

# 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 11 (from consent)	Municipal & County	OTP 18-0	Oppose OTP
SB 25	Children & Family	OTP 14-2	No Recommendation
SB 45	HHS	OTP 16-2	Oppose OTP
SB 64	Resources	OTP 13-3	Support OTP
SB 104	Commerce	OTP 11-7	Oppose OTP
SB 119 (from consent)	Leg. Admin	OTP 12-0	No Recommendation
SB 124	Resources	OTP/A 14-5	Oppose OTP/A
SB 128	Ways & Means	OTP/A 14-1	Support OTP/A
SB 134	Education	OTP/A 18-0	Support OTP/A
SB 137	Children & Family	ITL 16-0	Support ITL
SB 162	Education	OTP/A 18-0	Support OTP/A
SB 163	Resources	OTP/A 12-8	No Recommendation
SB 164	Resources	OTP/A 11-9	Oppose OTP/A
SB 170 (from consent)	HHS	OTP/A 19-0	Oppose OTP/A
SB 189	ED&A	OTP/A 17-2	Support OTP/A
SB 194 (from consent)	HHS	OTP 17-2	Oppose OTP
SCR 1	Resources	OTP 18-1	No Recommendation

## WEDNESDAY, May 8 REGULAR CALENDAR

### CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

SB 25, relative to the treatment of medical support in child support cases. OTP. Vote 14-2.

**HRA Analysis:** No Constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

SB 137-FN, relative to sibling visitation rights. ITL. Vote 16-0.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows a sibling to petition for court-ordered visitation rights. The Platform, part V, urges us to “maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing, and discipline of their children.” Allowing courts to interfere more than they already do in family dynamics threatens to undermine the parents' primary position.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL.

### COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SB 104, establishing a commission to study the current community-based system of commodities reporting by

junk or scrap metal dealers in New Hampshire. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill studies the system with the obvious intention of creating a new fee on scrap metal dealers to pay for the existing database that the bill intends to institutionalize. The Platform, part II, reminds us to “strongly oppose new taxes and fees.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP. Support ITL.**

## **EDUCATION**

**SB 134**, relative to the division of higher education and the higher education commission. **OTP/A. Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill consolidates the existing regulatory structure for higher education in the higher education commission. The Platform, part I, states we should “keep state government lean.”

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

**SB 162-FN**, repealing the student tuition guaranty fund and making provisions for the disbursement of remaining funds, and relative to the membership of the higher education commission. **OTP/A. Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill eliminates an existing fee on private post-secondary schools and returns the remaining funds to the payers. The Platform, part II, reminds us to “strongly oppose new taxes and fees”, so we strongly support eliminating an old one!

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

## **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION**

**SB 189-FN**, relative to the licensure of fuel gas fitters and plumbers by a mechanical licensing board established within the department of safety and transferring regulation of plumbers to the mechanical licensing board. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill consolidates the existing regulatory structure for these professions and decreases the training required for gas fitters, based on experience since the license was created in 2006. The Platform, part I, states we should “remove barriers to apprenticeships” and “minimize business regulations.”

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

## **HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**SB 45**, relative to electronic prescriptions. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 16-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases regulations on health insurers by requiring an approval within 48 hours, when the standard is 72 hours. The Platform, Part 1, insists that we “minimize business regulations.”

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

## **RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**SB 64**, relative to public informational meetings on dams. **OTP. Vote 13-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill shifts the responsibility for funding a public hearing on water level changes due to private dams from the town to the dam owner. The Platform, part VIII, states our support of private property ownership, and the responsibility that comes with ownership.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

**SB 124-FN**, establishing an integrated land development permit. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 14-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill offers a consolidated permit process that offers developers a more coherent and streamlined experience, with probable savings in the state manpower required. However, it also creates two new positions to implement this “efficiency improvement!” The Platform, part I, states we “must keep state government lean.” A floor amendment may be offered to eliminate these positions; if so, support that amendment and support the bill if the amendment passes.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.**

**SB 163**, establishing a commission to recommend legislation to prepare for projected sea level rise and other coastal and coastal watershed hazards. **OTP/A. Vote 12-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**SB 164**, authorizing coastal management provisions in master plans. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-9.**  
**HRA Analysis:** This bill assumes the results of the commission established by SB163. Clearly, if the commission is established, it's foolish to take action prior to its report. The Platform, Part I, states we must “work with municipalities to streamline planning,” and adding new provisions prior to analysis is the opposite.  
**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.**

**SCR 1**, special use permits in the White Mountain National Forest. **OTP. Vote 18-1.**  
**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues identified.  
**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

#### **WAYS AND MEANS**

**SB 128-FN-L**, relative to fees for vital records. **OTP/A. Vote 14-1.**  
**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the proportion of the fees for vital records that are retained by the town clerks, who deal with the public and issue the copies, rather than the general fund. Since the Constitution, Part 1, Article 28-a, forbids imposing duties on towns without funding them, authorizing more funding for a joint state/town responsibility is in the same spirit.  
**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

### **Pulled from the CONSENT CALENDAR**

**SB 11**, relative to water and sewer utility districts and water or sewer utility districts. **OTP. Vote 18-0.**  
**HRA Analysis:** While this is enabling legislation, it authorizes charges to landowners in these districts based on the “benefit” received, not how much water is used. The Constitution, part 1, Article 2, recognizes that the rights to own and enjoy property are fundamental to our freedom.  
**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.**

**SB 119**, joint legislative historical committee to study flag restoration and preservation. **OTP. Vote 12-0.**  
**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues identified.  
**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**SB 170**, relative to advance directives pertaining to life-sustaining treatment. **OTP/A. Vote 19-0.**  
**HRA Analysis:** This bill “clarifies” the wording in advance directives for medically administered food and water. Most people thinking of end of life decisions consider food and water far differently from dialysis or a ventilator, but this approach doesn't. The Platform, Part III, states we “support the moral and ethical right of informed consent.”  
**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.**

**SB 194-FN**, requiring the DHHS to implement the Medicaid family planning expansion. **OTP. Vote 17-2.**  
**HRA Analysis:** This bill is a further expansion of medicaid. The Platform, part III, states that we “oppose the implementation of Obamacare in New Hampshire.” The monies in this program will likely go to organizations that perform abortions; it is morally objectionable for public monies to go toward a procedure which is antithetical to liberty. The family planning medicaid expansion is just one more step in the direction of government mismanaged healthcare in New Hampshire.  
**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.**