

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”

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 REGULAR CALENDAR – PART I

➤ JUDICIARY

HB 62, requiring young women under 15 years of age (sic) to provide proof of counseling prior to obtaining an abortion. **ITL. Vote 11-9.**

HRA Analysis: This bill was strongly opposed by all abortion proponents and being contrary to the rights of the minor child. The minority believes that the rights of the parent are somewhat strengthened by this bill as it encourages family members as those who may council the child.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, vote OTP

HB 163, allowing firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and other public safety officers to recover damages or benefits for negligently-caused injuries. **MAJORITY: ITL. Vote 13-5.**

HB 177, relative to loss of consortium. **OTP. Vote 11-6.**

HRA Analysis: This bill changes the concept of loss of consortium that has been in existence in our courts for centuries. It will promote additional litigation and allow spouses to receive money from judgments against third parties for damages caused by those spouses.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB 197, relative to apportionment of damages in civil actions. **OTPA. Vote 12-8.**

HRA Analysis: The committee amendment allows double recovery of wages and medical costs by employees receiving workers compensation when they later sue a third party for the same accident.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA; Support ITL, but watch for floor amendment correcting committee amendment.

HB 260, relative to quieting title in certain trust circumstances. **OTPA. Vote 12-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill was proposed by banks and title attorneys to present a method to correct defective titles to real estate owned by trusts. The final amending language came into committee shortly before it was voted OTPA, but no platform issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 274-FN, requiring parental notification before abortions may be performed on unemancipated minors. **ITL. Vote 11-9.**

HRA Analysis: This bill reflects the Republican Platform on the issues of personal responsibility, family values, and life. Both are parental notification bills that correct the defect in the prior law as held by the U. S. Supreme court.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 291-FN, relative to a one day/one trial jury duty pilot program. **OTPA. Vote 19-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill works to a system that would fairly distribute the honor and burden of jury among all citizens; however it raises no party or constitutional issue.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 531-FN, relative to parental notification prior to abortions being performed on minors. **ITL. Vote 11-9.**

HRA Analysis: As with the prior bill, HB 274, this bill reflects the Republican Platform on the issues of personal responsibility, family values, and life. Both are parental notification bills that correct the defect in the prior law as held by the U. S. Supreme court.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

➤ **LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

HB 231, relative to resolution of collective bargaining disputes **ITL. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill repeals a provision requiring inclusion of an automatic continuation clause in collective bargaining agreements with public employee. How much language out of our party platform must be quoted to demonstrate a public employee “evergreen clause” is explicitly and implicitly antithetical to NH Republicanism.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 500, repealing the authority for an exclusive representative of an employee organization to conduct collective bargaining for employees. **ITL. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: NH should be a right to work state. Section VI of the Party Platform.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

➤ **LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

HB 349, relative to legislator email records. **OTPA. Vote 14-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill provides that electronic communication or email of a legislator is confidential. A majority that will violate the First Amendment rights of legislators likely would have no pause in ignoring their statutory privacy rights, but worth the try. No platform issue identified, however.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

HJR 3, recognizing the historic milestone represented by the New Hampshire senate being the first legislative body in the United States with women as the majority of its members. **OTPA. Vote 12-0.**

HRA Analysis: We all look forward to the days that racial and gender distinctions in public governance are truly of no consequence. As we travel the journey to that future, it is perhaps helpful to observe the passage of milestones.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

➤ LOCAL AND REGULATED REVENUES

HB 242, relative to taxpayer inventory blanks. **ITL. Vote 12-5.**

HRA Analysis: The bill would allow towns to use a less intrusive inventory tax form that would not collect unnecessary information and limit government intrusion into our lives.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 351, relative to the interest rate on late and delinquent property tax payments and subsequent payments. **ITL. Vote 15-5.**

HRA Analysis: The government is charging usurious rates of interest on delinquent tax bills. The bill would still allow interest at rates that would compel all who are not in financial straits to avoid being delinquent. Last term, great and successful efforts were made to destroy the pay day loan industry because, the argument went, it fleeced consumers. It's as the bumper sticker suggests: government doesn't like competition.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 429-FN, relative to cider. **ITL. Vote 14-6.**

