

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, JUNE 6

REGULAR CALENDAR

COMMERCE

SB 197, relative to continuation of group health insurance in the event of divorce or legal separation. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 13-6.**

The NHGOP Platform is committed to “reducing costs of health insurance.” This bill increases the cost to employers.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL.

SB 233-FN, relative to sales by beverage manufacturers and relative to the definition of specialty beer. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: OTP/A. Vote 17-2.**

The issue is whether we should allow specialty beers to have higher alcohol content. Testimony showed that our surrounding states already allow it and for our residents to buy these beverages they have to go to Mass or Maine. The other issue is whether we should legislate the percent of alcohol in these beers or let the liquor commission do that in response to market changes, without having to come back to the Legislature as new products comes to market. A basic Republican tenet is efficiency in government. It would appear empowering the liquor commission establish the percent alcohol in the beers, rather than by statute, is more efficient.

Recommendation: Support the Majority OTP/A.

SB 262, establishing a committee to study certain prohibitions on smoking. **ITL. Vote 13-5.**

Last week the House passed SB-42, denying people the option to smoke in restaurants. This bill is a fishing expedition to look for more ways to restrict smoking. Even hypocrisy has its limits.

Recommendation: Support ITL.

FINANCE

CACR 18, relating to funding of public education. Providing that the general court shall define an adequate education, regularly determine the cost thereof, fund not less than fifty percent of the total statewide cost of an adequate education each year and distribute state aid to promote equal opportunity to receive an adequate education. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: OTP/A. Vote 15-10.** In case you were just awakened from a coma, this is the constitutional amendment to address the issue of school funding. The Majority Amendment is flawed and will exacerbate the problem. There is debate on the efficacy and impact of the Minority Amendment. There may be other floor amendments made as well. Support the Ingbretson amendment

Recommendation: Oppose the Majority Amendment, Vote Your Conscience on the Minority Amendment, Support the Ingbretson Amendment.

SB 18-FN, raising the age of required attendance of children in school. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: OTP/A. Vote 13-12.**

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: “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. The minority position helps with the funding issue, but still vests too much control in the bureaucracy.

Recommendation: Support Minority Amendment, then Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL

SB 67-FN-A, relative to implementation of the recommendations of the YDC master plan and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP. Vote 23-2.**

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

SB 82-FN, reorganizing the administration and governance of the regional community-technical college system. **OTP/A. Vote 19-6.**

No Recommendation

SB 93-FN, relative to insurance coverage for children's early intervention therapy services. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 16-8.**

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

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL.

SB 101, relative to payment of costs for certain students attending alternative education programs. **OTP. Vote 18-7.**

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

SB 138-FN-A, relative to the waiting list for services to persons with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders and making appropriations therefor. **OTP/A. Vote 22-3.**

The NHGOP Platform "support(s) efforts for higher quality health care..." On 5/16 the House rejected a Republican amendment that would have met the state obligation one year sooner than the original bill. This does not negate the need for the bill.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A

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. **OTP. Vote 17-7.**

This bill essentially provides free life insurance to firefighters and police officers. While such a benefit would certainly be irresponsible for teachers or administrative assistants, risking their lives is a condition of employment for firefighters and police officers. Then again, no one is forced to take any job and some are concerned that this will open the door to similar benefits for other categories of public employees, such as prison guards. There are good arguments on both sides. Vote your conscience.

No Recommendation

SB 176-FN, relative to lead paint poisoning and establishing a commission to study the current childhood lead poisoning prevention law, policies, and standards. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 16-8.**

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, then Support ITL.

SB 192-FN, establishing an outreach program in the children's health insurance program. **OTP/A Vote 16-8.**

Healthy Kids program sends materials home with every school child. Hospitals and other community out-reach programs provide information AS WELL AS receiving payment if they sign someone up. Now this bill wants to pay to train "volunteers" to reach out to people who are not getting the "word". This bill raises the costs for "enhanced reimbursements" which is a fancy term for a bounty paid for signing up a healthy kid. The "volunteers" will be paid the bounty. This bill increases costs and provides sustenance to the welfare industry.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL

SB 204-FN-A, relative to collection of debts owed the state. **OTP. Vote 23-1.**

The state should be able to collect debts owed to it, plain and simple.

Recommendation: Support OTP.

SB 213-FN-A, establishing a comprehensive cancer plan fund and making an appropriation therefor, and establishing a comprehensive cancer plan oversight board. **OTP/A. Vote 17-8.**

This is yet another insurance mandate that will have the effect of increasing costs and bureaucracy. The NH GOP Platform states: "We support increased use of market forces to provide and improve health care." This bill instead uses the blunt instrument of government force.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A then Support ITL.

