

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"

Thursday, March 23, 2017
Regular Calendar

HB161 No Rec.	HB173 YEA OTP/A if amended	HB354 YEAH OTP	HB632 YEA OTP
HB647 NAY ITL/ YEA TABLE	HB649 NAY OTP/A	HB652 Vote Your Conscience	SB10 YEA TABLE/ NAY OTP
SB246 YEA OTP			

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

SB246, relative to credit union branching authority. OTP Vote: 12-2

HRA Analysis: This bill would remove restrictions on credit unions chartered in other states from establishing or acquiring branches in NH. Currently they would be allowed to do so only if the other state had reciprocal conditions that were no more restrictive for NH credit unions.

Platform issue: Remove barriers to business formation

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Environment and Agriculture

SB10, relative to dairy farmer relief. OTP/A Vote: 18-0

HRA Analysis: This bill authorizes \$2 million to be given to dairy farmers because of the drought last year. The committee amendment adds a formula to the legislation, so there is less discretion/possible favoritism by agency staff. There are possible competing Platform considerations: Support the cost-effective means to protect, develop and market agricultural, forest and high value natural resource products AND We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise. The Constitution: “[Art.] 10. [Right of Revolution.] Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men. This bill opens up a huge can of worms and makes us wonder why we are not supporting other industries and citizens who also suffered from the drought or who regularly suffer from weather factors. This bill picks one class of farmer and one type of business to help with taxpayer dollars. Could this \$2 million be better spent elsewhere? The underlying problem is federal government interference; let’s encourage our federal delegation to fix that instead.

HRA Recommendation: Support Committee Amendment; Support Table; Oppose OTP/A

Finance

HB354, making an appropriation to the department of education to provide additional adequate education grant payments to certain municipalities. OTP/A Vote: 26-0

HRA Analysis: As a result of the Dover suit over capped education funding, the court also ruled that an additional 24 municipalities were entitled to the difference between the funds received and the amount they would have received if not capped. The state agreed. This bill makes that appropriation. Platform issue: Every subject of this state is entitled to a certain remedy, by having recourse to the laws.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

HB647, establishing education freedom savings accounts for children with disabilities.

ITL Vote: 22-4

HRA Analysis: Finance got involved with policy issues which had been discussed in Education and then passed by the House. The bill provides education choice for parents with special needs children. State funds that would be provided to the school district for their child would instead be placed in an account for the parents to purchase allowable education expenses. Platform issues: “Encourage education freedom to allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children” and “Expand ... education savings accounts”.

HRA Recommendation: Support Motion to Table. Oppose ITL.

HB649, making emergency medical technicians and rescue squad members eligible for a death benefit if killed in the line of duty. OTP/A Vote: 26-0

HRA Analysis: This bill adds EMTs and rescue squad members to police officers and firefighters whose families would be eligible for death benefits if they might be killed in the line of duty. The bill also includes volunteers who are working with F&G on rescue operations.

Constitutional issue: "Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men; ..." Treating certain members who serve the public with additional death benefits disenfranchises the others who serve the public.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Judiciary

HB632, relative to appeals of liquor commission decisions. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 8-5

HRA Analysis: This bill makes available to liquor licensees an option to have a neutral person review the decision of the liquor commission. If the licensee chooses this option, as opposed to an appeal directly to the supreme court, the licensee will be responsible for the fee charged.

The bill has a built in 3 year sunset. Platform: "Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector." Platform: "Sunset programs and regulations to force periodic reevaluation."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB652, establishing a veterans track within the court system and relative to the inclusion of veterans benefits in the calculation of gross income for purposes of determining child support. OTP/A Vote: 12-2

HRA Analysis: One part of the bill deals with child support calculations and does not appear to have a Platform issue. Because the second part permits courts to establish a veterans track, this bill will go to House Judiciary Committee where we welcome further analysis. It will help identify veterans and possibly connect them with services and programs offered by the Veterans Administration. Constitution: "[Art.] 10. [Right of Revolution.] Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men;" Platform: "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: Vote Your Conscience

Ways and Means

HB161, relative to beverage sales at farmers' markets. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 19-2

HRA Analysis: This is a second committee look at revenue impact of beer sold at farmer's markets, which is minimal revenue. This bill is not needed because the state already imposes a fee onto beverage manufacturers for each gallon of beverage sold or provided. However it does provide clarity that beer sold at farmers' markets is also taxable, to be fair to all beverage manufacturers. Since the tax is already imposed, and this bill doesn't change the taxable status, there is no platform issue.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Consent:

**HB173, relative to regulations restricting the use of water for outdoor usage. OTP/A
Vote: 16-0**

HRA Analysis: The committee amendment adds an exemption to the watering ban upon application to the town. The floor amendment removes municipal authority over private wells.
Platform: We believe as the NH Constitution states, that acquiring, possessing and protecting property is a natural, essential and inherent right.

**HRA Recommendation: Support Committee Amendment; Support Floor Amendment
2017-0972h; Support OTP/A if Amendments Pass**