HRA Analysis: The Liquor Commission complained that this bill might lower consumer cost for "hard" cider. Government getting less revenue and lower consumer costs must be a good thing. "Republicans realize that low taxes are the result of low spending." Party Platform, Section VII.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 596-FN-L, relative to establishing a property tax credit for all taxpayers whose property taxes exceed 10 percent of household income. **ITL. Vote 15-4.**

HRA Analysis: Republicans believe in lower taxes. While also we believe as well that the tax burden should be uniformly shared and not be a game of "Beggars Thy Neighbor."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

➤ MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 393-L, authorizing municipalities to publish electronic legal notices. **ITL. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: Republicans support an open and accessible government. Party Platform, section V. In this era of widespread violations of the Open Meeting Law, we should not be diluting the law so that citizens will have less access.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

SB 39-FN-L, relative to municipal deposits and special meetings for considering an appropriate response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. **OTPA. Vote 14-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill enables towns to respond to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. We hope they do so judiciously. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

➤ PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 570-FN-A, requiring the department of transportation to convey ownership of Skyhaven airport to the Pease development authority. **OTPA. Vote 14-0.**

HRA Analysis: No platform or constitutional issues identified. A sale for One Dollar! We are surprised the Governor did not see this as another sell to the left pocket what's in the right pocket revenue opportunity.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 604-FN-A, relative to tolls. **ITL. Vote 12-1.**

HRA Analysis: Users should pay for the turnpike or use other roads.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

➤ **RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

HB 353, designating Hampton Beach as a historic seaside recreational area. **ITL. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: The proponents of this bill wished the legislature to declare Hampton Beach State Park an "historic seaside recreational area." Even though they realized such a designation does not exist in statute and would only be symbolic and not afford the area any special rights, they felt such a designation would attract state and federal funding for renovations. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 384, creating urbanization and timber harvesting exemptions for prime wetlands. **OTPA. Vote 20-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows for managed foresting in prime wetlands and within the 100 foot upland buffer of these wetlands, which is presently prohibited. The NHGOP Platform promotes that New Hampshire "Preserve sensitive ecosystems." The platform also promotes "Working to prevent over-regulation of business" of which forestry is one. This bill allows a landowner to carefully harvest within these presently prohibited areas without ecological damage and thus meets both platform statements.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

➤ **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY**

HB 303-FN, relative to motor vehicle emissions and motor vehicle idling. **ITL. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: The anti-Republican Platform, "Automotive Nanny-State" surfaces in this bill. Turn off your car when it is parked anytime you want. Don't impose on your fellow citizen the burden of deciding whether it is over or less than 32° F so that he has 5 minutes or 15 minutes of idling freedom.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 496, establishing a limit on the amount of cost recovery for the emissions reduction equipment installed at the Merrimack Station. **ITL. Vote 15-4.**

HRA Analysis: Anti-business legislation fortunately rejected by a majority of the committee. Only a Democrat-mentality could lead to a law that mandates a business satisfy a government regulation and then would cap the amount of cost they can pass on to their customers in meeting it. Pandering at its best.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 697, relative to the penalty against public utilities. **ITL. Vote 19-0.**

HRA Analysis: The consensus of those reviewing this bill is that larger fines will just be based on to consumers and be used by the state to fund governmental operations.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

➤ **STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

HB 90-FN, relative to the employment of veterans on Veterans' Day. **OTP Vote 13-1.**

HRA Analysis: The Republican Party Platform opposes the over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses. We also support veterans, but anyone, veteran or otherwise, who does not want to work on any given day can elect not to do so. If his employer disagrees and it is important enough to the individual, he should go get another job.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

HB 524-FN, establishing a permanent state defense force. **ITL. Vote 8-4.**

HRA Analysis: The Republican Party Platform affirms the New Hampshire sovereignty and right of self-defense. The sponsors presented a persuasive case as to why this right needs to be exercised for our protection.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.

HCR 8, urging the President and Secretary of Defense to withdraw all New Hampshire national guard troops from Iraq in the absence of a valid and subsisting Congressional mandate for such service, and withholding the consent of the governor and New Hampshire state legislature from any further deployment of the New Hampshire national guard to Iraq in the absence of such mandate. **ITL. Vote 8-7.**

HRA Analysis: Wouldn't it be nice if life were so magical that we could just wish our national enemies away?

