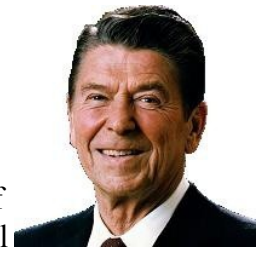


# HOUSE REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION SHEET



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.

**“TRUST BUT VERIFY”**

Bill Number	Committee	Committee Vote	HRA recommends
HB 118	Judiciary	OTP/A 11-7	No Recommendation
HB 146	Transportation	OTP 10-4	Support OTP
HB 153	Criminal Justice	OTP 17-2	Support OTP
HB 161	Education	OTP/A 13-5	Support OTP
HB 199	Fish & Game	ITL 12-2	No Recommendation
HB 242	Transportation	OTP 12-3	Oppose OTP
HB 247	Criminal Justice	OTP 10-9	No Recommendation
HB 259	Fish & Game	OTP/A 8-6	Support OTP/A
HB 260	Children & Family	OTP/A 19-0	Support OTP/A
HB 271	HHS	ITL 13-6	Oppose ITL
HB 273	RR&D	ITL 17-0	Support ITL
HB 277 (from consent)	Election	ITL 117-0	Support ITL
HB 289	Transportation	ITL 14-1	Oppose ITL
HB 291	Transportation	ITL 14-1	Oppose ITL
HB 295	RR&D	OTP/A 17-2	Oppose OTP/A
HB 299	Education	OTP 11-8	Support OTP
HB 302	Transportation	ITL 12-3	Support ITL
HB 314	Ways & Means	OTP/A 15-2	Support OTP/A
HB 315	Commerce	ITL 15-3	Oppose ITL
HB 316	HHS	OTP/A 15-2	No Recommendation
HB 345	Transportation	ITL 14-1	No Recommendation
HB 362	Science Tech & Energy	OTP/A 11-6	Support OTP
HB 382	Criminal Justice	ITL 17-2	Oppose ITL
HB 409	Judiciary	ITL 15-4	Oppose ITL
HB 411	Transportation	OTP 12-2	Oppose OTP
HB 423 (from consent)	Muni & County Gov't	ITL 15-0	Oppose ITL
HB 445	ED&A	ITL 15-3	Support ITL
HB 452	HHS	ITL 11-6	No Recommendation
HB453	Criminal Justice	OTP 14-5	Oppose OTP
HB 471 (from consent)	Education	ITL 18-0	No Recommendation

HB 472	Commerce	OTP 10-7	Oppose OTP
HB 483	Judiciary	ITL 13-6	Oppose ITL
HB 486	Finance	OTP 24-0	Support OTP
HB 498	Criminal Justice	ITL 13-6	Oppose ITL
HB 564	Ways & Means	ITL 11-7	Support ITL
HB 570	Education	OTP 16-2	Oppose OTP
HB 576	ED&A	ITL 15-0	Support ITL
HB 583	Judiciary	OTP/A 12-6	Oppose OTP/A
HB 596	Judiciary	ITL 14-1	Support ITL
HB 614	Finance	ITL 14-11	No Recommendation
HB 615	Education	OTP 18-0	Support OTP
HB 617	Public Works & Hwys	OTP 18-0	Oppose OTP
HB 623	Finance	ITL 22-2	Support ITL
HB 625	Children & Family	ITL 17-2	Support ITL
HB 628	RR&D	ITL 13-7	Oppose ITL
HB 632	Environment & Ag	ITL 11-7	Support ITL
HB 652	Judiciary	OTP 12-6	Oppose OTP
HB 654	ED&A	OTP 15-3	Support OTP
HB 669	Environment & Ag	ITL 15-2	Support ITL
HB 671	Children & Family	OTP/A 19-0	Support OTP/A
HB 681	Children & Family	ITL 18-1	Oppose ITL
HJR 1	Legislative Admin	OTP 9-0	No Recommendation
HJR 2	Judiciary	ITL 19-0	Support ITL
HR 7	State Federal & Veterans	ITL 6-4	Support ITL
SB 40	Finance	OTP 22-1	No Recommendation
SB 115	Public Works & Hwys	OTP 19-0	No Recommendation