SB 217-FN-A, establishing the New Hampshire housing and conservation planning program. **OTP. Vote 16-9.**

This bill interjects the state in issues that rightfully should be decided at the local level. Such local control is a New Hampshire tradition and a core principle of the Republican Party. While well-intentioned, this bill brings us a step closer to central planning. This bill is touted as helping communities plan for workforce housing. Yet it provides grants to support communities in developing master plans and not in actually building workforce housing. There are no requirements that any housing be built nor should some accidentally get built that the dwellings will remain eligible under workforce housing rules.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL

SB 226-FN, relative to the temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) program. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 16-9.**

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 and Support ITL

SB 242-FN, establishing the intellectual property business loan development program. **OTP/A. Vote 21-3.**

This bill establishes and intellectual property business loan development program that allows the Business Finance Authority (BFA) to guarantee certain intellectual property loans that would be useful to NH's business community, especially the emerging high tech sector. The NH GOP Platform states that our approach to economic development is founded upon "working to provide an environment favorable to increasing the creation of private sector jobs."

Recommendation: Support OTP/A

JUDICIARY

SB 27-FN, relative to the display of the POW-MIA flag. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 12-4.**

It is a core Republican principle that we respect those who risk their lives to defend out freedom. In a time of war, remembering those who are prisoners of war or missing in action is especially important. That the minority of the Judiciary Committee believes that the POW/MIA flag is a "position on an issue" comparable to support or opposition to the ACLU is a sad testament to the changed mentality in the House this year. No matter where you stand on the war, please vote to express our gratitude for our troops and our sincerest hopes that they return home safely upon the completion of their mission.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

SB 88, relative to public employee terms of employment, bargaining units, and dispute resolution. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote: 10-7**

Perhaps more than any other bill this year, this bill is almost guaranteed to increase costs to every town and city in the state, thereby likely raising property taxes. The combination of new rules for a reduced size of bargaining units (from ten down to five) and the mandatory addition of "evergreen clauses" to town contracts pose serious problems and very possibly constitute unfunded mandates in violation of Section 28-A of the New Hampshire Constitution. This bill was opposed by all municipalities that testified before the committee as well as the municipal association.

Recommendation: Support Floor Amendments, then Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL

SB 92, relative to the definition of employee and clarifying the criteria for exempting workers from employee status. **MAJORITY: OTP. Vote: 14-3**

This bill attempts to address a gray area of the law regarding the definitions of employees and independent contractors. Unfortunately, the bill goes a few steps too far with overly broad definitions that will have the effect of reclassifying certain independent contractors as employees who should really be categorized as the former, not the latter. This bill is not ready for prime time as it deserves further study and more careful definitions.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support Motion to Recommit.

SB 154, relative to the worker's compensation compliance statement. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote: 10-7**

In seeking to remedy an important issue, this bill overreaches by making certain proprietary business information (such as the total number of employees hours worked and what workers compensation classification codes were used) available to the public even when the business appears to be in compliance with the law. The NH GOP Platform states that "our approach to economic development is founded upon working to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses." We should not be legislating that private information be made public when employers are abiding by New Hampshire law. This does not serve any benefit to the state or general public. It only serves to give private entities vital information about their competitors.

Oppose OTP then Support ITL

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SB 54, relative to dog license fees. **ITL. Vote 13-0.**

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 58, relative to the recommendation for the town budget. **OTP/A. Vote 13-0.**

Bill requires the numerical vote of the budget committee's recommendation appear in the warrant article. This is additional information to assist the voter in making an informed decision.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A

SB 219-FN, establishing a committee to study the effectiveness of current preservation planning tools designed to prevent unnecessary demolitions of significant historic properties and recommend new incentives to aid communities, improvements to existing methods, or creation of new programs. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 9-5.**

No Recommendation

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SB 74-FN, relative to the operation and administration of the state park system. **MAJORITY: OTP/A MINORITY: ITL. Vote 12-6.**

This bill underscores what is wrong with government. When bureaucracy doesn't perform, form a bigger bureaucracy. This bill spends money on plans and personnel and forms ANOTHER advisory council. In the dreaded private sector management is required to plan and execute and is held accountable. In government, we hire consultants, hire more people and form a committee. Why not spend the money on actually doing the required maintenance and repairs?

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL.

SB143, naming Jericho Mountain state park and establishing ATV and trail bike trails in such park. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 11-6.**

This bill allows for the development of the Berlin ATV Park to the level to which it was envisioned. There are regulations to which only the State Park system is subject that severely restrict the establishing of ATV trails in State Parks. These regulations are designed for the occasional trail in a park, not for an ATV recreational area. The NHGOP Platform looks "to prevent over-regulation of business." This should apply to a public business as well as a private business. The original Senate bill allows the Department of Resources and Economic Development to waive the regulations where necessary. The majority amendment micromanages the Department's efforts, creating impediments to accomplishing the job.