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HCR 10, urging the federal government to withdraw the United States from the North American Free Trade Agreement. **OTPA. Vote 14-0.**

HRA Analysis: It would likewise be delightful to some if we could just conjure up Fortress America, but no such luck.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA.

➤ **TRANSPORTATION**

HB 34, relative to rules of the road. **OTPA. Vote 12-4.**

HRA Analysis: A confusing, Nanny-state bill that would allow another reason for us to be pulled over and ticketed even though our operation of our motor vehicle is perfectly fine; if it isn't that should be the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA.

HB 357, relative to retention of special number plates for veterans by surviving spouses. **MAJORITY: OTPA. Vote 11-5.**

HRA Analysis: Support of this bill will appropriately demonstrate the support our party affords veterans as articulated in section V of the Party Platform.

HB 525, prohibiting smoking in vehicles when child passenger restraints are required. **ITL. Vote 10-8.**

HRA Analysis: We see the "Nanny-State" surfacing in this bill. As every vehicle is subject to the child restraints requirements of RSA 265:107-a, it could mean that you can't smoke in any vehicle; or it could mean you can't smoke in your vehicle if anyone is under 18. Take your pick of your poison or vote against the bill.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

➤ **WAYS AND MEANS**

HB 166-FN-A, increasing the beer tax. **ITL. Vote 11-9.**

HRA Analysis: No secrets here...."[w]e believe that controlling spending and minimizing taxes are the best ways to protect the economic and civic well being of New Hampshire residents." ~ NH GOP Platform.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 193-FN, establishing a fee for certification of reduced ignition propensity cigarettes. **OTPA. Vote 12-8.**

HRA Analysis: When is a tax not a tax? Answer...never. But sometimes it's called a fee.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

HB 696-FN-L, relative to fees for registration of criminal offenders. **OTP. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: Our committee liaison states that "*for the first time in my legislative career I supported raising a fee. My reasons for doing so were that in the every sense this fee is absolutely avoidable and does not have a bearing on our economic advantage or the free market system.*" The point is further made that, "[i]f you don't wish to pay this fee don't become a sex offender. It's rather simple."

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

➤ **COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

HB 75, prohibiting the use of information concerning education level to underwrite insurance coverage. **ITL. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: How awful that not becoming educated might have some consequences that would be recognized in the marketplace. We can either over-regulate business by dictating to insurance companies how to identify and underwrite the risk or we can recognize the wisdom of our party platform that essentially would have such issues left to the market to sort.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB 109, relative to consumer choice in health insurance. **ITL. Vote 10-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows health insurers to offer an accident and health insurance policy not subject to state-mandated health benefits. This is true health care reform that we can embrace and we should embrace, as does our Party's platform. See Section XIII. By some studies, half of health insurance premiums reflect state mandates. Reducing health care insurance premiums by 50% would certainly be welcomed by NH citizens.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP.

HB 199, requiring motor vehicle insurers to pay benefits to insured persons under their underinsured or uninsured motorist insurance coverage in cases of bodily injury or death cause by uninsured or underinsured negligent motorists, except under certain circumstances. **OTPA. Vote 15-3.**

HRA Analysis: Wouldn't it be nice if Legislative Services could always give us accurate titles. What this bill really does is shift to motor vehicle insurers the burden of proving that its insured was not negligent or the insurer wasn't prejudiced when the insured settles with another driver thus cutting off the insurer's subrogation rights. Personal injury lawyers are in their ascendancy in this legislature and our party's platform recognition of the burden of an over litigated society is being ignored. This bill over-regulates insurance companies and will drive up insurance premiums.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA.

HB 373, relative to insurance reimbursement for acupuncturists. **ITL. Vote 12-6.**

HRA Analysis: This bill appears to provide only for direct billing of insurers by acupuncturists if the medical insurance policy has such coverage. No party platform issue was identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

HCR 2, endorsing the National Health Insurance Act. **OTPA. Vote 11-6.**

HRA Analysis: No. Section XIII of the Republican Party Platform.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA

➤ **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

HB 78, relative to the interbranch criminal and juvenile justice council. **OTPA. Vote 18-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill raises no party or constitutional issue.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 449-FN, increasing the penalty for unlawful possession or release of criminal records. **OTP. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill raises no party or constitutional issue.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 520, establishing a commission to study the death penalty in New Hampshire. **OTPA. Vote 15-1.**

HRA Analysis: This issue has been studied over and over again. The cost of yet another study and a commission cannot be justified

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA.