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

### REGULAR CALENDAR – PART I

#### **PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS**

**SB 115**, naming a bridge in the town of Whitefield. **OTP. Vote 17-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill names a bridge. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

#### **CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW**

**HB 260-FN**, relative to voluntary services provided by the department of HHS to children in need. **OTP/A Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** The vague definition of CHINS and abuse of the program led to severe curtailment as a budget cutting measure. This bill raises the qualifications for CHINS and creates a voluntary program that must be exhausted prior to court ordered CHINS. The Platform, Part II, says we must “prioritize programs to assure effective spending”.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A .**

**HB 625-FN**, relative to oversight of guardians ad litem by the guardian ad litem board. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 17-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would have added a government job for a function that can be addressed at little cost by the Legislature. The Platform, Part II, says we must “prioritize programs to assure effective spending”.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 671-FN**, state payment of fees for guardians ad litem and attorneys where the parents are indigent. **OTP/A. Vote 19-0.**  
**HRA Analysis:** This bill provides state payments for lawyers and guardians in child custody cases with indigent parents. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 15, states “Every person held to answer in any crime or offense punishable by deprivation of liberty shall have the right to counsel at the expense of the state if need is shown.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A .**

**HB 681**, relative to the membership, duties, and responsibilities of the guardian ad litem board and establishing the Court Appointed Advocates for Children in Divorce (CAACD) Corporation. **ITL. Vote 18-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill implemented a recommendation of the Special Committee to review the guardian ad litem board audit. However, the bill does require amendment prior to passage. The Platform, Part VII, says we must “implement reasonable and periodic oversight of judicial officers”.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support recommit.**

## COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**HB 315-FN**, relative to liquor commission discounts. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 15-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill equalizes the discount rate on wine for all retailers, no matter the size of the retailer. The Platform, Statement of Principle, says that we believe in free markets. By setting different discount rates, current practice interferes with the free market. Government should not attempt to pick winners and losers in the market.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.**

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**HB 382-FN**, reducing the nonresident fee for obtaining a license for a pistol or a revolver. **ITL. Vote 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** The Platform, Part VI, states that we “oppose any taxation, licensing restrictions, or registration of firearms; [and] oppose the requirement to obtain a license to carry a concealed firearm...”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.**

## EDUCATION

**HB 299-FN**, relative to tuition payments for chartered public school pupils. **OTP. Vote 11-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill authorizes future funding of new charter schools. The Platform, Part IV, states we “encourage school choice and competition.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

**HB 570-FN**, relative to school building aid eligibility for the White Mountain Regional school district. **OTP. Vote 16-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill exempts one school district from the rules on school building aid. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 10, states “Government being instituted for the common benefit ... of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men ..” warns against special interest bills such as this.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support ITL.**

**HB 615-FN-A**, relative to the New Hampshire national guard recruitment and retention scholarship fund and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP. Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill appropriates \$25,000 for small scholarships to New Hampshire members of the national guard. The Platform states “we believe that freedom can exist only in a nation that is willing to defend it.” This modest sum will help to retain members of the guard.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

## ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

**HB 632-A**, establishing the position of state advisor of the FFA in the department of agriculture, markets, and food. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill appropriates \$20,000 to fund an advisor to this educational association, a position that the organization itself should fund. As the Platform reiterates, “low taxes are the result of low spending.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**HB 669-FN-L**, relative to nonpayment of property taxes on current use land. **ITL. Vote 15-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill greatly increases the penalty for late payment of property taxes up to total loss of the current use exemption. The Platform, Part I, states we “strongly oppose new taxes and fees.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

## **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION**

**HB 445-FN-L**, allowing public employers in the state to buy into the state health insurance plan. **ITL. Vote 15-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would essentially require setting up an insurance company within state government. The Platform, Part II, states we should “privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**HB 654-FN**, relative to licensure and renewal fees. **OTP. Vote 15-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill simplifies and reduces license fees for a number of small professional boards, putting them into statute rather than in rules. The Platform, Part II, states we must “remove barriers to business formation.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

## **FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES**

**HB 199**, relative to expenditures from the fish and game search and rescue fund. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 12-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill attempts to prohibit using the search and rescue fund for regular or training pay of fish & game employees. While this fund is chronically overspent, it's not clear that the proposed remedy would solve the problem. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 259-FN**, relative to special licenses for taking lobster while engaged in recreational scuba diving. **OTP/A. Vote 8-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow limited taking of lobsters while scuba diving, as allowed in the neighboring states. The Platform, Part VIII, states we “promote access to public lands” and waters for responsible recreation.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

