

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.



MARCH 6, 2007 - REGULAR CALENDAR

COMMERCE

HB 77, prohibiting cancellation of property and liability insurance on the basis of certain political activities. **ITL. Vote 12-4.** The platform pledges the party to “work to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses.” This appears to be a business issue, and a regulation of insurance companies that is not needed and would put serious financial burdens on small insurance companies, which would in turn, raise costs to the customer. **Recommendation: Support ITL**

HB 102, relative to requirements for restaurants operating cocktail lounges. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 12-5.** **No Recommendation**

HB 599-FN, requiring restaurant operators to produce a meals and rentals licenses in order to obtain a liquor license and establishing an annual renewal fee for meals and rentals licenses and a penalty for failure to renew such license. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 16-2.** It is axiomatic that taxes should be distributed fairly among those taxed. A corollary is effective collection. This bill appears to increase government efficiency in collecting meals and rental taxes while at the same time going to great lengths to limit costs and inconvenience to business owners. **Recommendation: Support OTP W/AMENDMENT**

HB 874-FN-A, establishing a New Hampshire health access corporation, continually appropriating a special fund, and allowing the healthy kids corporation to cover certain adults. **ITL. Vote 17-1.** The bill asks for money, but doesn't say how much money it would like. As such, it cannot be responsibly supported. **Recommendation: Support ITL**

EDUCATION

HB 661-FN-A, establishing an executive planning commission on special education. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. 11-4.** The New Hampshire Republican Party Platform strongly supports the principle of open government. This bill is using the establishment of a commission to camouflage changes to existing law. The majority has also failed to adequately address the concerns that this bill could violate federal requirements. **Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL**

HB 669-FN-A-L, relative to kindergarten aid and kindergarten construction aid. **MAJORITY: OTP W/AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 11-3.** The fiscal estimates are for a budgetary increase from this bill of \$14 million dollars! As education costs are currently in flux, this programs need has not been demonstrated. **Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL**

HB 693-FN-A-L, establishing a school choice certificate program. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 8-4.** The NH Republican platform reads: "Laws should be implemented to encourage school choice and competition and allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children." **Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support OTP**

HB 861-FN, allowing certain members of the United States armed forces and their dependents to attend public postsecondary institutions at the in-state resident tuition rate. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 7-4.** The NH Republican Party Platform reads: “Republicans respect New Hampshire's honored veterans by ensuring that they receive the benefits that they have rightfully earned and deserve.” This is a reasonable adjunct to that platform plank. **Recommendation: Support OTP**

HB 870-FN-A-L, relative to the calculation and disbursement of adequate education grants. **ITL. Vote 11-2.**

No Recommendation

ELECTION LAW

HB 112, relative to the method of depositing a ballot. **ITL. Vote 8-7.** Clean and fair elections are basic to our form of government. The bill would lessen such safeguards.

Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 136, relative to approval of voting machines. **ITL. Vote 13-4.**

No

Recommendation

HB 138, relative to disclosure of voting machine information. **ITL. Vote 15-2.**

No

Recommendation

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 239-FN-A, appropriating funds to the barn preservation fund matching grants program. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 15-1.** According to the Republican platform, “Republicans realize that low taxes are the result of low spending. We believe that controlling spending and minimizing taxes are the best ways to protect the economic and civic well being of New Hampshire residents.” When many vital state services may go unfunded, barn preservation cannot be considered a priority.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL

HB 472-FN, increasing fees for hazardous waste management and contaminated site cleanup, establishing rulemaking authority to set future fees, and changing reporting requirements. **MAJORITY: OTP W/AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 17-1.** Fees are supposed to represent the cost of providing the service rendered, i.e., the cost of processing applications. This bill would increase the amount of one application from \$5000 to \$7500! The platform “reject(s) higher taxes and excessive government spending.” In addition, the platform “promotes a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable.” The use of fees versus general fund expenditures makes government less accountable to the people for their expenditures.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP W/AMENDMENT, then Support ITL

HB 897-FN-A, relative to the salary of the state veterinarian. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 12-3.**

No Recommendation

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

CACR 11, relating to the term of office for governor. Providing that beginning with the 2010 general election, there shall be a 4-year term of office for governor. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 9-8.** The party platform promotes “a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable to and in touch with its citizens.” A 2 year term for governor gives the people greater power over the chief executive.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL

HB 155, relative to membership of the state building code review board. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 14-3.**

No Recommendation

FISH AND GAME

HB 871-FN-A, allowing the fish and game department to conduct an annual auction of moose hunting permits. **ITL. Vote 6-5** Part 1, Article 2 of the New Hampshire Constitution speaks of the “equality of rights” among New Hampshire’s citizens. As New Hampshire’s wildlife belongs to the general public and is cared for by the state for the general public’s use and enjoyment, it is improper to ration wildlife access in a way that favors the wealthy.

Recommendation: Support ITL

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 628-FN-A, establishing the New Hampshire Rx advantage program and continually appropriating a special fund. **MAJORITY: OTP W/ AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 18-1.** No Recommendation

HB 721, relative to the appropriation to the department of health and human services for rates paid for nursing services. **OTP. Vote 14-2.**

No Recommendation

JUDICIARY

HB 184, repealing the parental notification law. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. 12-5** The platform “opposes actions that inhibit and/or supplant the role of parents in the care and upbringing of children.” HB 184 repeals parents rights. The Wendelboe amendment answers the concerns of the court while preserving our Parental Notice Law. **Recommendation: OTPw/Wendelboe Amendment, Failing oppose OTP then Support ITL**

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 222, relative to residency requirements for members appointed to historic district or heritage commissions. Would open to non-residents. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP W/ AMENDMENT. 13-4.** Part 1, Art 11, and other sections of the NH Constitution deal with voter eligibility and the holding of office. Throughout is the premise that government is most responsive to the people when emanating from those domiciled within the community. **Recommendation: Support ITL**