HB 556-FN, repealing the death penalty. **ITL. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: It would be heartening if some of the opponents of the death penalty could be as solicitous of life at its beginning and at its end when we likewise see them on the death side of the abortion and euthanasia controversies. At any rate, our party platform supports “[s]trengthening prosecution and fair enforcement of our death penalty laws.” Section IX.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

EDUCATION

HB 332, establishing a commission to study school discipline. **OTPA. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: There is no need for a commission to find out something what could be just as easily ascertained simply by having the department of education require that a description be placed next to the “other” box when they send in their reports. Bureaucracy for its own sake should be avoided.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

HCR 7, in support of teen dating violence education. **OTPA. Vote 15-4.**

HRA Analysis: While very well intended and improved by the amendment, the number of resolutions of this kind would be endless if we passed them all. Others have been rejected on that basis. Moreover, the issue is already addressed locally. Can’t the state just trust local school districts to do what is right for their children?

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

➤ ELECTION LAW

HB 614, relative to domicile of students for voting purposes. **OTPA Vote 9-5.**

HRA Analysis: Voter fraud defined away. As our platform says, “[v]oting in NH must be done by NH resident citizens only.” Section V.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

➤ EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 289, relative to the requiring financial and business management experience for membership on the board of trustees of the New Hampshire retirement system. **ITL Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: Besides requiring financial knowledge for trustees, this completely revamps the composition of the board, eliminating employer (town) and employee representation and having all trustees appointed by the Governor. Financial knowledge and interest is not so rare among employer and employee ranks that it cannot be included as a deciding factor, and that will be considered along with HB 401, which has been retained by the committee. Our party platform opposes “*centralization of power*.” Section V.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 475-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. **ITL. Vote 17-1.**

HRA Analysis: The retirement system, citing their fiduciary duty to the pensioners, has sued to prevent enforcement of a similar bill from last session prohibiting investment in Sudan. That suit is currently at the Supreme Court. No platform issue identified here.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB 532-FN, excluding extra or special duty pay from earnable compensation in the retirement system. **OTPA. Vote 12-6.**

HRA Analysis: The committee amendment changes the bill to merely keep the state from contributing to the retirement system for special duty pay. Although this is desirable in limiting government spending, the original bill would be much more effective.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Nay on the committee amendment. If the amendment fails, **Support OTP**; otherwise support OPTA.

HB 591-FN, relative to the maximum initial retirement benefit for retirees in the New Hampshire retirement system. **ITL. Vote 10-8.**

HRA Analysis: “[L]ow taxes are the result of low spending”, and this bill would help control spending from the retirement system on oversized pensions.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 641-FN-L, relative to the determination of employer assessments for excess benefits paid by employers in the retirement system. **OTPA. Vote 19-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill apparently addresses technical issues in the retirement system and does not invoke any party platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

➤ FINANCE

HB 433-FN-A, making an appropriation to fund the reporting of hospital infections by the department of health and human services **OTPA Vote 20-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill addresses the reporting of hospital infections. It is a worthy bill that, through its amendment, does impose a reporting fee on hospitals. The amendment does not state the amount of the fee and given that fees are being over-assessed in this session, it should not be supported unless the fee is specified and directly related to the cost of the service provided by the state in receiving, compiling and publishing this information. This inadequacy flaws an otherwise worthy bill

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA.

➤ HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 580-FN, relative to health information and patient rights. **OTPA. Vote 14-6.**

HRA Analysis: The minority report it's pragmatic, devoid of fear, and well written. No party issue was identified, however.

HRA recommendation: No recommendation.

HB 595-FN-L, relative to eligibility for long-term care. **ITL. Vote 15-5.**

HRA Analysis: The majority of the committee felt this was moving away from making clinically accurate assessments. Also, the Department needs to address basic business process management in this area before bringing any potential legislation forward. *Platform: First Principle: Do No Harm* **HRA recommendation: Support ITL**

HB 648-FN, relative to the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. **OTPA. Vote 13-7.**

HRA Analysis: Platform concerns over law and order are often interpreted as in conflict with platform concerns over individual rights and autonomy.