Recommendation: Oppose the Majority Amendment. Support the Bill Regardless of Amendment.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

SB 123, relative to pole attachments. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 12-3.**

This is a solution in search of a problem. There is an approval process and it has been working well. It would also interject the state into private agreements. Changing this will put more pressure on the PUC budget (i.e. the state) because they don't have staffing to take over a federal program and will want more manpower.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL

SB 140, relative to transmission upgrades, the process for siting renewable generation facilities, and the study of demand response programs and distributed generation. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 10-6.**

As stated in the Minority blurb, when PSNH was taken out of the bill all the positives were removed. The north country will not get needed jobs. PSNH will not get needed generating capacity and that means EVERY rate payer in the PSNH served area can expect higher rates. PSNH generated electricity is considerably cheaper than what it needs to buy on the open market. As NH grows and more electricity is used, more power must be purchased on the open market --- that will lead PSNH to ask for a rate increase. PSNH is currently prohibited by state law to add to its generating capacity UNLESS we pass a law saying that it can. This law was supposed to do that. The majority took it out. Also, due to the amendment, the PUC will again need more manpower to work with federal and regional bodies.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL or a Motion to Recommit

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 223-FN, establishing a New Hampshire medal of honor. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 13-2.**

The NHGOP Platform "Respects New Hampshire's honored veterans." The New Hampshire Medal of Honor is a token of that respect. The other aspect of the bill is the limiting of protests at funerals. The NH and US Constitutions unambiguously protect freedom of speech, so we should exercise caution whenever we seek to curtail speech. It has been said that your freedom to swing your fist ends at the tip of my nose. Likewise, a person's constitutionally-protect right to say something doesn't give them the right to say it at someone else's funeral. This is a common-sense measure designed to keep the peace yet does not interfere with first amendment rights.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

SPECIAL ORDER

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 134-FN-A, establishing a research and development credit against business taxes. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 11-6.**

This bill generates conflicting views. It is pro-business. It represents the culmination of five years of work refining a R&D tax credit. A thorough study by Prof. Ross Gittel shows legislation can increase investment in R&D and attract new jobs to N.H. The NHGOP platform states, "Our approach to economic development is founded on working to provide an environment favorable to increasing the creation of private sector jobs; and we will support cutting or eliminating taxes which inhibit enterprise, earnings, and savings, such as the . . .Business Enterprise/Business Profits Tax." A contrary view is that the bill is in opposition to free enterprise and uses the tax code, instead of free market forces, to pick winners and losers. Remember, someone else's taxes need to be higher to make up the budget shortfall. Use your best judgment.

No Recommendation

SB 137-FN, removing the prospective repeal of community reinvestment and opportunity zones (CROP zones). **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 15-2.**

This bill also generates conflicting views. The NHGOP Platform supports "Working to provide an environment favorable to increasing the creation of private sector jobs." The Community Redevelopment and Opportunity Program uses tax incentives to promote redevelopment and job creation in economically depressed areas. This bill is supported by business groups. As in the previous bill, a contrary view is that this bill is in opposition to free enterprise and uses the tax code, instead of free market forces, to pick winners and losers. Remember, someone else's taxes need to be higher to make up the budget shortfall. Use your best judgment.

No Recommendation

SB 235-FN-A, relative to milk support for dairy farmers. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL Vote 9-8.**

While the bill is amended to remove the milk tax used to acquire land development rights, it still retains the relief fund to be paid from general fund revenues whenever the milk price falls below a target price. No where does the N.H. Constitution authorize the state to make direct cash payments to a select number of private businesses. "That which is not specified is prohibited."

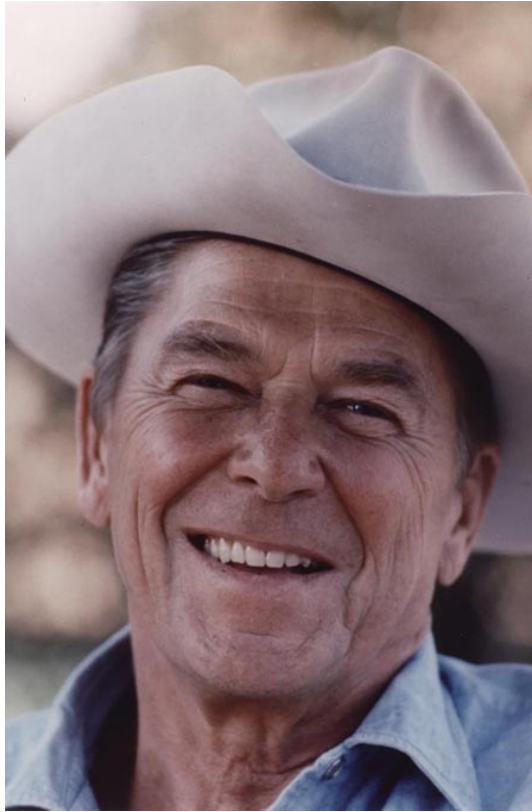
Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL

Your Handy Guide for Thinking out of the Box

"We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

Winston Churchill

"If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time -- a tremendous whack."



“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.



“Extremism in the defense of Liberty is no vice. And . . . moderation in the pursuit of Justice is no virtue.”

“The income tax created more criminals than any other single act of government.”