

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE

RECOMMENDATION SHEET

In honor of President Reagan's 100th birthday this past weekend, here's a favorite quote from his 1965 autobiography:

“The classic liberal used to be the man who believed the individual was, and should be forever, the master of his destiny. He now takes the ancient feudal position that power is everything. He believes in a stronger and stronger central government, in the philosophy that control is better than freedom. The conservative now quotes Thomas Paine, a longtime refuge of the liberal: ‘Government is a necessary evil; let us have as little of it as possible.’”



REGULAR CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 101-FN-A, relative to industrial hemp and establishing an industrial hemp special program fund. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: New Hampshire does not prohibit the growing of hemp. This bill limits individual liberties and creates a bureaucracy to oversee the seed sales, growth and sale of hemp increasing the size and budget cost of the NH Department of Agriculture which violates the Republican Party platform.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 136-FN, repealing the uniform athlete agents act. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 7-5.**

HRA Analysis: The statute RSA 332-J is harmful in that it encourages reliance on the government to protect people from their own decisions. It restricts individual liberties. This bill repeals RSA 332-J.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

HJR 3, prohibiting the implementation of certain rules of the board of mental health practice regarding misconduct investigation. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 11-0.**

HRA Analysis: The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) found that the new rules of the Board of Mental Health Practice could violate patient privacy and confidentiality. Republicans do not want government “interfering in [citizens'] personal, daily lives.”

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

HB 167, naming the Enfield wildlife management area after former fish and game biologist Henry Laramie. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill does not violate either the NH Constitution or Republican Party platform.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation. Vote your conscience.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 71, authorizing establishment of pharmaceutical drug take-back programs. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 17-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows New Hampshire communities and private entities to establish drug take-back programs to dispose of unused or expired medication. There is some dispute as to whether simpler methods of disposing drugs would suffice and how the programs are structured. The Republican Platform states that [we will] “Deal effectively with waste disposal and pollution.” It also states that the party “promotes a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable to its citizens without interfering in their personal, daily lives”, “opposes the enactment of federal programs that contradict the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution” [*federal drug laws are clearly 10th amendment violations*] and “believes programs and functions should be reviewed to identify those that can be implemented more effectively in the private sector.”

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation. Vote your conscience.

JUDICIARY

HB 94, relative to public access to advisory committee meetings under the right-to-know law. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 16-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would ease 91-A (open meeting law) restrictions for advisory committee meetings by allowing them to meet electronically (including the public). Republicans are wary of watering down public access to meetings; the party “promotes a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable to its citizens...” and “we believe in the citizens' right to access government information...”

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

HB 190, relative to legislative study committees. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 10-5.**

HRA Analysis: This legislation limits membership of legislative study committees to members of the General Court. The bill also requires study committee reports to be filed electronically. This makes for both more open and more efficient government.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 85, relative to the definition of "abutter" for notice of land use board hearings. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 14-2.**

HRA Analysis: The purpose of this bill is to extend the definition of an “abutter” to all unit owners rather than the association board in a “condominium or other collective form of ownership” for the purpose of notification of a hearing by a land use board. While Republicans believe in “open ... and fully accountable” government, we also want government to be “effective and efficient.” This bill arguably takes openness to an excessive, uneconomical extreme.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation. Vote your conscience.

HB 155, relative to permits to conduct raffles. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 12-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill makes charitable raffle permits expire in a year instead of after a single raffle. It reduces red tape for charities that hold more than one raffle a year.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

HB 198, relative to the investment options for county funds. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 14-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows county treasurers an additional option when investing surplus county funds, to put them in pooled money market funds that hold US treasury bonds. This does not appear to be a Republican Platform issue.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation. Vote your conscience.

STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 89, requiring the attorney general to file lawsuits challenging the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's cap and trade program. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-3.**

HRA Analysis: The patient protection and affordable care act would result in huge unfunded mandates for New Hampshire, a concern worthy of action by the attorney general. These expensive mandates appear to violate our state sovereignty. A secondary concern was that the patient protection and affordable care act requires that New Hampshire citizens purchase a health care insurance policy against their will, a violation of individual rights that should be opposed. It was verified that there would be no cost to join the lawsuits. Part 2, Article 41 of the NH Constitution specifically directs the Governor and by extension the Attorney General, to execute the laws, bring law suits supporting the Constitution, and not sue the legislature.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP with Amendment.

HCR 1, urging the congressional delegation to begin the process for a constitutional amendment establishing that human beings, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote: 8-5.**

HRA Analysis: This HCR is a thinly veiled attempt to prohibit corporations from donating to candidates during the election process. Corporations are voluntary associations of people. This bill violates the rights of association and free speech.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.