HRA recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB 658-FN, relative to housing assistance for recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). **OTP. Vote 15-5.**

HRA Analysis: *Platform: Controlling and managing spending...meeting current fiscal commitments before creating new obligations.*

HRA recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

REGULAR CALENDAR – PART II

➤ JUDICIARY

HB 73, relative to the solemnization of marriage. **OTP. Vote**

HRA Analysis: MINORITY BLURB CENSORED. This bill eliminates all reference to “ministers of the gospel” that is currently in the marriage statute. This is another step to move NH into a non-religious world. There was no testimony offered that this bill was necessary.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

HB 147, prohibiting the recognition as civil unions of marriages between persons of the same sex contracted outside of New Hampshire. **ITL. Vote 12-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is an attempt to avoid the recognition of in NH of same sex marriages contracted outside NH. The proponents argue that foreign marriages and civil unions contracted outside NH no matter what state, country, tribe or region should be recognized.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 396, relative to the solemnization of marriage. **ITL. Vote**

HRA Analysis: MINORITY BLURB CENSORED. This bill includes references to clergy generally in our marriage laws, while not removing the reference to ministers of the gospel.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP

HB 453, establishing that marriage between one man and one woman shall be the only legal domestic union that shall be valid or recognized in this state. **ITL. Vote 12-8**

HRA Analysis: MINORITY BLURB CENSORED. If you have talked with constituents they would give you a clear answer that this bill should pass. Our party platform agrees: "*We place our highest priority on promoting and preserving the family . . . by: [r]ecognizing marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman . . .*" Section VIII.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 480-FN, relative to the definition of "public use" regarding eminent domain. **ITL. Vote 11-9.**

HRA Analysis: This bill closed certain loop-holes in our law by restricting the taking of private property to instances where the property would be taken solely for public use and no portion sold for private use. It also provides that if the taken property is not utilized for public use within 5 years or must revert back to the owner. Republicans "[s]upport prohibiting Eminent Domain taking of individual property to be used for private development." Platform, section X.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB 574-FN-L, authorizing liens for unpaid building code violations and requiring landlord agents for restricted rental property. **OTP. Vote 8-5.**

HRA Analysis: This is a premier example of the heavy hand of government using a stick as a means to solve the problem of poorly maintained low income rental apartments that results more from economic reality than individual maliciousness or mendacity. Yes there is and always has been a problem with slumlords in cities that harms the low income renters, but the stick is not the way to solve the problem. This legislation will result in fewer low income properties being available and more abandoned properties.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

HB 655-FN, extending senior active status to judges over 70 years of age. **OTPA. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: Part First, Art. 78 prohibits judges to stop serving at age. Whatever you think of the merits of that constitutional discussion it is there and should be followed.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

HB 686, relative to complaint procedures in cases before the commission for human rights. **OTP. Vote 8-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill eliminates the right of the defendant before the Human Rights Commission to move a complaint to the superior court for a jury trial irrespective of the fact that our constitution mandates the right of a jury trial when damages are in excess of \$1,500 and that plaintiffs are not prohibited from doing so. The bill was rushed

through committee and voted on even before request from committee members were no answered. The right of a jury trial should be preserved.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

➤ **COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

HB 187-FN, relative to manufactured housing. **OTPA. Vote 15-2.**

HRA Analysis: The commission may be a good idea, but the majority cannot escape the temptation to add a fee (tax) to everything that moves this session, including this bill.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

HB 334-FN, relative to consumer credit. **OTPA. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: Fee, fines and more licensing bureaucracy. What's not to vote against in this bill?

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

HB 346, relative to real estate developers creating space for drying laundry without electricity or gas. **ITL. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: Perhaps all developers should also be ordered to have a stream go through the development so people can use it to wash their clothes rather than washing machines? No, that would be as intrusive as requiring laundry drying space.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 350, prohibiting the sale and distribution of household cleaning products containing phosphorus. **OTPA. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: Catch what the majority blurb says. Phosphorous in cleaning liquids isn't going to be used after July 2010 which is when the legislation prohibiting it would take effect. What a useless bit of feel-good legislation.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

HB 482, relative to mold assessment, testing, and remediation. **ITL. Vote 13-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires "*out-of-state certification*" of certain NH businesses. This sort of mindless, anti-NH business over-regulation of business should be rejected.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HJR 4, requesting the Macquarie Bank to withdraw its rate hike request relating to the Aquarion Water Company in Hampton, North Hampton, and Rye. **ITL Vote 17-3**

