

# 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.

## RECONSIDERATION

**HB 1699**, relative to driving under the influence of drugs.

**HRA Analysis:** Current law prohibits a person from driving or attempting to drive a vehicle or boat or OHRV "while such person is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any controlled drug." This bill would add the phrase "prescription drug, over-the-counter drug, or any other chemical substance, natural or synthetic, which impairs a person's ability to drive." Anything you eat, drink or inhale may now lead to a criminal charge if you are under its influence while driving. Natural chemicals such as caffeine and sugar, as well as OTC or Rx medications like cough syrup, antidepressants, blood pressure medication, Sudafed, shellfish, peanuts, nicotine or any other of a thousand products could now land you time in jail if they are shown to cause impaired driving. The problem is that no common or reliable tests exist to prove such intoxication. The bill is opposed by manufacturers of over-the-counter medicines. The GOP platform states emphatically, "The foremost convictions that distinguish our Party in New Hampshire are... Protecting the fundamental rights of the people and enhancing their freedom." The state constitution in Art. 2 Part I states "All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights--among which are, the enjoying and defending of life and liberty; ... and, in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness."

**HRA Recommendation: Support reconsideration, Oppose OTP, Support ITL or tabling**

## VETO OVERRIDE

**HB 1549**, prohibiting the use of motor vehicle records for any federal identification database.

**HRA Analysis:** The platform states "New Hampshire's government and its elected officials must, above all else, preserve and protect individual liberty". This is the same issue decided in previous years against Real-ID and enhanced licenses. Sharing personal data from motor vehicle records with the federal government is no way to protect individual liberty.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1549**

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6 COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE STATEMENTS SENATE BILLS

**SB 19-FN**, relative to the definition of "prime wetlands."

**HRA Analysis:** Under the Prime Wetland statute, a locality may designate a wetland as being a Prime Wetland, affording it an enhanced level of state protection and restriction. This bill keeps a 100 foot setback requirement on all Prime Wetland established while the 100 ft setback was in statute (2007 to present). The setback requirements on Prime Wetlands established prior to 2007 and after adoption of this bill would be those established and enforced at the local level. The platform calls for us to prevent "over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses."

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 19**

**SB 218-FN**, relative to electric renewable portfolio standards.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill lowers the annual % increase in the renewable energy portfolio. The platform states we will "Work to reduce New Hampshire's energy costs".

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 218**

**SB 226**, transferring the administration of the electricians' board to the joint board for licensure and certification.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, before and after the C of C, is an administrative transfer of the electrician's board from one home to another. There is no change in actual regulation, except a simplification of the continuing education requirements, and no change in fees. The change to the accountant's statute increases the fines for misconduct, but no other fees. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**SB 247-L**, relative to certifying municipal culvert installers.

**HRA Analysis:** SB-247 authorizes the department of environmental services to develop a certification program for municipal culvert installers. Certified installers can put in culverts without first notifying DES. This simplifies interaction with DES. The platform calls for effective and efficient government.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 247**

**SB 289-FN**, relative to presenting photo identification to vote in person.

**HRA Analysis:** SB 289 requires each voter to present a photo ID or sign an affidavit, which is subject to investigation afterward. The platform states: "voting in NH must be done by NH resident citizens only. To prevent voter fraud, we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registration and voting." The bill provides for a one-year transition period, where more IDs are accepted, and the voter's affidavit does not contain their photograph.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 289**

**SB 318-FN**, relative to voter registration.

**HRA Analysis:** SB 318 restores language that was removed in 2007 regarding a registrant's domicile. The statute and the form now clearly state that a domicile for voting purposes is also a domicile for other purposes such as registering a vehicle or getting a new driver's license. The platform states: "voting in NH must be done by NH resident citizens only. To prevent voter fraud, we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registration and voting." The CofC removed instructions to the attorney general to investigate when there are indications that the law has been broken.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 318**

