

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.



As we first sit down at 10:00 am on Wednesday, and prior to the beginning of the April 8 session, the motion for reconsideration on HB 415, the Bathroom Bill, will be brought forward. On March 26, the OTP motion on this bill was defeated by a vote of 157 to 172, with only four Republicans voting for OTP and 19 Democrats voting against it. The subsequent ITL motion passed, 181 to 149, on a division vote.

It is anticipated there will be several steps to avoid the Democrats' effort to strong-arm their caucus into supporting this radical legislation. Those defensive steps might include various superior motions leading up to a motion to adjourn and amendments of the bill on an OTP motion if ITL is reconsidered and then voted down. During the debate, watch your caucus leadership if they are proactive on this or Republican judiciary committee members if they need to lead the effort.

The Republican Party platform charges us to “[e]stablish laws to protect our children from sexual predators . . .,” and not to legislate to enable predators to prey on our children, based on strained or false claims of discrimination.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 REGULAR CALENDAR

FINANCE

HB 1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011. **MAJORITY: OTPA Vote 14-9.**

HRA Analysis: *“Republicans realize that low taxes are the result of low spending ... [and] ... that controlling spending and minimizing taxes are the best ways to protect the economic and civic well being of New Hampshire residents. . . . We reject higher taxes and excessive government spending”* The Democrat budget is tremendously irresponsible. It increases numerous taxes and fees, some of which unfairly impact those least able to pay. It engages in budgeting gimmickry in order to hide spending from our constituents. It will sap the economic strength of New Hampshire and continue to promote government’s well-being over the well-being of its citizens. Republicans members should welcome the opportunity to vote against this budget not just to keep faith with their constituents who voted for them as Republicans when they sent them to Concord, but also because the Democrat budget is so seriously flawed that it cries out for rejection.

Any amendment that eliminates new or increased taxes and fees deserves our support and votes. We should not compromise our party platform by voting for any budget that has new or increased taxes and fees, even if they are less than those proposed by Democrats. We should show voters that the Republicans have a better way to run government. We should not dilute that message by allowing the Democrats to claim their new and increased taxes and fees had “bipartisan” support.

HRA Recommendation: **Oppose OTPA (based on the committee amendments); Support ITL; Support Republican efforts to reduce the budget by amendments.**

HB 2-FN-A-L, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures. **OTPA Vote 14-9.**

HRA Analysis: See analysis on HB 1 above. There may be an effort to reorder HB 2 to the beginning of the calendar. We should support such an effort.

HRA Recommendation: **Oppose OTPA. See recommendation on HB 1 above.**

HB 344-FN, establishing the number of associate justices of the superior court. **ITL Vote 24-0**

HRA Analysis: The claim that there are an insufficient number of superior court justices is justified by theory rather than clear evidence. Alternate dispute resolution processes have been introduced since the publication four years ago of the study upon which this claim is made, including a court mediation program that is claimed by court personnel to be quite successful. The study should be updated before we burden the taxpayers with additional costs for judges and related support personnel.

HRA Recommendation: **Support ITL**

HB 391, authorizing the department of transportation to convey a portion of interstate highways to the bureau of turnpikes, redefining the eastern New Hampshire turnpike, increasing the aggregate amount of bonds the state may issue, and authorizing the department of transportation to install open road tolling. **OTPA Vote 25-0.**

HRA Analysis: Classic budget gimmickry intended to hide the fact that turnpike toll payers will be required to pay increased tolls to service over ten to 15 years bonds that will be sold to raise money to operate our state for the next two years. This fiscal irresponsibility runs contrary to the interests of New Hampshire residents and the platform of our party.

HRA Recommendation: **Oppose OTPA; Support ITL**

HB 420-FN, relative to the determination of gainful occupation for a group II member receiving an accidental disability retirement allowance from the retirement system. **OTPA Vote 23-1.**

HRA Analysis: Aren't disabled people receiving disability payments to replace income they supposedly can't earn because they are disabled supposed to be actually disabled? By loosening the restrictions on disabled retirees earning income, this bill appears to accommodate less than honest use of the disability system and, consequently, increased governmental expenditures.

HRA Recommendation: **Oppose OTPA**

HB 468-FN-L, relative to caps on total billings by the state to the counties for nursing home care. **OTPA Vote 25-0.**

HRA Analysis: It appears this bill is intended to protect counties, and therefore, local property taxpayers from exorbitant increases in funding for nursing homes occasioned by the state offloading this obligation to the counties. As stated in our party platform, we "[s]hould support initiatives that

lower property taxes for those in need...” which includes most of our constituents, particularly in these challenging economic times.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

HB 590-FN, relative to the retirement age for group II members. **OTP Vote 22-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill will reduce the burden of unfunded state employee retirement benefits on taxpayers while leaving the state employees who are hired after the effective date with a fair retirement plan. Indeed, a retirement plan that most private sector employees can only wish they had.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB 632-FN, relative to including fully certified police officers of the New Hampshire hospital campus force in group II of the retirement system. **ITL Vote 21-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill will increase government employee costs without any reason beyond a desire for additional compensation.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 25-FN-A, making appropriations for capital improvements. **OTPA Vote 17-0.**

HRA Analysis: This amendment eliminates the \$83.7M for local school building aid (which should not be bonded but in the operating budget) and authorizes \$127.47M bonding, leveraging \$94M of additional federal money for projects that will improve the state’s infrastructure, career technical centers, recreational facilities and government consolidation with a number of construction jobs for our residents.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 211-FN, relative to drivers' licenses and relative to the definition of “drivers' school.” **OTP Vote 17-3.**

HRA Analysis: Another new state fee (tax).

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB 383, relative to passenger restraints. **MAJORITY: OTPA Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: The NH Republican Party Platform section II states that we will work to enhance the freedoms of NH citizens. In doing so, we must allow adults to choose for themselves in regards to seatbelts. A 14-year old can choose to get an abortion in NH without parental consent but a war veteran must be treated as a child by the government and mandated to wear their seatbelt or else? This bill comes with an “incentive” of \$3.7 million from the federal government that may never be seen in our state and we have a history of not accepting such freedom-robbing payments in exchange for treating our constituents as a parent treats a child.

HRA recommendation: Oppose OTPA, then support ITL.

HB 392-FN, establishing an on-premises cigar, beverage, and liquor license. **OTPA Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: Our party platform seeks to create “*a supportive business climate... [and] to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small business.*” Remarkably for this legislative session, this bill would support both goals.

HRA recommendation: Support OTPA

HB 407-FN, establishing a lobster and crab landing license, and increasing the fee for the nonresident commercial salt water license. **OTP Vote 16-2.**

HRA recommendation: No party issue identified, therefore no recommendation

HB 481-FN-A, establishing a recreational saltwater license for taking finfish in coastal and estuarine waters. **OTPA Vote 15-3.**

HRA Analysis: More fees and more regulation; all, it appears, resulting from federal government arm-twisting. New Hampshire should just say no.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA

HB 601-FN, relative to claims for compensation from the victims' assistance fund.
MAJORITY: OTP. Vote 10-8.

HRA Analysis: The bill permits government benefits for illegal aliens.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB 647-FN, relative to motor vehicle fines and violations. **OTPA Vote 12-6.**

HRA Analysis: When new motor vehicle fines exceed inflation, they become just another tax increase.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA; Support ITL

Abortion . . . Euthanasia

Don't Liberals Just Kill Ya?¹

¹ Okay, not always. They would prefer, of course, not to kill you if you are convicted murderer or terrorist (err, “perpetrator of man-caused disasters”) fighting American troops on the battlefield.