HB 456, limiting liability for town health officers when acting in the course of their official duties. **OTP W/AMENDMENT. Vote 14-3.** Adds health inspector and welfare officer to municipal protection. **No Recommendation**

HB 868-FN, relative to a surcharge on recording documents with the register of deeds to fund the land and community heritage investment program. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. 9-8** Tax of \$40 per page on each recording at Registry of Deeds. The platform “reject(s) higher taxes and excessive government spending.” It also encourages business growth. In addition, the platform “promotes a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable.” The use of fees versus general fund expenditures makes government less accountable to the people for their expenditures and stifles the debate of competing priorities. It also places the entire funding of a huge statewide program on one group of people, the home buyer, which raises ethical and constitutional arguments. **Recommendation: Support ITL**

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 412-FN-A, relative to a new bridge connecting Hampton and Seabrook and making an appropriation therefor. **ITL. Vote 18-0.**

No Recommendation

HCR 4, endorsing the placement of a New Hampshire Air Force Memorial at the veterans cemetery in Boscawen. **OTP W/AMENDMENT. Vote 18-0.** The Republican Platform states, “Republicans respect New Hampshire’s honored veterans by ensuring that they receive the benefits that they have rightfully earned and deserve.”

Recommendation: Support OTP w/Amendment

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 52, relative to leasing the Cannon Mountain ski area. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 11-8.** In recent years the Cannon Mountain ski area has lost large amounts of money and been a drain on the park system. This bill proposes establishing a commission to draw up a request for proposals for the leasing of Cannon Mountain ski area similar to what was done with the Mt. Sunapee ski area. The majority believes commitments by DRED are sufficient. The Platform states that “Our parks...are valuable assets that require diligent statewide management.” It is short-sighted to throw away an option that was successful at Mt. Sunapee. The better course of action, proposed by the minority, would be to retain the bill as a future option should the DRED commitments prove ineffective. **Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support Refer Back to Committee or OTP**

HB 183-FN-A-L, relative to the acquisition of a certain tract of land in the towns of Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple as a state reservation, and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: OTPW/AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. 14-6** The Platform “promote(s) preserving open space, (and) scenic vistas.” The Platform also “reject(s) higher taxes and excessive government spending.” Thus, with conflicting information, vote your own conscience. **No Recommendation**

HB 392, relative to the use of property held by the state of New Hampshire under an easement specifying low impact recreational use only. **MAJORITY: OTP W/AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 10-6.** The platform “encourage(s) landowners to keep their property open and accessible to responsible recreation.” This bill runs contrary to that aim.

Recommendation. Oppose OTP w/Amendment, then Support ITL.

HB 505-FN-A, relative to enhanced water quality monitoring for lakes and beaches. **MAJORITY: OTP W/ AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 11-7** The Platform “reject(s) higher taxes and excessive government spending.” This bill creates a management program and establishes a program coordinator and funding for that

person. The overwhelming need was not demonstrated

Recommendation: Oppose OTP w/Amendment. Support ITL

HB 663-FN-A, making an appropriation to implement the comprehensive shoreland protection act. **OTP W AMENDMENT. Vote 14-3.**

No recommendation

HB 815-FN-A, requiring the display of boater education decals. **MAJORITY: OTP W/ AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 16-4.** This bill uses a new fee to fund several state programs with a broad nexus to boating. The dictionary describes a user fee as “an excise tax often in the form of a license or supplemental charge levied to fund a public service.” The platform “reject(s) higher taxes and excessive government spending.” In addition, the platform “promotes a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable.” The use of fees versus general fund expenditures makes government less accountable to the people for their expenditures.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP w/amendment, then Support ITL

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 310, allowing municipalities to regulate wind turbines used for home energy production. **OTP W/AMENDMENT. Vote 14-2.** The Republican platform “encourage(s) the use and development of renewable energies.” Wind turbines are a renewable source. However, the platform also “promote(s) preserving open space, scenic vistas and historic and cultural landscapes.” Wind turbines might be considered eyesores and destroy some of the scenic beauty of New Hampshire. Thus there are 2 competing ideas promulgated in the same section of the platform. Vote your conscience.

No Recommendation

HB 476, relative to membership on the public utilities commission. **ITL. Vote 11-5**

The bill proposed increased educational standards for members. The opposition relied on “experience” which could be construed as simple political influence. As the Republican platform requires the “highest standards of integrity, morality, ethics, responsibility and accountability” for its candidates, it should do the same for all public officials.

Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support OTP

HB 528-FN, expanding the enhanced 911 system surcharge to providers of devices and services capable of accessing enhanced 911 service in New Hampshire. **ITL. Vote 14-2.**

No Recommendation

TRANSPORTATION

HB 221, removing the requirement that the department of transportation report certain information relative to highway activity to the department of administrative services. **OTP. Vote 14-3.**

No Recommendation

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 90, establishing a committee to study the feasibility of imposing a luxury sales tax and an amusements tax. **ITL. Vote 16-2** The platform “support(s) cutting or eliminating taxes which inhibit enterprise.” History has shown that a luxury sales tax has hurt businesses specializing in high end goods.

Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 376-FN-A, distributing certain meals and rooms tax revenues to the fish and game fund. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 15-2** The platform “reject(s) higher taxes and excessive government spending.” A corollary is that dedicating specific revenue sources to specific programs and activities decreases flexibility and contributes to inefficiency, poor prioritization, and waste.

Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 510-FN-A-L, establishing authority for construction and regulation of casinos. **ITL. Vote 14-4.** The party platform “opposes casino and video-lottery gambling as means of raising government revenue.”

Recommendation: Support ITL