**SB 326-FN-A-L**, relative to state reimbursement of towns.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as agreed in C of C, does three things. First, it guarantees that after this biennium the state will pay the towns who lost land for downstream flood control will be made whole. Second, if any payments for this are received in this biennium, they will be distributed to the towns. Third, it makes a minor update to the interest & dividends tax laws to clarify that some trusts are exempt from this tax (with no effect on state revenues). The platform states: "Assessed value for the purpose of property taxation shall eliminate the subjective elements of value." The inability to collect mitigation fees from Massachusetts was largely due to inflated property values. DRA has resolved the valuation issue.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 326**

**SB 328**, relative to procedures for filling a vacancy on a cooperative school board.

**HRA Analysis:** Currently vacancies on a cooperative school district board are filled by a vote of the whole board. This bill has the vacancy filled by officials from the same town as the departing member. This is a good idea because each town deserves their share of representation on the cooperative board. The platform supports "local control of education policy."

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 328**

**SB 356**, limiting the authority of delegates to Article V amendment.

**HRA Analysis:** The core bill will mitigate the threat of a runaway convention should an Article V convention ever be called. This is in line with part 1, article 7 of the constitution, which states that the federal government only has those powers we expressly delegate. It also contains the recodification of the Religious Societies Statutes.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 356**

**SB 370-FN**, relative to the powers of law enforcement and animal control officers.

**HRA Analysis:** Since the C of C adopted the House version, the HRA stands behind its original position of "no recommendation." This bill deletes the wording defining the work conditions of the state veterinarian which was legislated in 1921. At that time, the state vet job became full time and the legislature wanted to be sure that the appointed individual devoted his/her full time to the job. The committee felt that today, this requirement is unnecessary.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**SB 398**, proclaiming March 30, 2013 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

**HRA Analysis:** Creates an annual Vietnam Veterans Day and an annual Korean War Veterans Day. The platform says that the party "Respects New Hampshire's honored veterans by ensuring that they receive the benefits that they have rightfully earned and deserve."

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 398**

**SB 406**, establishing an early offer alternative in medical injury claims.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended establishes a voluntary evenhanded process for parties involved in a medical injury claim to quickly and efficiently settle the claim. The process provides an incentive for injured claimants as it reduces uncertainty and allows them to receive economic damages without having to hire an attorney and without having to wade through years of litigation. By adding more choice to how someone can pursue restitution this bill favors individual liberty. However, some object to the complex, one-sided nature of the mechanism. The platform states: "We will work to maintain a legal system that provides every citizen prompt and impartial justice" For reasonable parties, an early settlement saves time and effort. The bill also includes a very good bill on disclosure of exculpatory evidence in police personnel files, and the creation of a medical conflict of interest study.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 406**

**SB 409-FN**, relative to the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill establishes a procedure for the medicinal use of marijuana. All fees were removed and the program will be self-sustained through gifts and donations. The amendment also makes technical clarifications and corrections that are supported by the sponsors and policy committee. The platform takes no stand on this issue.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

## HOUSE BILLS

**CACR 6**, relating to taxation. Providing that a 3/5 vote is required to pass legislation imposing new or increased taxes or license fees, or to authorize the issuance of state bonds and providing that the general court shall appropriate funds for payment of interest and installments of principle of all state bonds.

**HRA Analysis:** The Republican Party has repeatedly stated that it favors a lean, smaller government and reduced taxation. If passed by voters this amendment makes it more difficult for the inexcusable tax increases of the past four years to again take place, regardless of which party is in power. It also assures that the minority party will have a strong voice in an open and above board process of passing needed taxes in the light of day, not the dark of night. This CACR allows the people to decide whether they wish us to use super majorities for tax increases. The C of C has returned to the House position, so the HRA recommendation remains in support.

**HRA Recommendation: Support CACR 6**

**CACR 12**, relating to public education. Providing that the general court shall have the authority to define standards for public education, establish standards of accountability, mitigate local disparities in educational opportunity and fiscal capacity, and have full discretion to determine the amount of state funding for education.

