

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.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

REGULAR CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

SB 193, relative to adjustments to the child support guidelines under special circumstances. **OTP. Vote 13-3.**

This bill codifies current court practice. However, it states that nearly equal shared parenting does in and of itself warrant adjustment to the child support guidelines. This is a reversal of the current trend and might be interpreted by some masters and judges to preclude adjustment under RSA 458 C:7 which provides for a hearing upon a substantial change. A floor amendment will be offered by Rep. Mattarazzo striking the offensive language and gives guidance to the court as to situations that warrant adjustment to the guidelines.

Recommendation: Support the floor Amendment. Support OTP/A if amended, Oppose OTP if not Amended.

COMMERCE

SB 38, relative to uninsured or hit-and-run motor vehicle coverage. **OTP/A. Vote 14-4.**

This bill allows that if an insured elects to raise his liability coverage, the insured's "uninsured motorist coverage" shall automatically raise to an equal amount. It further states if this is not desired by the insured then this must be in writing.

No Recommendation

SB 93-FN, relative to insurance coverage for children's early intervention therapy services. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 11-8.**

The NHGOP Platform supports reducing the costs of health insurance. This bill would increase insurance premiums.

Recommendation : Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL.

SB 125-FN, relative to certificates for architect business organizations. **OTP/A. Vote 13-6.**

This legislation prohibits a person who is not a licensed architect from holding himself out to the public as performing architectural services. Licensure has been used as a method of restraining trade and limiting the number of people in a profession. The NHGOP platform professes to be "working to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses."

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL

SB 155, relative to insurance coverage for chiropractic services. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 13-6.**

This bill asks that the co-payment amount for a chiropractic visit be the same as for a primary care physician visit. The NHGOP Platform "support(s) efforts for higher quality healthcare." In the absence of information that chiropractic services are substantially more costly than physician's services, the difference in co-pays amounts to a value judgment for the medical service. The higher co-pays will force people away from an accepted form of treatment. This is inappropriate.

Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP.

EDUCATION

SCR 2, urging Congress to amend the No Child Left Behind Act. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 10-6.**

The "No Child Left Behind" Act is presently under review in Congress and changes are contemplated. The use of the legislative process is political posturing and serves only to waste time and resources.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL.

SB 18-FN, raising the age of required attendance of children in school. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 12-6.**

Under existing law a student can drop out at age 16 only if the parents, after consultation with the school principal, agree. This bill takes away these parental rights and vests that authority with the school district superintendent. The NHGOP Platform states that "only

parents can be entrusted to control the education of their children.” In addition, this bill forces an unfunded mandate onto the backs of the local property taxpayer.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL.

SB 82-FN, reorganizing the administration and governance of the regional community-technical college system. **OTP/A. Vote 17-0.** This bill grants the New Hampshire Community Technical College System the same legal status as that of the University System of New Hampshire.

No Recommendation

SB 101, relative to payment of costs for certain students attending alternative education programs. **OTP. 12-2.**

Depending on the implementation, this bill could be either a boon or a boondoggle. Legislators should use their own judgment in deciding what is most likely to occur.

No Recommendation

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

SB 235-FN-A, relative to milk support for dairy farmers. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 16-1.**

This bill would tax milk to purchase development rights to agricultural lands. The bill proponents call it a fee. A fee is a charge to provide a service. A tax is a device to provide revenue or funds for another purpose. Thus this is a tax. The money would provide dedicated funds to purchase the development rights. Are there not other projects, such as LCHIP, that do the same thing? The NHGOP Platform ‘rejects higher taxes.’ This tax should be rejected also.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Then Support ITL

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 148-FN, relative to retirement system status for members of the university system police force. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 12-5.**

This bill would allow police employed by UNH and Plymouth State University to become members of Group II of the New Hampshire Retirement System. According to the majority blurb (and un-refuted), the RSA declares that Group II members must be employed by political sub-divisions of the state. As the bill did not change the RSA or declare the above-named universities political sub-divisions of the state, the Legislature should obey its own laws.

Recommendation: Support ITL

SB 169-FN-A, establishing a death benefit to be paid to the family of a police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty and establishing a committee to study the feasibility of establishing a state death benefit for emergency medical technicians killed in the line of duty. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL Vote 12-5.**

No Recommendation

FINANCE

SB 47-FN-A, making a supplemental appropriation for school building aid. **OTP/A. Vote 18-0.**

The bill corrects a budget shortfall. Proper fiscal policy.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A

FISH AND GAME

SB 191-FN-A, relative to the nongame species account in the fish and game fund. **OTP/A. Vote 15-0**

This bill will provide resources to match federal grants to support non-game species management.