HRA Analysis: Unless this bill can be amended to require the Concord Grill to stop charging so much for beer, it really should be defeated as over-regulation of business.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

➤ **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

HB 204, relative to discovery in driving while intoxicated cases. **OTP. Vote 11-2.**

HRA Analysis: Limiting the ability of a defendant to gain access to relevant information surely cannot be the way that we want our justice system to work.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB 312, permitting a person to record a law enforcement officer in the course of such officer's official duties. **ITL. Vote 14-5.**

HRA Analysis: Under our state constitution, as reinforced by our party platform, government should be open and accountable. Clearly audio and video recordings of its agents, including the police, as they interact with the people would be protected by these mandates.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP

HB 370, relative to equality of treatment of victims of crime. **OTP. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill appears to solve a problem that, from the blurb, was not shown to exist in NH. There is no penalty for its violation, so obviously it is being passed to establish a civil cause of action against police and municipalities for not investigating crimes as much as a victim wants. We ought not to subject our police and communities to such lawsuits.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB 398, relative to the unauthorized use of firearms in the compact part of a city or town. **OTP. Vote 8-6.**

HRA Analysis: This bill supports Second Amendment rights

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

➤ **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION**

HB 248-FN, relative to establishing a single liquor commissioner. **OTPA. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: This qualifies as “[k]eeping state government lean to minimize its burden on taxpayers and businesses” as set forth in our party’s platform. The bill eliminates two commissioners and simplifies the management of the Liquor Commission.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

HB 356, relative to required training for chiropractors performing spinal manipulation or spinal adjustment. **ITL. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: Over-regulation of business.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 381, prohibiting preferences in recruiting, hiring, promotion, or admission by state agencies, the university system, the community college system, and the postsecondary education commission. **ITL. Vote 14-1.**

HRA Analysis: The Constitution, Part 1, Article 2, states “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state on account of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.” State preferences or “affirmative action” deny our rights.

HRA Recommendation: Overturn ITL, Support

HB 408-FN, relative to the regulation of physicians and physician assistants by the board of medicine. **OTPA. Vote 19-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill updates the statutes controlling the Board of Medicine. No platform issue.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

➤ **JUDICIARY**

HB 415, adding certain terms regarding non-discrimination to the laws. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION. Vote 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds the term “gender identity or expression” into the discrimination law RSA 21. As such anyone who is not comfortable with his or her sex can select the sex he or she wishes to be on a temporary or permanent basis. The law does not distinguish between the impaired person and the person who chooses to change his or her sex on a lark with the intent to disrupt or embarrass others and ignore the rights of others and would have full privileges under the discrimination law. The bill would give all the right to visit the other sex facilities, work, etc. Any objection by the public, employers, landlords, etc. would be considered as discriminatory and subject to fines and other penalties under the Human Rights Commission.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

HB 436-FN-LOCAL, relative to civil marriage and civil unions. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION. Vote 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks the establishment of same sex marriages. As our platform states, the traditional family unite must be retained.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

➤ **STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

HCR 9, urging the United States Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**

HRA Analysis: Well, if Russia has signed, then we should. What a minute, it’s a dangerous world out there and maybe we should not. In fact writers for the Heritage Foundation recommend that the US not do so. It would amount to unilateral disarmament and would allow our nuclear arsenal to dangerously atrophy.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

➤ **WAYS AND MEANS**

HB 426-FN-A-LOCAL, establishing the New Hampshire homestead plan. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

HRA Analysis: This bill will increase real estate taxes for some and otherwise result in an unequal sharing of that burden. It also will centralize education funding and therefor violates our party’s goal of local control

HRA recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

CONSENT CALENDAR

HB 474-FN, prohibiting the trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation. **OTPA. Vote 17-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is so broadly drafted that it would criminalize behavior far beyond the trafficking in persons for commercial reasons, including normal disciplinary matters in families. It is a perfect example of over-reaching in an attempt to solve a limited problem.

HRA recommendation: Oppose OTPA.

During those weekly sessions in which the HRA does not hand out a scorecard showing members’ support of the Republican Party Platform, you can access the

scorecard updated since the last session at the HRA website: www.nhhra.org.

"Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness." --George Washington