanted to change your employment hours, you asked your boss and talked it over. He allowed the change or he didn't. If he didn't, you stayed at that job or you didn't. Under this bill we would substitute that straight-forward and intuitive approach with a bureaucratic nightmare of forms and deadlines, none of which would guaranty an employee anything but the possibility that his employer might default in playing the game, thereby giving rise to claims and litigation. Our platform seeks to promote a healthy business environment, not one that employers will avoid by growing employment outside of NH or, if they are already here, by adopting the European approach of hiring new employees as a last resort.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Interim Study or ITL; Oppose Recommendation, OTP or OTP/A.

## **WAYS AND MEANS**

**HB 232**, permitting the pesticide control board to establish pesticide fees. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 19-0.** (Removed by Rep Almy)

**HRA Analysis:** This bill gives the Department of Agriculture the power to set fees, although an amendment, thought by its proponents to be more reasonable, will limit the increase of the pesticide fee to 50%. Only those fully imbued with the statist ideal that

government knows best and should be (more than) adequately funded to do all it can, would think of that as a compromise. Our party platform and good common sense directs our efforts toward a limited, fiscal prudent government. HB 232 does not.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose any motions to Recommit, OTP or OTP/A. Support Interim Study or ITL**

**“We were the first to assert that the more complicated the forms assumed by civilization, the more restricted the freedom of the individual must become.”**

**~ Benito Mussolini (1929)**