

# 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.



**THURSDAY, MAY 31**

## **REGULAR CALENDAR**

### **COMMERCE**

**SB 42-FN**, prohibiting smoking in restaurants, cocktail lounges, and certain enclosed public places. **MAJORITY: OTP.**

**MINORITY: ITL. Vote 11-7.**

This bill is a government knows best bill. It interferes with the legitimate right of business owners. It also absolves the offended customer or employee of the duty of personal responsibility.

**Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL**

**SB 52**, relative to authorizing the attorney general to bring actions for violations of New Hampshire combination and monopolies law.

**OTP/A. Vote 11-6**

The NHGOP Platform promotes efforts “to prevent over-regulation of business.” This bill would involve the attorney general in lawsuits that are detrimental to business and, as litigation costs would be passed on, to consumers.

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

**SB 135**, establishing a commission to study lowering costs of health insurance for small businesses. **OTP. Vote 12-2.**

This bill establishes a commission to create a report identifying approaches and products targeted at lowering the cost of health insurance for small businesses.

**No Recommendation**

**SB 183-FN**, requiring health insurance plans for family coverage to extend to dependent under age 26. **ITL. Vote 10-7.**

A similarly bad bill has already been passed by the House. Unfortunately, killing this bill doesn't kill that bill.

**Recommendation: Support ITL**

**SB 220**, establishing a commission to study the feasibility of establishing a public review board for health insurance rate increase requests. **ITL. Vote 9-8.**

The NHGOP Platform promotes efforts “to prevent over-regulation of business.” Insurance is not a monopoly. It is a competitive business. Thus market forces should control prices. This bill would lay the foundation of establishing a government bureaucracy that would establish insurance rates. In all instances this will drive costs up and services down.

**Recommendation: Support ITL**

**SB 254**, relative to legal representation during contract negotiations. **OTP. Vote 9-4.**

This bill is governmental interference in contractual negotiations between consenting entities.

**Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL.**

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**SB 41**, relative to the authority of law enforcement officers to obtain registration checks on motor vehicles for official purposes and prohibiting the use of automated number plate scanning devices. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: OTP/A.**

Both the Majority and Minority positions are OTP, but with different amendments. Both proposals appear flawed. It is understood that a floor amendment will be introduced which may correct these flaws. Listen to the debate and use your best judgment.

**Recommendation: Oppose Majority & Minority Amendments, then Vote Your Conscience.**

### **EDUCATION**

**SB 57**, requiring a course in civics for high school graduation. **ITL. Vote 13-4**

The NHGOP Platform feels that “Local control of education policy and education funding creates the best-managed school systems.” In the absence of evidence to the contrary, this bill is micromanagement.

**Recommendation: Support ITL**

**SB 245**, relative to the New Hampshire college tuition savings plan. **OTP. Vote 17-0.**

This bill gives the tuition savings plan flexibility to respond to changes in the marketplace.

**Recommendation: Support OTP**

#### **ELECTION LAW**

**SB 91**, relative to political contributions by corporations, partnerships, and labor unions. **OTP/A. Vote 17-0.**

This bill apparently is even-handed in its treatment of contributions from businesses and unions.

**Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**SB 98**, relative to party access to voter information. **OTP/A. Vote 13-5.**

Voter Lists are public records and should be available to all who request them, paying only the "actual" costs to produce. In addition, policing this would be very difficult to enforce.

**Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL**

#### **ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE**

**SB 71**, relative to setback requirements for new landfills located near designated rivers. **OTP/A. Vote 12-2.**

The NHGOP Platform asks that we "Deal effectively with waste disposal and pollution." In light of the flooding that has occurred in the recent past, the placement of ecologically dangerous entities needs careful consideration.

**Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

#### **FINANCE**

**SB 35-FN-A**, making an appropriation for disaster relief assistance in response to the May 2006 floods and establishing a committee to study the distribution of financial disaster assistance. **OTP/A. Vote 18-0.**

**No Recommendation**

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

**SB 149**, relative to the 2 family support councils for the developmentally disabled serving Lebanon and Claremont. **ITL. Vote 10-5.**

**No Recommendation**

#### **JUDICIARY**

**SB 33-FN**, equalizing the pay of administrative judges in the judicial branch. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 12-4.**

The administrative justices were appointed by the Governor and Council to be sitting judges alone. The Chief Justice has assigned them administrative duties which take away from their bench time, requiring the state to backfill for their absence. Their administrative duties are substitutions for bench work and not additional duties. As such, they should receive the same pay as other judges.

**Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL.**

#### **LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

**SB 216**, relative to certification of employee organizations to represent public employees. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 9-7.**

This bill creates a "card check" system that will replace the current "secret ballot election" system in order to certify public unions. Currently, if 30% of employees sign cards to form a union then an election takes place in 45 days. This bill would create a system whereby 50% + 1 employees would sign cards and then a union would be certified without the employer or other employees having the ability to make their point of view known. The right to privacy provided by a secret ballot is violated by the card check system because the unions know exactly who has and -- more importantly to them -- who hasn't signed the cards, creating opportunities for intimidation and abuse. The NH GOP Platform states that we affirm "the right of all citizens to join labor organizations freely, whether they choose to bargain collectively or individually, without coercion and intimidation." This bill is undemocratic and unnecessary.

**Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Then Support ITL**

#### **STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SCR 3**, urging preservation of traditional powers of state and local governments under international trade agreements. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 10-3.**

It is understood that resolutions from state governments to the federal government are futile wastes of time and effort. The wording of this resolution is also intemperate. These facts notwithstanding, this resolution does voice a concern over the US Senate's apparent surrender of its constitutional authority and duty.

**Recommendation: Support OTP**

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 75-FN**, relative to establishing a south central New Hampshire rail transit authority that will have responsibility for developing and providing commuter rail and related public rail transportation services in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 12-4.**

A basic tenet of the NHGOP platform is "Protecting the fundamental rights of the people and enhancing their freedom." Creating an

Authority with broad governmental powers is contrary to that premise. Has not our proximity to Massachusetts shown us the inherent danger in having Authorities that are ostensibly immune from Legislative and Executive control? One look at the "Big Dig" fiasco should be warning enough.

**Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL**

### **WAYS AND MEANS**

**SB 144-FN**, relative to the permissible sales commission on the sale of lottery tickets. **OTP/A. Vote 11-1.**

This bill authorizes the lottery commission more flexibility in dealing with certain aspects of its operation. It is a Republican principle to encourage departments to employ good business techniques in their operations. We also encourage new ideas and forward thinking. This is especially true relative to those departments whose primary function is revenue generation. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the proposals appear to meet the aforementioned principles.

**Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

# **Your Handy Guide for Thinking out of the Box**

## **Reagan Quotes**

"This fellow they've nominated claims he's the new Thomas Jefferson. Well let me tell you something; I knew Thomas Jefferson. He was a friend of mine and Governor... You're no Thomas Jefferson!" - Republican National Convention, 1992

"Welfare's purpose should be to eliminate, as far as possible, the need for its own existence." -Los Angeles Times, January 7, 1970

"Cures were developed for which there were no known diseases." - Commenting on Congress and the federal budget, 1981

"We don't have a trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much." -Address to National Association of Realtors, March 28, 1982

"The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or the next. It was the deep knowledge -- and pray God we have not lost it -- that there is a profound moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest." - Normandy, France, June 6, 1984.

We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them -- this morning, as they prepared for their journey, and waved good-bye, and "slipped the surly bonds of earth" to "touch the face of God." - Speech about the Challenger disaster, January 28, 1986

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it." - Remarks to the White House Conference on Small Business, August 15, 1986

"How do you tell a Communist? Well, it's someone who reads Marx and Lenin. And how do you tell an anti-Communist? It's someone who understands Marx and Lenin." - Remarks in Arlington, Virginia, September 25, 1987



## HRA Legislative Beards – Past and Present