

# 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 27 VETO OVERRIDES HOUSE BILLS

**HB 217-FN, including "unborn child" in the definition of "another" for the purpose of first and second degree murder, manslaughter, and negligent homicide.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would make the killing of a fetus the same as killing "another" for the purpose of first and second degree murder, manslaughter and negligent homicide. The changes shall not apply to any medical procedure performed by a licensed medical professional at the request of a pregnant woman or her legal guardian. The Republican Party Platform clearly states: Believing the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which can not be infringed upon; ...endorses legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 217**

**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**

**HB 1607-FN-L, establishing an education credit against the business profits tax.**

**HRA Analysis:** Please see SB 372, below. The bills are identical.

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1607**

**HB 1666, 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 1679-FN, relative to partial-birth abortions and third trimester abortions.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill criminalizes the revolting procedure of killing a baby as it is being born. The platform under "Family" states we support "banning the procedure of partial-birth abortion."

**HRA Recommendation: Support HB 1679**

## SENATE BILLS

**SB 175, regulating the commercial use of a person's identity.**

**HRA Analysis:** In keeping with the preamble of the United States Constitution to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity" and the New Hampshire state Constitution article 2 which recognizes the natural and inherent right of property, this bill as amended ensures that New Hampshire residents have the right to control their own identity by maintaining the property rights already recognized under common law and allowing for that right to be passed to our descendants. The bill as amended also ensures that free speech is not limited by noting Constitutional protections.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 175**

**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. The DRA has resolved the valuation issue.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 326**

**SB 356, limiting the authority of delegates to Article V conventions and recodifying the laws relative to religious societies.**

**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 372-FN-L, establishing an education tax credit.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill promotes school choices for those that might not otherwise be able to afford it. The bill implements a scholarship program for New Hampshire similar to those that are successful in eight other states, and was created here by melding the best practices of all the other programs. The school choice scholarships, managed by non-profit scholarship organizations, are funded by donations from businesses who receive tax credits when they donate. The program is designed to ramp up more slowly during the first fifteen years and is structured to mitigate local fiscal impacts. To address the concerns that local school districts may be unfairly hit by a sudden reduction in state aid, it provides for a "Scholarship Stabilization Grant" that holds the districts harmless above a certain threshold, yet is revenue neutral for the state for the next biennium, and most likely the distant future. The platform clearly states: "Laws should be implemented to encourage school choice and competition and allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children;" and "School vouchers or tuition tax credits should be made available to assist in school choice." A mountain of academic research has demonstrated that scholarship recipients perform as well as or better than their public school peers, and that school choice programs even have a positive impact on public school performance as a result of increased choice and competition. SB 372 is identical to HB 1607.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 372**

**SB 406, establishing an early offer alternative in medical injury claims, relative to confidentiality of police personnel files, and establishing a committee to study the referral of patients for use of implantable medical devices.**

**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. It also includes two previous House bills, establishing that police personnel files cannot be used to conceal exculpatory evidence and studying medical practitioner's referrals for medical devices they may have a financial interest.

**HRA Recommendation: Support SB 406**

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

**HRA Analysis:** This bill establishes a procedure for the medicinal use of marijuana. The complex program will be self-sustained through gifts and donations, not fees. The platform supports personal freedom, better access to health care at lower cost, individual responsibility, and the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment. However, it also advocates limited, efficient government, reducing drug abuse, and steadfastly supports our law enforcement personnel. Given these conflicting positions, the HRA does not make a recommendation on SB 409.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**