

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.

| Bill Number | Committee | Committee Vote | HRA recommends |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| HB 134 | Muni & County Gov't | OTP 11-4 | Oppose OTP |
| HB 179 | Science, Tech & Energy | ITL 12-7 | Oppose ITL |
| HB 198 | Muni & County Gov't | OTP/A 11-4 | No Recommendation |
| HB 219 | State Federal Relations | No Recommendation | Support OTP |
| HB 220 | State Federal Relations | OTP 12-0 | Support OTP |
| HB 303 | Education | ITL 11-7 | Support ITL |
| HB 307 | Science, Tech & Energy | ITL 13-6 | Support ITL |
| HB 311 | Judiciary | ITL 15-4 | Oppose ITL |
| HB 323 | Labor | ITL 13-5 | Oppose ITL |
| HB 368 | Science, Tech & Energy | OTP 16-2 | No Recommendation |
| HB 387 | Judiciary | ITL 15-2 | Oppose ITL |
| HB 402 | Children & Family | OTP 15-1 | No Recommendation |
| HB418 | Children & Family | OTP/A 15-3 | No Recommendation |

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 REGULAR CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 402, relative to complaint investigation procedures of the guardian ad litem board. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 15-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill require all complaints about a guardian ad litem to be investigated promptly, including those based on actions in an ongoing court case. On the one hand, there have been abuses by guardians ad litem; on the other, unhappy litigants have been known to try anything to get their result overturned. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

HB 418, establishing a committee to study a program to address children in need. **OTP/A. Vote 15-3.**

HRA Analysis: This committee would study various options to help troubled children and their families. The Platform, Part V, states we “Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing, and discipline of their children.”

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

EDUCATION

HB 303, establishing a committee to study the teaching of a second language beginning in kindergarten. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would collect data showing language studies should begin as young as possible, which is actually not in dispute. The Platform, Part IV, states we “promote local control of education policy.”

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

JUDICIARY

HB 311, establishing a statutory expectation of privacy in personal materials. **ITL. Vote 15-4.**

HRA Analysis: HB311 is cutting edge legislation. It would establish a right to privacy that will extend to your personal identifying information such as DNA. Soon it will become lucrative to collect DNA and other information. That information will be used to deny people jobs, insurance and other opportunities. Law enforcement testified against this because of the difficulty they would have at crime scenes so the sponsor offered an amendment to the bill that would have exempted police when working at crime scenes. If we fail to do something we will not be judged by how well we have played the game but by the cards we were dealt. The Platform, Part II, states we “protect the privacy of individuals from government snooping.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP/A.

HB 387, relative to immunity of guardians ad litem. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 15-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would provide a measure of accountability by removing a guardian ad litem's judicial immunity in the event of grossly negligent, malicious, or corrupt acts. The platform, Part VII, states we should “implement reasonable and periodic oversight of judicial officers.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 323-FN, establishing the Franklin Partin right-to-work act. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A . Vote 13-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would guarantee that no person could be forced to pay compulsory dues or fees to a private organization as a condition of employment. The freedom of association is a fundamentally protected right. Likewise, one of the tenets of the Republican platform is to “Uphold the right to join or avoid labor unions without coercion or intimidation; support "right to work".”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP/A.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 134, relative to contingency funds in towns. **OTP. Vote 11-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would allow additional contingency funds to be created by towns. With the capital reserve funds and fund balances allowed by current law, it's hard to see the need for these slush funds. As the Platform reiterates, “low taxes are the result of low spending.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support ITL.

HB 198, relative to town boundary perambulation. **OTP/A. Vote 12-5.**

HRA Analysis: This enabling legislation, as amended, authorizes selectmen to include GPS coordinates in their perambulations of town boundaries. Seems sensible, but no Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 179, repealing the law on weather modification experimentation. **ITL. Vote 12-7.**

HRA Analysis: This law has never been used! The Platform, Section II, encourages us to “sunset programs and regulations to force periodic reevaluation.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.

HB 307, relative to the removal of certain wood stoves upon the sale of a home and notification of such removal to the department of environmental services. **ITL. Vote 13-6.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would create an unenforceable mandate on owners of various sorts of old wood stoves, in homes located in areas designated by the DES Commissioner (in rules, not in statute). The Platform, Section VIII, states we “Recognize that private property owners are the most effect land stewards” and that they consider the environmental effects of their property.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 368, relative to the telecommunications planning and development initiative. **OTP. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill recreates an advisory committee. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 219, limiting the authority of delegates to Article V convention. **NO RECOMMENDATION. Vote 6-6.**

HRA Analysis: Article V of the Constitution for the United States of America provides for the States to petition Congress for a Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution. However, it is not clear that the States have any power to limit the scope of that Convention. The only potential for the States to limit the scope of the Convention is to control the behavior of their own delegates. Since New Hampshire can not control the actions of other States in calling for a Convention it is in our self interest to limit the actions of our delegate to such a Convention to those acceptable to the people of the State of New Hampshire as expressed by their General Court, and to hope that a sufficient number of our sister States will follow suit.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

HB 220, relative to the New Hampshire medal of honor. **OTP. Vote 12-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill simply clarifies that any recipient of this medal must die on the battlefield, not in an accident. The Platform Principles include “let us never forget those whose greatest sacrifice has protected a free and strong America for us all.”

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

PULLED FROM CONSENT

HB 239, relative to online availability of certain county budget information and reports. **ITL. Vote 14-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would provide online access to budget, expenditure, and revenue information and county reports which are not confidential. The Republican Party Platform states: "Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.