

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20  
REGULAR CALENDAR**

**TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 280, a committee to study placing medal decals on special number plates for veterans. OTP/A. Vote 15-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill creates a special license plate for veterans *and* everyone else who keeps asking for one. Any charitable organization that registers with the DMV can make and sell the decals; the state simply clears a space for it on a generic plate. No constitutional issues; the only Platform issue is that it eliminates a number of bills every year, making the legislature more efficient.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 586, relative to registration of automobile utility trailers. OTP/A. Vote 8-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a set of non-government registrars for trailers, allowing residents and non-residents to register their trailers here, and get multi-year discounts. The amendment ensures that residents using these registrars pay their town fees; non-residents needn't. This bill creates a new type of business, with the possibility of bringing in many non-resident registrations, as Maine does. The Platform urges us to "Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector."

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

**WAYS AND MEANS**

**HB 359, allowing municipalities in Carroll county to offer property tax exemptions to foster commercial and industrial construction. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill as written gives Carroll County the same tax exemption authority as Coos County. The committee amendment broadens that authority to all counties. The Platform states: "Government has the moral obligation to be as cost effective as possible." If the citizens of any county feel this program is of benefit to them, the State should not stand in their way.

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

**HB 552, requiring the state treasurer to develop an implementation plan for the state to accept bitcoin as payment for taxes and fees. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 13-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require the Treasurer to accept the risks of collecting these unregulated funds, and incur the expense of setting up a bitcoin exchange. The Platform reminds us that “low taxes are the result of low spending.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**HB594, establishing keno. MAJ:OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows any licensed establishment to offer keno, an electronic lottery. On the one hand, the Platform warns against gambling; on the other, this will help our businesses flourish.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 630, establishing the New Hampshire video lottery. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 12-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** HB630 creates the New Hampshire video lottery whereby on-premise liquor licensees (bars, restaurants, clubs, etc) may license up to six video slot machines which must be located out-of-sight of minors. The businesses retain 33% of the proceeds and 67% goes to the education trust fund to reduce the statewide property tax. According to the fiscal note, this amount is expected to be \$217M per year. Unlike casino bills, HB630 is consistent with both the constitution and the platform. The constitution has anti-monopoly and anti-corruption language. Since there would be roughly 1,000 small-time licensees under HB630 there would be no monopoly and no corrupting concentrated funds. The platform states that we will "reject expanded casino and video lottery gambling as a means to balance the budget or increase spending". HB630 directs funds to tax reduction, not increased spending.

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

## **BILLS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW**

**HB 211, establishing a commission to study domestic affairs. ITL. Vote 14-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would set up a study commission. No Constitutional or Platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 249, on the award of alimony and the enforcement of orders under RSA 458. INTERIM STUDY. Vote 16-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** No Constitutional or Platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 378, shared residential responsibility and a commission to study child care issues. OTP/A. Vote 15-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill sets up a study commission. No Constitutional or Platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

### **LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

**HB 400, relative to the mileage reimbursement rate for legislators and prohibiting deductions from compensation or mileage reimbursement of representatives. ITL. Vote 9-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill eliminates the “federal” mileage rate which most representatives use, mandating the lower “state” rate. It also prohibits deductions – including FICA and medicare – from our stipends and mileage reimbursements. No Constitutional or Platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

### **WAYS AND MEANS**

**CACR 2, Providing that dedicated funds shall be used solely for the purpose of the fund. ITL. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This constitutional amendment would limit spending by eliminating “raiding” dedicated funds unless supported by two thirds of the House and Senate. Since most dedicated funds are funded by user fees (ie, hunting and fishing licenses go to the Fish & Game fund) it is proper that these fees are used for the purposes those paying the fees support. Requiring that the funds be used appropriately should also lower fees. The Platform urges us to “Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending” and making sure that dedicated

funds are used for the intended purpose sets the priorities to those users are willing to support.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.**

**HB 585, relative to fines for violation of alcoholic beverage laws. OTP/A. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** By adding a 24% “penalty assessment” to every fine levied for *any* violations not already included, not just liquor violations, this bill increases state revenue without regard to the fitness of the punishment to the crime. The platform: “Strongly oppose new taxes and fees.” The committee has since realized that their amendment applies to more than alcohol violations and should have a floor amendment to fix it. At that point the bill adds the penalty assessment only to alcohol related violations, and the Constitution requires the punishment to fit the crime. You decide.

**HRA Recommendation: Support the committee floor amendment, no recommendation on bill.**

**HB 668, relative to expense deductions under the business profits tax. ITL. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the allowable write off for equipment from \$25,000 to \$100,000, mirroring the old federal allowance for these “Section 179” expenses. Current (December 2015) federal law is at \$500,000, so we have a way to go. By making it an immediate deduction, rather than depreciation, businesses will have more funds sooner to invest in their businesses. The Platform: “Cut or eliminate taxes which inhibit enterprise.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP or tabling.**

## **ADDITIONAL REPORTS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20 REGULAR CALENDAR**

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**SB 447, (New Title) establishing a commission to study Narcan. OTP. Vote 14-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would set up a study commission. No Constitutional or Platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**SB 576, (New Title) relative to the penalty for possession and use of fentanyl-class drugs, insurance coverage for substance use disorders, the funding of the**

**controlled drug prescription health and safety program, the membership of the board of medicine, and prescribers of controlled drugs. OTP. Vote 11-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill contains *nine* separate sections dealing with the opioid crisis. 1. Increases penalties for illicit use of fentanyl-class drugs to be the same as for heroin; 2. deletes the ban on funding the controlled prescription database with tax dollars; 3. clarifies who can access this database; 4. requires prescribers to query this database before prescribing opioids in some cases; 5. mandates a new, on-line opioid training requirement for all prescribers; 6. adds two physicians to the medical board's technical review committee; 7. clarifies the requirements for providing substance abuse treatment under medicaid; 8. forbids the first two outpatient visits for substance abuse therapy to require prior authorization for *all* health insurance policies; and 9. requires DHHS to determine whether a 24-hour drug crisis hotline is needed, and if so, who should run it and how to fund it. No Constitutional or Platform issues identified on items 1, 3, 6 and 7. Item 2 removes a guard against excess spending by the state. Item 4 creates a new mandate on prescribers, but it only applies if the database is updated to current standards of ease of use (at a cost of \$100,000 +); item 5 also increases continuing education requirements for prescribers and adds development costs for the on-line training, significantly increasing spending by the licensing boards. Item 8 is a new mandate to be included by all health policies in the state. Item 9 simply hands our authority to the department; it may have no practical effect, but presumably they would decide to have one and suggest raising taxes to fund it! The Platform states “low taxes are the result of low spending” and also warns against insurance mandates and additional regulations on professionals.

**HRA Recommendation: Support a motion to divide the question, No Recommendation on items 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9. Oppose items 2, 4, 5, and 8. Oppose OTP if the motion to divide fails.**

## **EDUCATION**

**SB 369, requiring public schools to include drug and alcohol education as part of their health education curriculum. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill replicates current law, and the amendment merely changes “shall” to “should,” thereby eliminating a possible 28-a issue. No Constitutional or Platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: Support the committee amendment, oppose OTP without it.**