

# 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.



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9  
REGULAR CALENDAR**

## COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**SB 222**, relative to property and casualty insurance, insurance investigations, and insurance certificates.  
**OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 12-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes technical corrections to laws regarding property and casualty insurance. For example, current law does not allow insurance to be cancelled as long as the insurer receives timely payment; this bill specifies that the insurer's agent may also receive payment. Perhaps the only somewhat troublesome aspect of the bill is that it allows the Insurance Department to share "confidential and privileged" documents with the Bank for International Settlements provided that confidentiality is assured. This change allows the Insurance Department to work directly with international agencies rather than work through the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, which is the current method. This should make our state more competitive in the world insurance marketplace. The Republican Platform states in section VI. Economic Development "We remain committed to making NH the best place in the nation to live, to visit and to do business."

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP**

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**SB 274**, removing the phrase "mentally defective" from the aggravated felonious sexual assault statute.  
**OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 11-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill removes the phrase "mentally defective" from the aggravated felonious sexual assault statute. It replaces this demeaning term with a definition that the Supreme Court used to define an individual who doesn't possess the capacity to make an informed decision. This is not a bill to bring political correctness to our NH Criminal Statutes. Rather, it adds a working definition to criminal law instead of using an archaic 19th Century term. This bill has the support of the Attorney General, the NH County Attorneys, NH Association of Chiefs of Police, etc.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

## FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

**SB 224**, relative to lead fishing sinkers and jigs. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 13-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This committee is fully committed to studying this issue over the summer and producing a comprehensive report that takes all interests into consideration: impact on business (not business or consumer friendly), impact on fishermen, impact on loons and other water fowl and impact on our lakes, ponds and streams. Further, the committee is resolved to work closely with the Loon Preservation Society and fish and game department to ensure that proper education and enforcement of existing laws are given more consideration. The Republican Platform states in section VI. Economic Development "Our approach to economic development is founded upon creating a supportive business climate and increasing tourism." This bill currently does neither.

**HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study**

**SB 297**, relative to the apprentice hunting license. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 11-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This is a housekeeping bill to include RSA 208:5 which references the fees for a resident or non-resident archery license. This RSA should have been included in HB 206, Chapter 46, as amended, which passed both houses in 2011.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

## **MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**SB 255**, relative to liens for land use change tax assessments. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 14-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** When a landowner takes land out of current use, the tax collector will send a tax bill for a land use change tax. The tax collector may take up to 18 months to send that bill. This bill allows the owner up to 24 months from the time the owner changed the land use to pay the bill. The intent is to give the owner a 6-month window to pay the tax after the tax collector sends the bill. There do not appear to be any platform or constitutional issues.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**SB 382-FN-L**, allowing for proration of property assessments for damaged buildings. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 11-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This legislation creates a process through which taxpayers may receive a property tax abatement for buildings significantly damaged or destroyed by fire or natural disaster. Our platform states that we "support initiatives that lower property taxes for those in need" and that "assessed value for the purpose of property taxation shall... be determined on the basis of objective standards to determine the assessed land and building values." The amendment allows that a tax assessment may be prorated to the extent that a damaged building is unusable and extends eligibility to all buildings rather than just homes. Both the underlying bill and the amendment are in agreement with the platform.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA**

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 9**

### **PULLED OFF CONSENT CALENDER**

**SB 260**, relative to protection and preservation of significant archeological deposits. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 16-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This amendment to RSA 674 enables local legislative bodies to adopt regulations that will allow their planning boards to take action, when appropriate, to protect and preserve significant archeological sites. The planning board must adopt its own regulations for the protection of each deposit or site that meets the need of its community. This bill does not support individual property rights and seeks to preserve or extract the archeological information with the cooperation of all parties except the land owner (who is not mentioned in the bill).

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Then Support ITL**