

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.

VETO OVERRIDE

HB 474, relative to freedom of choice on whether to join a labor union.

HRA Analysis: By far the most important vote we will take today. This bill gives individuals who work in unionized workplaces the choice of whether to pay agency fees or not. It benefits workers by encouraging unions to perform well thus earning the workers' voluntary support. It also fulfills the promise our platform made to “support the 'right to work' by adopting legislation necessary to ensure this principle for all workers.”

HRA Recommendation: Support the override of the Governor's veto

REGULAR CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SB 93, relative to pharmacist administration of vaccines. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds a couple of vaccines to the seasonal flu shots that can be administered by a pharmacist. As the platform clearly states “we support increased use of market forces to provide and improve health care and reduce costs.”

Adding locations that can provide vaccines increases competition and will lower costs and/or increase convenience.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

SB 120, relative to alcoholic beverage advertising restrictions. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 17-0**

HRA Analysis: Current law doesn't allow billboard liquor advertising or external advertising of happy hours or similar promotions. This bill removes these blanket restrictions, but allows municipalities to adopt their own bans. It is a small step in favor of free speech (constitution) and reducing over-regulation of business (platform).

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

SB 162-FN, relative to federal health care reform 2010. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-1**

HRA Analysis: Last year, SB 455 directed the insurance department to implement Obamacare. It created RSA 420-L for this purpose. While 420-L will sunset on July 1, from the federal government's point of view, Obamacare is proceeding. Both SB162 and the House amendment create a legislative committee to oversee any implementation of that law in New Hampshire. The House amendment improves the bill a bit by making it clear that nothing can be done without the committee's approval and that our goal is not to cooperate, but to resist. It also eliminates an administrative position related to implementation. The Obamacare approach to health insurance is the opposite of our party's. The platform supports limited government, “increased use of market forces” and more health options. Instead, Obamacare is a top-down, one-size-fits-all, big-government system. We need SB162 to oppose the further federalization of the health industry.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

SB 171, relative to prescription drug benefits for the treatment of pain. **MAJ: ITL MIN: OTP Vote 13-4**

HRA Analysis: This is just another health insurance mandate, requiring yet another procedure similar - but not quite identical - to existing procedures and requirements. The Platform, Section XIII, states “we support efforts ... reducing costs of health care and health insurance”. This bill will increase costs.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 52-FN, excluding persons convicted of violent crimes and sexually violent persons from mandatory early release on probation or parole. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 14-0**

HRA Analysis: By giving the parole board flexibility to grant conditions of parole based on the offender's crime, SB52 comports with constitution's Art. 18: "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense. No wise legislature will affix the same punishment to the crimes of theft, forgery, and the like, which they do to those of murder and treason."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

EDUCATION

SB 67, establishing a committee to study school vouchers and school choice. **MAJ: OTPA MIN:ITL Vote 12-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended strengthens the original bill by expanding the scope of study beyond vouchers to tax credit programs that have been operating across the country. The goal for the study committee is to become well versed and therefore a resource to the House and Senate education committees. The study committee shall issue a report containing recommendations of features that should be included in future plans of this nature. The recommendations made by the committee will be helpful to ensure any programs are precise as to terminology and methodology and beneficial to parents and students. The platform states "School vouchers or tuition tax credits should be made available to assist in school choice."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

SB 192, establishing a commission to identify strategies needed for delivering a 21st century education. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 12-5.**

HRA Analysis: The majority believes that this bill is another rehash of continual strategies tried and failed since the 1930's and therefore sees no need to open the door to a new fad which could result in moving further away from the basics and academic excellence. The platform states "Local control of education policy and education funding creates the best managed school systems."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

FINANCE

SB 158-FN, relative to the payment of state aid grants for water and wastewater for 2009 and 2010 **MAJ: ITL MIN:OTP 18-8**

HRA Analysis: The state has a program to pay 20% of the cost of municipalities' water and sewer projects. However, since October, 2008, there has been no money in the budget for new projects (the 20% payments are continuing on earlier projects). Projects that have come along since then are on a first-come-first-served waiting list for funding. SB-158 would freeze the list as of FY11, fund all projects on the list proportionally and start a new waiting list for FY12 and beyond. While this is a fanciful discussion of how we would spend money if we had it, like dreams of winning the lottery, it has the flavor of changing the rules after the game has started. This is contrary to part 1, article 23 of the NH Constitution: "Retrospective laws are highly injurious, oppressive, and unjust. No such laws, therefore, should be made, either for the decision of civil causes, or the punishment of offenses."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

SB 46, extending and revising the commission to develop a plan for the expansion of transmission capacity in the north country. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 10-6.**

HRA Analysis: Our platform says we will "reevaluate and eliminate ineffective legislation." By contrast this bill extends the life of an ineffective commission which has had years to produce results, but failed.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

SB 55-FN, requiring certain engine coolants and antifreeze to include an aversive agent so that they are rendered unpalatable. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 8-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is the same as HB431 of last session. At that time the HRA analysis was: "*The Platform says we are 'Working to prevent over-regulation of business.' Mandating a specific aversion agent, with no protection for manufacturers if it is ineffective or has other deleterious effects, is over-regulation. Let the market decide.*" We see no reason to change this position.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

CONSENT CALENDAR

SB 40, an act making technical corrections to meals and rooms tax laws.

HRA Analysis: We've heard a rumor that this bill will be taken from the consent calendar to append the 10 cent reduction in the cigarette tax that was passed by the House earlier this term. The platform says "we believe in promoting lower taxes to attract business development and expand economic opportunities..." Lowering this tax will help attract out-of-state customers back to New Hampshire.

HRA Recommendation: Support the floor amendment adding the tobacco tax reduction and support OTPA