**HRA Analysis:** This CACR requires consideration of competing principles of the NH constitution and the Republican platform. The platform, Part XI. Education, states that, "Local control of education policy and education funding creates the best-managed school systems" and that "The NH Constitution should be amended to empower the people and their elected representatives to set educational funding and policy goals." In the light of the Claremont decisions, in which the NH Supreme Court granted itself the authority to dictate education policy and required the state to define and fund said education, this CACR takes authority away from the Supreme Court and grants it to voters and their elected representatives – one very positive step forward from two negative steps back (Claremont I and II). By granting the legislature "full power and authority" to define and fund education, it severely limits judicial authority, and lets the General Court empower local school boards.

**HRA Recommendation: Support CACR 12**

**CACR 13**, relating to prohibiting any new tax on personal income. Providing that no new tax on personal income shall be levied by the state of New Hampshire.

**HR Analysis:** The Platform, Section VII, states "our strong opposition to any broad-based taxes, including an income, sales or capital gains tax ". Clearly establishing this position in the Constitution will inhibit those looking to increase government spending and fund it somehow, anyhow. The Senate version clearly states this prohibition, and by using the phrase "natural person" it eliminates the fallacy that business taxes might be affected.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP**

**HB 102**, establishing a committee to study certain issues relative to the insurance department, banking department, and bureau of securities regulation of the office of the secretary of state.

**HRA Analysis:** This facilitates information sharing among state agencies responsible for regulating financial services. It also provides procedures for the confidentiality of the shared information. The platform declares that "The state government needs to be effective and efficient." and respects "the privacy of individual citizens." The bill should advance both goals.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 102**

**HB 145**, permitting the audio and video recording of a law enforcement officer while in the course of his or her official duties.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended by the Senate and accepted by the C of C, may have the opposite result of its intent

(which the HRA supports). By making specific exceptions to the wiretapping statutes, rather than establishing the broader principle of open access to government employees, it creates the possibility that over-zealous officials will assume “whatever is not allowed must be forbidden”. Complying with the specific requirements set up by this bill will be difficult, and harder to prove. The Glick court case established the principle that citizens can record police in public, and this bill is no improvement.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose HB 145**

**HB 146**, relative to the right of a jury to judge the application of the law in relationship to the facts in controversy.

**HRA Analysis:** The C of C adopted the Senate version on this jury nullification bill which requires judges to allow the defense to inform the jury of its right to judge the facts and the application of the law in relation to the facts in controversy. This meets the intent of the sponsor and the Constitutional requirements. The platform, Section X, states we “Support jurors being instructed on the right of jury nullification”.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 146**

**HB 158**, relative to the misuse of social security numbers.

**HRA Analysis:** The Senate version of the bill removed all liability from employers. Since employers are frequently in the best position to enforce proper safeguards and security measures, the House believed such a removal would eviscerate the value of the bill. Accordingly, a compromise was reached whereby the Senate version was amended to include employers, albeit with a more limited scope. The House Conferees believe this is a reasonable compromise. The HRA stands by its previous OTP recommendation, since the platform, Section IX, states we are “enforcing immigration laws.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 158**

**HB 193**, relative to the Mount Washington commission.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as agreed in C of C, simplifies the Mt Washington commission and requires it to report to the legislature on its receipts and expenditures. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 256-FN**, relative to the administrative appeals process of the department of environmental services and establishing a committee to study the appeal process of the department of environmental services.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows an appellant of a department of environmental services permitting ruling to enter into a mediated settlement without giving up the right to a formal appeal. It also requires the attorney general to appoint “qualified applicants” to serve as hearings officers in RSA 21-M:3 VIII. This bill supports the “little guy” vs. the government.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 256**

