

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, FEBRUARY 13

REGULAR CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

CACR 23, relating to parental rights. Providing that the State shall not abridge the right of parents to control the welfare and education of their children. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 12-4.**

Over the years state has eroded the rights and duties of parents. Furthermore, the GOP platform states: “Oppose actions that inhibit and/or supplant the role of parents in the care and upbringing of children.” For once the liberal mantra rings true. This amendment is truly “FOR THE CHILDREN.”

Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support the Itse floor Amendment and Support OTP/A

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1193-L, relative to planning and zoning enforcement decisions. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 12-2.**

This bill requires that zoning and planning officials report to the governing body why they did not act on a complaint. There is argument for both sides of the issue. Zoning and planning enforcement is a very sensitive area in most municipalities and under intense public scrutiny. The governing body should be closely supervising those who perform those functions. Conversely, absent pressing need, it could be argued that how that supervision is accomplished need not be dictated by the Legislature. Use your best judgment.

No Recommendation

HB 1306, relative to the removal of commercial signs placed on public property. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 13-1.**

This bill would empower private citizens to remove “illegal” commercial signs from public property. Common sense dictates that allowing the creation of self-appointed “sign police” could create serious unintended consequences. Allow the municipal authorities to do their jobs.

Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 1452-FN-L, relative to the impact fee for development affecting state highways. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 12-1.**

This bill would allow municipalities to assess impact fees on developments when that impact is on a state-maintained highway within the municipality. An argument can be made for and against this proposal, depending on the nexus one believes exists between the development’s affects on the highway and the municipal impact. Use your best judgment.

No Recommendation

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 1456, naming route 202 in Strafford County the Charles E. Smith Memorial Highway. **OTP/A. Vote 13-0.**

Why isn’t this on the Consent Calendar?

Recommendation: Support OTP/A

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 1154, establishing a commission to study flooding in the town of Bradford, specifically Lake Massasecum, Lake Todd, and the watershed. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 9-7.**

This appears to be a local problem which was caused by actions at the local level and should be dealt with at the local level and not by state dollars.

Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 1264, relative to prohibiting ATV and trail bike use on state-owned rail trails acquired using federal funds. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: OTP/A. Vote 10-6.**

Unused rail corridors have been purchased with federal funds. One stipulation in obtaining the funds was that no motorized vehicles, except snowmobiles in winter, were allowed. Prior to 2005, there was no New Hampshire definition of snowmobiles, only snow traveling vehicles, which the Feds accepted. DRED considered ATV's to be snow traveling vehicles and allowed them on the trails. In 2005, ATV's & snowmobiles were given separate definitions. DRED has applied for a waiver to allow ATV's to use the trails in winter. This bill would negate the waiver even if it were granted. There are conflicting opinions as to the need for this legislation. As such, use your best judgment.

No Recommendation

STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SPECIAL ORDER

HB 1391-FN, prohibiting the investment of state funds in the energy sectors of countries that have been identified by the United States Department of State as state sponsors of terrorism. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 11-5.**

The New Hampshire Republican Party Platform states: "The New Hampshire Advantage cannot survive without safety and security for individual citizens" and that we support: "Developing and implementing an effective Homeland Security Program for New Hampshire " An easy step toward accomplishing those goals is to ensure that our state is not doing business with those countries who wish to do us harm. **Recommendation: Oppose REFER FOR INTERIM SUDY, then Support OTP.**

SPECIAL ORDER

HCR 13, urging Congress to create an Office of the National Nurse. **ITL. Vote 11-5.**

The NHGOP Platform states that we support small and efficient government. This legislation would expand government bureaucracy.

Recommendation: Support ITL.

SPECIAL ORDER

HCR 16, urging Congress to rescind a law allowing the President to exercise federal control over the state national guard without consent of the governor. **ITL. Vote 16-0.**

No Recommendation

SPECIAL ORDER

HR 26, expressing regret that New Hampshire's United States Senators voted to deny the District of Columbia the right to be represented in the Congress. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL Vote 10-6.**

This is a politically motivated resolution which ignores the US Constitution and the will of the founding fathers. Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution states that the number of representatives shall be "apportioned among the several States." The Founders intentionally created the District of Columbia distinct from the states, hence its population has never been represented by a voting member of Congress. The growth of Washington D.C. over the past two centuries may have created a situation of taxation without representation which Congress should address, but representation can only be granted through a constitutional amendment or the retrocession of residential areas of D.C. to Maryland and Virginia, not through a simple legislative act as this resolution supports.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Then Support Bedrick floor amendment or ITL

WAYS AND MEANS

SPECIAL ORDER

CACR 24, relating to prohibiting any new tax on personal income. Providing that no new tax on personal income shall be levied by the state of New Hampshire. **ITL. Vote 14-1.**

The NHGOP Platform states that a major component of the New Hampshire Advantage is "freedom from a sales or income tax." This proposal seeks to ensure that New Hampshire's Constitution will reflect this principle and safeguard citizens from future legislatures who would seek to fund their visions of grandeur on the backs of citizens through an income tax.

Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Then Support the Bettencourt Amendment and Support OTP/A.

IT PAYS TO REMEMBER: This was one of the "AWARDS" published in the June 27, 2007 HRA Pink Sheet. Sometimes it's good to remind ourselves, even if others conveniently forget.

*The **GREAT KARNAK AWARD:** Given to the Representative for the best prediction that would later be proven to be true. The Winner is: Representative Norm Majors who predicted that the budget revenue estimates were inflated by \$81 million dollars.*