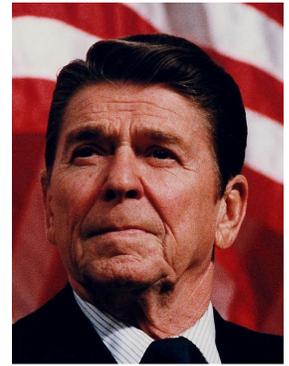


# House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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.

**Thursday, April 4, 2019**

## **Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

**HB564**, relative to possession of firearms in safe school zones. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill prohibits possession of firearms by law-abiding citizens in "safe school zones" in violation of the Constitution, "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose committee amendment, oppose OTP or OTP/A.

**HB630**, increasing certain fines for OHRV and snowmobile operation violations. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 18-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases fines for violating OHRV or snowmobile laws, including speeding, trespassing, and excessive noise; it also reimburses local agencies for the cost of enforcement. Platform: "Oppose "downshifting" of costs and regulatory enforcement from state to local government."

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP.

**HB696**, establishing a protective order for vulnerable adults. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill presumes the defendant is guilty until proven innocent, and provides for a mechanism by which to prevent the opportunity to prove innocence. The procedures of this bill could be easily abused or triggered by a momentary hostility in a dementia patient, and it conflates investigation, conviction, civil law and criminal law. The Constitution: "No subject shall be held to answer for any crime, or offense, until the same is fully and plainly, substantially and formally, described to him."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP.

## **Finance**

**HB116**, relative to the job classification of positions in the retirement system. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 14-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows the retirement system to classify positions in corrections as Group II without specific legislative authorization as long as the department of personnel certifies that they meet the statutory requirements for Group II. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

**HB120**, relative to the regulation of body art establishments. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a new apprentice body artist license and a new facilities license. It adds a new inspector position in the Office of Professional Licensure & Certification, and duplicates, at the state level, the local inspections and regulation now required. The Finance committee amendment includes the licensing and inspection of massage establishments, from HB 121. The Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose committee amendment, oppose OTP or OTP/A.

**HB457**, (New Title) establishing a committee to study the making, preservation, and Internet availability of audio and video recordings of proceedings of committees of the house of representatives. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 14-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This is a study committee; one that will lead to a program with expenses that far outweigh benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

**Thursday, April 4, 2019**

**HB616**, relative to a cost of living adjustment for retirees in the state retirement system. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds a small but permanent cost of living adjustment to retirees' pensions. Funding is not defined by the bill, but it's either \$78 million this year, in the budget, or an increase in property taxes for the next 20 years. Platform: "Ensure that public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector," and COLAs are rare for the few defined benefit pensions left in the public sector.

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

**HB729**, establishing a citizen's right-to-know appeals commission and a right-to-know law ombudsman and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill addresses the recurring problem of local officials refusing to properly answer right-to-know requests. The Constitution requires open and transparent government.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL.

## Ways and Means

**HB295**, establishing a special marriage officiant license. **OTP Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill links marriage to domestic violence in order to fund a special account. Platform: "Recognize marriage as the legal and sacred union between one man and one woman as ordained by God, encouraged by the State, and traditional to humankind, and the core of the Family." The minority amendment reduces the fee and breaks the link between marriage and domestic violence.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support minority amendment, oppose OTP, no recommendation on OTP/A.

**HB481**, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a massive regulation environment and Commission (similar to the Liquor Commission) to oversee enforcement. On one hand, the Platform states "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork;" on the other, "Support the State's Constitutional right to determine legal restrictions on possession of controlled substances."

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience.

**HB641**, allowing municipalities to collect an occupancy fee from operators of local room rentals. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows municipalities to impose a local tax on hotel rooms, to be used to support tourism. The platform says "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees."

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

**HB682**, establishing a water resources fund in the department of environmental services and charging certain application and permit fees. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** The amendment removes the authority for fees to be raised by rule. This bill has both new fees and an increase of fees by more than double or triple. Platform: "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees."

**HRA Recommendation:** Support committee amendment, Oppose OTP/A.