**HB 350-FN**, updating laws relative to the fiscal committee of the general court.

**HRA Analysis:** As amended by the Senate and recommended by the C of C, this bill consists of its original content, plus the content of HB 269, and a few more minor corrections to various bookkeeping statutes. Both bills passed the House on a voice vote, without debate. All the changes are intended to simplify the operation of the state bureaucracy without affecting policy. The platform, Section VII, states “The state government needs to be effective and efficient” and these changes will help.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 350**

**HB 351-FN**, relative to insurance reimbursement for doctors of naturopathic medicine.

**HRA Analysis:** This is a mandate that naturopathic medical care be covered in individual insurance policies and optional on group policies. Whatever happened to the principle of equal treatment under the law? The platform opposes insurance mandates: “We support increased use of market forces to provide and improve health care and reduce costs.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose HB 351**

**HB 388-FN**, establishing the amount of the enhanced 911 services surcharge and requiring providers of Voice over Internet

**HRA Analysis:** The bill clarifies that Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone services based in your home, such as Vonage, are subject to the 911 surcharge, just like the regular telephone. It levels the playing field for landline services. The platform states we “Support cutting or eliminating taxes which inhibit enterprise” which may apply to new technology such as VoIP. However, fairness argues that we should not tax a substantially similar service any differently. It would be better if the 911 surcharge was dropped entirely, the dedicated fund eliminated, and 911 expenses included in the budget.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 533-FN-L**, establishing a cap on the amount of school building aid grants distributed in each fiscal year.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes numerous changes to the school building aid program. The main ones are that aid is capped at \$50M per year, and that aid is paid in two lump sums, so less bonding will be needed. The platform doesn't address this level of detail.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 597**, revising the child support guidelines based on an income shares model of calculating child support.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill changes the current fixed percentages of income used for child support to a sliding scale based on income level. This is a sensible scheme where smaller percentages of higher incomes are needed for child care. The platform favors "... equitable treatment of both parents in child custody and child support determinations."

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 597**

**HB 655**, establishing a committee to study issues regarding the New Hampshire Local Government Center.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will create a commission to work through the details and expose inefficiencies, and restore confidence in LGC. The commission will make recommendations for legislation that will clarify the authority and responsibilities of the LGC. The platform "Promotes a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable to its citizens." It further declares that "government needs to be effective and efficient." The commission will help ensure that LGC meet these standards.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 655**

**HB 1211**, establishing a committee to study the promotion of lease of state-owned land for use for beginning farmers.

**HRA Analysis:** Creates a committee to study the leasing of state land to beginning farmers. No constitutional or Republican issues. It might help beginner farmers with available land to use and the state will make lease monies.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1211**

**HB 1216**, relative to the authority for withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment.

**HRA Analysis:** The original bill removed the protocol of the facility for general population in determining removing medically administered nutrition and hydration or life sustaining treatment. What remains is to subordinate the protocol to the advanced directive, guardian's wishes or a court order.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1216**

**HB 1217**, relative to the form for executing advance directives for health care decisions.

**HRA Analysis:** This permits advance directives, living wills, or similar documents executed and valid in another state to be valid here. It no longer contains the flexibility of the House version allowing NH residents to use alternative forms.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 1221**, relative to the credit for the business enterprise tax against the business profits tax.

**HRA Analysis:** The C of C adopted the House version, which simply allows the BET and BPT to be netted when making quarterly estimated tax payments. This is a business friendly change that prevents some companies from having to make interest free loans to the state because they can't make the BET credit deduction when paying estimated taxes. The platform, Section VI, states we are "Working to provide an environment favorable to increasing the creation of private sector jobs".