## **HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**HB 316-FN**, relative to regulating alkaline hydrolysis for the disposal of human remains. **OTP/A. Vote 15-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows regulation of this alternative process for disposal of human remains. On one hand, the Platform, Part I, states we should “remove barriers to business formation;” on the other, some groups strongly oppose this process and feel it impinges on their religious beliefs.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

## **JUDICIARY**

**HB 652-FN**, relative to the judicial branch information technology fund. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases court filing fees and the percentage of such fees that are dedicated to their technology fund. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 14, asserts that every person is “to obtain right and justice freely, without being obliged to purchase it.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support ITL.**

**HJR 2-FN-A**, making restitution to Jeffery Frost for inappropriate prosecution. **ITL. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This resolution would order payment of restitution for inappropriate fees charged by the Banking Department. Mr Frost has since taken the issue to court, preempting the General Court. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 14, asserts that every person has a right to “a certain remedy, by having recourse to the laws, for all injuries he may receive.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

## **PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS**

**HB 617-FN-A-L**, increasing the rate of the road toll, increasing the vehicle registration fee, and establishing the New Hampshire state and municipal road and bridge account. **OTP/A. Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, seeks to fund the entire billion dollar backlog of road maintenance by raising the gas tax over the next two biennia. As a user fee, the gas tax is less injurious than many other taxes, but nearly doubling it is too much, too fast. The Platform, Part I, states we “strongly oppose new taxes and fees.” A floor amendment prohibits diversions of the road toll from highways and bridges, and deserves our support.

**HRA Recommendation: Support the O'Brien floor amendment, oppose the committee amendment., oppose passing unless with the O'Brien floor amendment.**

## **RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**HB 273-FN-L**, authorizing the commissioner of the department of resources and economic development to enter into contracts for provision of free WiFi Internet access at Hampton Beach state park. **ITL. Vote 17-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill authorizes the commissioner to enter into these contracts, which is already within his authority. The Platform, Part II, states we should “privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.” The sponsors plan to table this bill to keep the pressure on the commissioner.

**HRA Recommendation: Support motion to table; if that fails, support ITL.**

**HB 295**, requiring criminal background checks for volunteers and employees at youth skill camps. **MAJ: OTP/ A. MIN: ITL. Vote 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires criminal background checks at “skill camps” as they are at other youth camps. An amendment to the original bill also imposed a \$25 fee on operators (over and above any costs to obtain the background checks) to be paid to DES. The Platform both looks to “Establish strict laws against sexual predators” and “minimize business regulations.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose the amendment, oppose OTP/A, no recommendation on the bill itself.**

**HB 628-FN**, on underground storage tank and above ground storage tank certification. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 13-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** At present, DES requires installers of underground and above ground storage tanks to be certified by a professional organization that requires they be retested every two years on up to five aspects of the installation process. This bill would allow DES to establish re-certification criteria and prohibit the bi-annual retesting. The Platform Part I, looks to “Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 411-FN-A**, repealing a future reduction in vessel registration fees. **OTP. Vote 12-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases taxes by repealing a planned future decrease. The Platform, Part I, states we “strongly oppose new taxes and fees.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support ITL.**

## **REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

**HB 471**, establishing a commission to study dual enrollment programs. **ITL. Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 277**, relative to the oath required of public officers. **ITL. Vote 17-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires anyone violating their oath of office be removed from office “by the authority responsible for the appointment”. The Constitution sets up procedures for the removal of elected officials, including the appropriate due process protections, which are not present in this bill.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**HB 423-L**, relative to amending official ballot warrant articles. **ITL. Vote 15-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill completely forbids any amendment to a petitioned warrant article. This simplifies the issues of the deliberative session changing the intent of the article, and puts the onus on the supporters to make sure their text is legal and enforceable. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 32, insures the right of the people to instruct their government of their wishes.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.**

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 REGULAR CALENDAR – PART II**

