

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.

Bill Number	Committee	Committee Vote	HRA recommends
SB 69		Reconsideration	Oppose reconsideration
SB 113	Ways & Means	OTP/A 11-10	Oppose OTP/A
SB 116	Criminal Justice	OTP/A 10-6	Support OTP/A
SB 154	Ways & Means	OTP 19-0	Oppose OTP
SB 190	Education	OTP/A 19-0	No Recommendation
SB 211	Ways & Means	OTP/A 19-0	Support OTP/A
SB 227	Education	OTP 19-0	Oppose OTP
SB 230	Transportation	OTP/A 10-5	No Recommendation
SB 236	Criminal Justice	OTP 16-1	No Recommendation
SB 249	Judiciary	OTP 15-1	Support OTP
SB 252	Transportation	OTP 17-4	No Recommendation

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Reconsideration on the ITL of SB69, establishing a commission to study social impact bond funding for early childhood education for at-risk students.

HRA Analysis: This bill is set up to strongly recommend universal, state sponsored preschool, whether or not the parents and taxpayers of New Hampshire want it. The HRA opposed OTP and supported ITL. Why reconsider?

HRA Recommendation: Oppose reconsideration.

REGULAR CALENDAR

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 116, repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-6.

HRA Analysis: This bill makes the concealed carry license optional, and the amendment makes it clear that either federal or state laws can disqualify a person. The Constitution states: “All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state” and the Platform continues with: “oppose the requirement to obtain a license to carry a concealed firearm.”

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

SB 236-FN, relative to alcohol ignition interlock requirements. OTP. Vote 16-1.

HRA Analysis: This bill allows inspections of interlock systems and establishes criteria for license suspensions for violations. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

EDUCATION

SB 190-FN, (New Title) relative to payment of costs for career and technical education center programs and administration by the department of education. OTP/A. Vote 19-0.

HRA Analysis: This bill sets state payments for these high schools equal to the amount budgeted. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

SB 227, relative to calculating the cost of an adequate education. OTP. Vote 19-0.

HRA Analysis: This bill sets state payments for school aid according to “current practice.” Among other things, it replaces the tapered stabilization grants we approved in HB2 with a flat level, paying more towns for non-existent students. A floor amendment will be offered to correct the stabilization grant formula to agree with HB2.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support the floor amendment, support tabling or referring to Finance.

JUDICIARY

SB 249, relative to the Hampton and Exeter district divisions of the circuit court. OTP. Vote 15-1.

HRA Analysis: This bill codifies current practice of utilizing different courthouses in the district, saving travel time and expense for all parties. The need to build a new courthouse is eliminated. The Platform states: "Cut spending and the cost of government at every possible turn."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

TRANSPORTATION

SB 230, speed limits on state roads seasonally congested by pedestrian and bicycle traffic. OTP/A. Vote 10-5.

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, applies to roads congested by seasonal bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The town requests a lower speed limit, DOT evaluates the request and decides the question. This is enabling legislation, but since no town actually wants to do this, it's not necessary. The Platform states: "Improve highways and reduce traffic congestion to increase access to recreation and tourism," but also “Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.”

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

SB 252, establishing a committee to study a plate commemorating Laconia Motorcycle Week. OTP. Vote 13-2.

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a study committee. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 113-FN-A-L, relative to video lottery and table gaming. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-10.

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes a two casino duopoly. The Platform requires us to “Reject expanded casino and video lottery gambling as a means to balance the budget or increase spending,” and this bill has high initial fees and lower ongoing revenues. The combination will ensure that new programs are started – or old ones continued – with the license money, but will not be able to continue in the long run. The Constitution forbids the legislature from supporting businesses that “destroy free and fair competition in the trades and industries through combination, conspiracy, monopoly, or any other unfair means” including limited licenses.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

Floor amendments: Murphy amendment adds keno, as passed by the House and added to HB2, to SB113. Keno supports local businesses, but since it's already in the budget it's not needed here as well.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

Abramson amendment repeals turnpike tolls after the first casino is operational.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation; you decide if this is the most appropriate use of gaming funds.

Hoell amendment replaces the entire bill with a repeal of RSA 647:2, which makes most gambling a criminal offense. This allows casinos where the market dictates, and other forms of gambling where desired, specifically including in one's home. This not only ends any monopoly, it also supports our natural right to the pursuit of happiness.

HRA Recommendation: Support

SB 154, authorizing the department of safety to set fees for motorcycle rider education. OTP. Vote 19-0.

HRA Analysis: Currently fees are set for non-residents, but no statutory authority has been given to set fees for residents, who also take the course and pay the same amount of \$155. In other states, motorcycle education is provided by private organizations, but they can't compete with the government. The Platform urges us to "Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector," and this is certainly one.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

SB 211-FN, relative to taxation of employee leasing companies under the BET. OTP/A. Vote 19-0.

HRA Analysis: This is a complex tax situation where client companies "lease" employees with special expertise. Typical customers are small business who don't want to add overhead but need specialists in areas such as payroll, human resources, or compliance. An industry has sprung up to supply this expertise. Under current tax law, the leasing company pays the business enterprise tax (BET) and the client company, who actually has the person, gets no BET credit on their business profits tax (BPT). All participants agree that this situation is contrary to the intent of the laws regarding BET offsetting BPT. This bill corrects that problem by letting the client company pay the BET. The committee amendment resolves DRA technical issues. The Platform broadly states "Improving NH Business Climate." This bill is consistent with that objective.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A