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1221**

**HB 1230-FN**, requiring a listing of state real property.

**HRA Analysis:** As amended by the Senate and recommended by the C of C, this bill consists of its original content, plus the authority to sell two unused buildings on the old state hospital grounds. Since these buildings are not needed, and incur costs to maintain, it makes sense to sell them. The original HB1230 simply required agencies to provide information on real property owned or used by the state, in case we wanted to sell it. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 1246**, permitting resident application for pistol or revolver licenses to be submitted to the state police or the sheriff's department.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows concealed carry license applications to go to the county sheriff for those who live in unincorporated places. The platform strongly supports the right to keep and bear arms. This just creates some flexibility.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1246**

**HB 1260-FN**, relative to certain contributions to pari-mutuel pools by race simulcasters in Cheshire county, compensation of charitable organizations by gaming operators, and unauthorized gambling machines and sweepstakes.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill includes several marginally related segments: the authorization for a new racetrack and betting parlor in Cheshire County is identical to that passed by the House, as are the changes to regulation of charitable gaming (except that the Senate deleted the increased maximum bet). Home poker games remain illegal. The Senate version of the banned "sweepstakes machine" was better than the House's, and the C of C version is simpler yet and more focused on the behavior than on the hardware, a welcome change. The Platform, Section VIII, states we "Oppose casino and video-lottery gambling because of the negative social consequences". The 'sweepstakes machines' are video-lottery gambling, and without HB1260 they are not illegal in New Hampshire.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1260**

**HB 1325**, relative to legal residency requirements for purposes of school attendance for children of divorced parents and children whose parents share decision making responsibility pursuant to a parenting plan.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as agreed in C of C, meets the intent of the House version, which allows a divorced couple to agree that their child can attend school in the district of the residence of either parent. The platform, Section VIII, states we “Advocate a presumption in favor of joint custody and favor equitable treatment of both parents in child custody”.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1325**

**HB 1346**, relative to the construction of power line extensions.

**HRA Analysis:** The bill gives utility customers the ability to eliminate the middle-man when extending a power line. The work and materials would be held to the standards required by the utility. The bill is a little more choice and less regulation.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1346**

**HB 1350**, relative to the style and form of new articles and amendments to articles proposed by constitutional amendment concurrent resolutions.

**HRA Analysis:** A technical bill dealing with the way the constitution is printed and words are capitalized.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 1383**, relative to residency status for the purpose of receiving in-state tuition status within the university system of New Hampshire.

**HRA Analysis:** A simple bill that requires those receiving in-state tuition at USNH certify that they are legal residents of the United States. Since our platform supports “Strengthening national border security, enforcing immigration laws, and opposing any form of amnesty for illegal aliens”, this is an easy call.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1383**

**HB 1418-FN-A**, increasing the threshold amounts for taxation under the business enterprise tax.

**HRA Analysis:** This consolidated bill contains several tax-related provisions that were in other bills the House passed. It covers several platform issues including: “Prevent over-regulation of business” (filing meaningless forms), “Oppose taxation of the Internet” (no CST), and “Support cutting or eliminating taxes” (accelerated depreciation).

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1418**

**HB 1484**, relative to fees for state parks.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill has three parts. First, it requires the fiscal committee to act on proposed parks fee changes within 60 days. Second, it allows a deck of up to 12 feet to be built within the shoreland protection setback. Third, it extends free admission into state parks to all active armed services members, not just lower grade New Hampshire National Guard.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 1487**, relative to low carbon fuel standards programs.

**HRA Analysis:** The bill restricts the spread of RGGI by prohibiting the inclusion of fuel for transportation, industrial use, or home heating. The add-on lets the towns keep the fees of copying vital records, covering their costs by eliminating the state cut. The platform states we will work to "Remove New Hampshire from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative". The add-on eliminates downshifting.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1487**

**HB 1490-FN**, relative to New Hampshire’s regional greenhouse gas initiative cap and trade program for controlling carbon dioxide emissions.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill chips away at the RGGI slush fund by requiring purchases of energy credits be placed in the Energy Efficiency fund. This is the fund that helps homeowners, not subsidizing questionable business ventures. In addition, RGGI credits would not expire. The platform states we wish to " Remove New Hampshire from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative".