### **COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**HB 472**, relative to residential units in rooming houses. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill gives tenancy status to occupants of rooming houses who reside in the rooming house for 90 days or longer, eliminating the ability of landlords to restart the clock by moving the occupant to another unit in the same rooming house. By conferring tenancy status, this bill increases regulations and restrictions on rooming house landlords, since there are more regulations when dealing with a tenant than when dealing with an occupant. The Platform, Part I, says we should “minimize business regulations.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support ITL.**

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**HB 153**, prohibiting the designation of industrial hemp as a controlled substance. **OTP. Vote 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** The Platform states we “Support low cost means to protect, develop and market agricultural ... products.” Industrial hemp is an agricultural product currently prohibited in New Hampshire and this bill would repeal the restriction.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

**HB 247-FN**, increasing compensation for wrongful incarceration. **OTP. Vote 10-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill restores increases the compensation for wrongful incarceration from \$20,000 to \$20,000/year. No constitutional or platform issue identified, and very few cases (zero or one) have occurred.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 453**, repealing the prospective repeal of the information and analysis center. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL Vote 14-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill perpetuates the fusion center, a separate bureaucracy within the Department of Safety that collects and shares data on criminal activities, terrorist threats, and natural disasters. With no fiscal data available, we don't know how much this center costs or how much good it performs. Rather than extending its life, its existence should be balanced against other priorities in the budget. The Platform, Part II, says we “prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP. Support ITL.**

**HB 498**, permitting the use of firearms by military or veterans groups in the compact part of a town for military or veterans events, or national holidays. **ITL. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** The Platform states that “We believe that freedom can exist only in a nation that is willing to defend it. The utmost honor must be bestowed upon those who are willing to serve and sacrifice in the United States Military. Let us never forget those whose greatest sacrifice has protected a free and strong America for all.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.**

## EDUCATION

**HB 161**, relative to school district policies on health and sex education. **OTP/A. Vote 13-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill clarifies in statute the constitutional right of parents to conscientiously object to materials, or programs, taught in the public school system. The New Hampshire Constitution states in Part First, Article 4 that the right of Conscience is an unalienable right. The committee amendment waters down the bill and should be opposed.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose the committee amendment, support OTP.**

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**HB 576**, establishing Franklin Pierce Day. **ITL. Vote 15-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would perpetually honor Franklin Pierce, during whose term in office the Republican Party was founded by New Hampshire abolitionists. The Platform confirms “our party was formed in the fight to end the despicable practice of slavery.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

## FINANCE

**HB 486-FN-A**, making an appropriation for the purpose of paying residential care providers at the Chase Home for Children. **OTP. Vote 24-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill authorizes a payment required by court order after the state lost a lawsuit, paying from previously set-aside FY2012 funds. The Constitution, Part I, Article 14, states “Every subject of this state is entitled to a certain remedy, by having recourse to the laws.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

**HB 614-FN**, limiting the authorization for new annual general fund-supported debt. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 14-11.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill sharply limits state borrowing. The Platform, Part I, states we should “limit the growth of state spending,” but the mechanism here would hamper legitimate, necessary borrowing, as for capital projects.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 623-FN-A**, funding for eligible and completed drinking water, wastewater, and landfill closure projects. **ITL. Vote 22-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would mandate state payments towards these local projects. The Platform, Part II, states we must “prioritize programs to ensure effective spending” and considering this program as part of the budget does so.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**SB 40-FN-L**, relative to distribution of education funds for fiscal year 2013. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 22-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill restores local education funding to equal last year's, since the Department of Education publicized the wrong numbers to local school districts. For 77 school districts, the right numbers mean a lower adequacy grant being included in a budget that is currently ready to go to the voters.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

## **HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**HB 271**, stating that New Hampshire will not accept expanded Medicaid. **ITL. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill simply prevents the expansion of Medicaid as a part of Obamacare. The Platform, Part III, says we should "Oppose the implementation of Obamacare in New Hampshire."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.**

**HB 452**, relative to Food and Drug Administration approval of medication, equipment, and therapies. **ITL. Vote 11-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill authorized licensed health care facilities to use medications, equipment and therapies not approved by the FDA. While we support patients and medical professionals deciding on therapies, this bill appears incomplete.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

