

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, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

SPECIAL ORDER

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HB 571-FN, relative to limited driving privileges for certain persons whose licenses have been revoked or suspended and relative to DWI convictions.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

REGULAR CALENDAR

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SPECIAL ORDER

SB 193, relative to the interest rate on small loans and relative to the definition of lender for purposes of regulating such loans. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 9-7.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform says we are “*Working to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses,*” and this bill would eliminate small lenders while ignoring larger, federally regulated lenders having the exact same practices.

Please note that there has been an ITL vote on this bill already. It is before the House now on an OPT motion. We understand there will be a bipartisan motion to make the reference interest rate cap conform to Federal guidelines.

HRA Recommendation: Support Amendment motion to make a bad bill better; then Oppose OTP or OTP/A depending on vote on amendment

EDUCATION

HB 1383-FN, requiring a course in business or financial literacy as a prerequisite to high school graduation. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 16-3.**

HRA Analysis: "It is the position of the Republican Party that: Local control of education policy ... creates the best-managed school systems." [Platform, Article XI.] Parents and concerned citizens, working with their local school boards, can best determine the educational needs of their children. The State, with its one-size-fits all mandates and social engineering predilections, ought to stay out of education.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 1569-FN, establishing the salary for the position of director of community corrections in the department of corrections. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 12-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill does not create any positions nor actually change anyone's pay in Corrections at this time. The amendment slightly increases pay at the NH Hospital, in an attempt to fill a full time position at less cost than multiple part-timers plus overtime. The policy position is not in conflict with the Constitution or the platform; the impact on government spending is minimal.

HRA Position: No Recommendation.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1200, relative to the definition of "abutter" for notice of land use board hearings. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: More of the liberal, anti-business incrementalism that will certainly cause residential development, and therefore housing to become more expensive, create a "need" for more bureaucratic solutions to achieve affordable housing, and likely have no substantial or new benefits to those affected by the development. Our party platform correctly notes that we should work "to prevent over-regulation of business..." [Platform, Article VI.] HB 1200 is antithetical to that goal.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 1152, naming a bridge in Wolfeboro in honor of Spc. Matthew J. Stanley. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 15-0.**

HB 1181, naming a portion of route 43 after the Honorable Robert A. Johnson. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 14-0.**

HB 1446, naming a bridge in Hopkinton in honor of Officer Sean M. Powers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 13-0.**

HB 1563, naming a bridge in Salem in honor of Corporal Nicholas Arvanitis, Staff Sergeant Edmund Lo, and Marine Lance Corporal Robert L. Moscillo. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis of House Bills 1152, 1181, 1446 and 1563: In the future a young person may pause on one of these bridges or on route 127 and have cause to consider the ultimate sacrifice paid by Matthew Stanley, as he was defending our country in Iraq, or perhaps the promising life denied young Officer Sean Powers as he began a life of service to his community, or the volunteer efforts of former legislator Robert Johnson, or possibly the last full measure of devotion to our country paid by Salem natives Corporal Nicholas Arvanitis, Staff Sergeant Edmund Lo, and Marine Lance Corporal Robert L. Moscillo in Iraq, and be inspired to emulate their fidelity to community, state and country. We honor them and we inform our future by the small gestures called for in these bills. Our party's platform concludes with the exhortation, "May God bless the United States of America and the State of New Hampshire." We were blessed when He gave us these men.

HRA Recommendation: Support these bills.

TRANSPORTATION

HB 1498, relative to obscured figures or letters on number plates attached to motor vehicles. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 12-2.**

HRA Analysis: Selling plate covers in state stores and then pulling people over and fining them for using them on their vehicles is absurd. This bill would in the very least give the person a chance to remove the cover and avoid a \$150.00 fine for using something they bought legally. As our platform notes, "*self-control and personal responsibility* [should be] *the primary means to reduce crime.*" [Platform, Article IX.] Our criminal laws should first assume such self-control and impose penalties when it is demonstrably absent.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 1559-FN, relative to gold star number plates. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 10-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill presented many difficult issues and many of us wanted to approve this bill. It was presented based on a heartfelt intent to support our families of falling soldiers. However, over 18 different veterans groups oppose this bill. They do not want the history of the Gold Star Mother plate changed; they would support a Gold Star Family plate that leaves the Mother's plates in tacked.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

The following bills may be removed from the Consent Calendar:

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1687, relative to the procedure for filling a vacancy among county officers. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 17-0.**

HRA Analysis: If passed, this bill would allow county delegations to fill the vacant offices of county officials (sheriff, county attorney, register of deeds, treasurer and commissioner) by secret ballot for all times and all offices. The reason for this permanent and far-reaching change is, it appears, the delegates of one county convention want to hide their votes for an upcoming election. Denying the people the right to know how their elected representatives are voting may be convenient to delegates seeking to avoid embarrassment and controversy; it does nothing to serve our obligation to represent our constituents and let them know how they are being represented. It is yet another brick in the wall between the people and their elected representatives. It is directly contrary to the NH Constitution's requirement for an open and accountable government. Instead, it is secrecy to avoid accountability, pure and simple.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 1520, relative to the rulemaking authority of and administrative fine authority for the department of resources and economic development. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: Our party platform mandates us to work for a government that will "*preserve and protect individual liberty [and that is] founded upon the people's consent.*" [Platform, Article V.] Ceding to a state agency rule making power that includes the right to designate behavior that will result in \$2000 administrative fines and transferring to that agency a power to define new misdemeanor crimes, and then incentivizing local police to become revenue agents collecting those fines so their towns and cities will get half, neither respects the liberty of our fellow citizens nor ensures the criminal laws they live under will be founded upon their consent exercised through their legislators.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 1534, relative to the issuance of air permits and certain fees relative to air permits. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 14-0.**

HRA Analysis: Those who are fans of new licensing and broad agency regulations and rule making authority, will surely appreciate HB 1534, for this bill will requires that "[t]he construction, installation, operation, or modification of any device ... shall be prohibited unless the source possesses a temporary permit or operating permit whether a permit-by-notification, general permit, or an individual operating permit issued by the commissioner [of the Department of Environmental Services]." What are or are not such air devices and what the conditions will be required for permits to use them are left to the discretion of state employees, subject to, most likely, only the most cursory oversight. We can legislate more competently for our constituents than this and certainly can do more to avoid violating our party's goal to avoid unnecessary regulation of business [Platform, Article V.]

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

"The essence of contemporary liberalism is the illiberal conviction that Americans, in their comprehensive incompetence, need minute supervision by government, which liberals believe exists to spare citizens the torture of thinking and choosing."

~ George Will (2010)