No Recommendation

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

SB 138-FN-A, relative to the waiting list for services to persons with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders and making appropriations therefor. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: OTP/A. Vote 13-7.**

The NHGOP Platform “support(s) efforts for higher quality health care...” The amendment corrects the problem and meets a state commitment one year sooner than the original bill.

Recommendation: Support the Amendment.

SB 176-FN, relative to lead paint poisoning and establishing a commission to study the current childhood lead poisoning prevention law, policies, and standards. **OTP/A. Vote 19-1.**

The NHGOP Platform opposes over-regulation. This bill is intrusive and over-reaches. It may also have the unintended consequence of removing low income housing units from the market.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL.

SB 213-FN-A, establishing a comprehensive cancer plan fund and making an appropriation therefor, and establishing a comprehensive cancer plan oversight board. **OTP. Vote 19-0.**

No Recommendation

SB 215-FN-A, making an appropriation for AIDS services. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 20-0.**

No Recommendation

SB 226-FN, relative to the temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) program. **MAJORITY: OUGHT OTP/A. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 16-4.**

The amendment to this bill weakens the current requirement that an applicant for assistance attend workplace orientation classes. This requirement was part of the effort to bring the state's program into compliance with federal guidelines. Thus the amendment may result in a penalty from the feds.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A and Support OTP.

JUDICIARY

SB 261, naming the state law library the John W. King law library. **OTP. Vote 17-2.**

No Recommendation

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

SB 97, relative to unemployment administrative contributions and the training fund, and transferring the job training program administered by the department of regional community-technical colleges to the department of resources and economic development. **OTP. Vote 12-7.**

This bill uses money from the unemployment trust as grants to give training to currently employed workers. This is corporate welfare of the worst kind. The Republican Party Platform says that we will "continue our emphasis on educating and training our work force" but this should be done through loans, not grants, especially if the money is to come from the unemployment trust fund. The Committee needs to fix this bill before its ready for prime time.

Recommendation: OPPOSE OTP, then SUPPORT RECOMMIT or ITL

SB 195-FN, relative to unemployment benefits for persons needed to care for family members who are disabled. **OTP. Vote 17-2.**

This bill allows individuals who need to care for disabled family members, who are certified by a licensed physician of the need of full time care, to be eligible for part time benefits. The Unemployment Compensation Fund is an employer-funded account designed to tide over a worker who has lost his or her job until that person is able to find new employment. It recognizes the employer's obligation in providing that transitional assistance. It is not, and cannot, become a welfare fund. It puts an unfair and unwarranted burden on the employer; a burden more appropriately funded out of general revenues. It is a shift of responsibility from the state to the employer.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SB 54, relative to dog license fees. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. . Vote 8-5.**

SB54- SUPPORT ITL- This bill would increase the dog license fee from \$1 to \$5, a 400% increase! A fee should only reflect the cost to provide the service. Increasing the fee so substantially might also have the unintended consequence of having fewer dog owners pay for the rabies shots required to get the license.

Recommendation: Support ITL

SB 217-FN-A, establishing the New Hampshire housing and conservation planning program. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 9-5.**

This bill creates another new program for housing and conservation planning. ADDING FUNDING to a NEW program is stretching the ability to cover the costs of all the programs that already need attention.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

SB 67-FN-A, relative to implementation of the recommendations of the YDC master plan and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP/A. Vote 17-0.**

The bill appears to be sound fiscal policy by implementing a plan that subdivides property, preserves certain buildings for possible future use, demolishes buildings that have no historical value, or current operational value, and sells two properties for not less than fair market value.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SB 68-FN-A, making an appropriation to the department of environmental services to implement the New Hampshire estuaries project's comprehensive conservation and management plan. **OTP/A. Vote 14-0.**

A tenet of the NHGOP Platform is to “preserve sensitive ecosystems and effectively manage wildlife.” New Hampshire’s Estuaries are among the most sensitive. This bill continues the effort.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 73-FN-A, relative to lottery prizes and administration by the lottery commission. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP/A.**

Vote 13-4.

This bill does two things. It allows certain management practices concerning incentives and payouts in the Lottery and creates a \$30 scratch ticket. The NHGOP Platform, as part of its preamble, extols “Personal Responsibility.” The Platform also endorses the state’s quality of life as a key component in the New Hampshire Advantage. When it comes to gambling and the lottery, the issues of “personal responsibility” and “quality of life” are subjective and may be in conflict. A reasonable argument can be made on both sides of the issue.

No Recommendation

Your Handy Guide for Thinking out of the Box