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1490**

**HB 1510**, relative to taxpayer standing for declaratory judgments.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill corrects the New Hampshire Supreme Court decision in which the Supreme Court interpreted RSA491:22 to say that a taxpaying citizen did not have standing to challenge government action unless that taxpaying citizen demonstrated a (direct) injury or impairment of rights. This bill restores the long established right of local taxpayers to challenge government actions. The platform states, “The NH Constitution affirms that our government is founded upon the people's consent and is instituted for the general good. The preservation of the rights of our people should always constrain the actions of government because our government has only as much power as the people choose to give it.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1510**

**HB 1535-FN**, relative to arrest records under the right-to-know law.

**HRA Analysis:** The purpose of this act is to make arrest records public and to require that they contain basic and essential information about an arrest. Currently, New Hampshire's right-to-know laws do not expressly address arrest records. As a result, the public's access to this information is patchwork and inconsistent. This bill will create uniformity among the various police departments and increase transparency throughout the state. The Constitution, part I, Art. 8 declares that "Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive. To that end, the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted."

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1535**

**HB 1593-FN**, relative to the department of information technology.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill repeals the impending sunset of the department of information technology, clarifies the duties of the department, and rearranges the membership of the oversight committee. The Platform declares that "The state government needs to be effective and efficient." Information technology is a key element toward accomplishing that goal.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1593**

**HB 1617-FN**, repealing the certificate of need law.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill in its original form repealed the Certificate Of Need law (a 1974 federal mandate that was repealed in 1987). The law is based on a flawed economic premise that hospitals are expensive, so if there are fewer of them, society will save money. In reality normal supply and demand principles work in the hospital industry as elsewhere. The platform states: "We support increased use of market forces to provide and improve health care and reduce costs." The C of C compromise of the House (immediate repeal) and Senate (repeal in 5 years) versions repeals the CON in 3 years. While such a drawn out repeal is fairly ineffectual, at least the CON is now officially slated to go away.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1617**

**HB 1658-FN**, establishing an income and identity verification system for public assistance recipients; relative to the department of health and human services payment of residential care services; and relative to implementation of the Sean William Corey pilot program.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended adds a fraud detection system to the process of granting welfare. The system has had great success in other states. Monies saved by eliminating fraud are used to pay the state's liabilities in a lost court case (Chase Homes). The platform calls for government that is effective and efficient. Stopping welfare fraud will improve effectiveness. The Senate included a two year extension on a Certificate of Need moratorium for nursing home and rehabilitation beds, which we oppose on free market grounds and is included in the Committee of Conference version.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 1666-FN**, relative to legislative approval of collective bargaining agreements entered into by the state.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would re-establish legislative oversight of labor contracts. It gives the responsibility to review the labor contracts to the Joint Fiscal Committee. As the platform (and Mel Thomson) says, "low taxes are the result of low spending." This very important bill will help keep labor costs under control.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1666**

**HB 1670**, apportioning executive council districts.

**HRA Analysis:** No platform issues identified in this redistricting plan.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 1687-FN**, relative to state employee information available on the state transparency website.

**HRA Analysis:** As introduced – and amended by the Senate - this bill simply increases the information available on the state website, specifically the state employee data needed to prepare the budget. Further enhances part 1, article 8 of the NH Constitution, the right-to-know.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1687**

**HB 1701-FN**, prohibiting New Hampshire from entering into or enforcing reciprocal agreements with other states to deny rights and privileges for nonpayment of taxes owed to another state.

**HRA Analysis:** The bill prevents NH from denying a driver's license or other privilege for non-payment of taxes to another state, with four specific exceptions. Our platform states our: "Strong opposition to any broad-based taxes, including an income, sales or capital gains tax." Also, part 1 article 12 of the constitution states that "nor are the inhabitants of this state controllable by any other laws than those to which they, or their representative body, have given their consent."

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1701**