## **JUDICIARY**

**HB 118**, legal immunity for 911 calls for drug or alcohol related emergencies. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill grants immunity from some crimes when calling 911. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 409**, relative to the issuance of a default judgment in landlord-tenant actions. **ITL. Vote 15-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires a tenant who has failed to attend an eviction notice and is appealing the decision, to pay rent until the issue is settled. The Platform, Section IV, states we "promote personal responsibility and consequences for one's actions."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.**

**HB 483-FN**, relative to information regarding abortion. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires abortion providers to provide females seeking an abortion with information to assist them in making a good decision. Considering the importance of the decision and its long-lasting effects, females seeking an abortion should be provided with as much information as possible. The Platform, Section V, states we should "support the unborn child's fundamental right to life, and implement all possible legal protections." This bill assists in that mission.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.**

**HB 583**, relative to proceedings of medical injury claims screening panels. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill modifies the procedures of medical malpractice screening panels. The Platform, Section IV, states we "sunset programs . . . to force periodic reevaluation." The panels are being reevaluated this year.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support ITL.**

**HB 596-FN-L**, relative to service of notice of civil actions. **ITL. Vote 14-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is trying to fix a problem that is not there. Landlords have a procedure set in/law to follow when presenting a tenant with a notice. If HB596 were to pass, tenants not answering their doors could lead to a delay in receiving notices, which in turn would lead to the landlord being fined each day the notice is late. The Platform, Part I, would have us "foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business."

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

## **LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

**HJR 1**, directing the joint legislative historical committee to acquire and display a portrait of suffragist Marilla Marks Ricker. **OTP. Vote 9-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This resolution honors Ms Ricker, a New Hampshire historical figure, the first woman to vote and the first woman admitted to the Bar.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY**

**HB 362**, banning corn-based ethanol as an additive to gasoline sold in New Hampshire. **OTP/A. Vote 11-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This resolution bans ethanol, when will not affect the price or supply of gasoline. Since ethanol is heavily

subsidized by the federal government, not using it supports the platform plank “limit spending and growth of government.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

## **STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HR 7**, urging the New Hampshire congressional delegation to sponsor and support a constitutional amendment to re-establish the authority of the states and Congress to regulate campaign spending by entities created by law. **MAJ: ITL.**

**MIN: OTP. Vote 6-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This resolution encourages Congress to pass laws limiting the free speech of corporations by forbidding them to advocate political actions and candidates. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 22, asserts that “Free speech and liberty of the press are essential to the security of freedom in a state” and political speech needs the strongest protections.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 146**, increasing the speed limit on a portion of I-93 to 70 miles per hour. **OTP. Vote 10-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the speed limit on the northern part of I93 to its design speed, 70 mph. The Platform restates that all people “have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

**HB 242**, relative to child passenger restraint requirements. **OTP/A. Vote 12-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill expands the scope of child restraints to children up to eight years of age. The Platform, Part V, states we should “maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care ... of their children.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.**

**HB 289-FN**, increasing certain speed limits to 70 miles per hour. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 14-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the speed limit on the interstates to 70 mph, 60 mph for the 55 mph zones. These highways were designed for these speeds and most people travel at them. The Platform restates that all people “have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.**

**HB 291-FN**, increasing certain speed limits to 75 miles per hour. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 14-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the speed limit on the interstates to 75 mph, 60 mph for the 55 mph zones. This is the upper limit of current speeds. The Platform restates that all people “have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP.**

**HB 302**, relative to restrictions on holders of youth operators’ licenses. **ITL. Vote 12-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill forbids youth to carry any non-family passenger for the first six months of their license, and also extends their curfew to 11 pm-6 am. We believe that parents, not lawmakers, should be making and enforcing the rules for young operators. The Platform restates that all people “have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**HB 345**, repealing the prohibition on tinted glass in motor vehicles. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 14-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation,**

## **WAYS AND MEANS**

**HB 314**, raising limits on single wagers in games of chance. **OTP/A. Vote 15-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill simplifies the bookkeeping for charitable gamblers, and raises the maximum bet allowed. The Platform, Part I, states we should “minimize business... paperwork.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 564-FN**, relative to simulcast greyhound races. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill prohibits simulcasting the vast majority of dog races, eliminating the profitability of the betting parlors. The Platform, Part I, states we should “minimize business regulations.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**