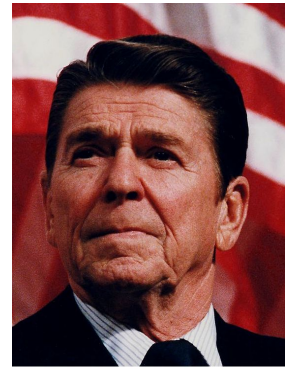


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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, May 8, 2019

Children and Family Law

SB14, relative to child welfare. **OTP/A Vote: 16-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill spends \$9 million dollars a year to bolster failed programs supporting failing parents. It further refers to children under 21 years of age; why do we allow our children to enter military services or serve in our legislature? Platform: Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB246, relative to licensing of child daycare, residential care, and child-placing agencies. **OTP/A Vote: 15-1**

HRA Analysis: While this bill may keep inappropriate people from working in child-care, it may also inhibit qualified people from seeking such positions. Further reducing the available workforce will drive up costs for daycare. The bill also necessitates the addition of two employees. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

SB115, establishing a commission to study the business environment for mental health providers in New Hampshire.

OTP/A Vote: 12-7

HRA Analysis: It's a study commission. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB134, relative to the administration of the meals and rooms tax. **OTP/A Vote: 18-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill defines terms and procedures for collection of the meals and rooms tax. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB193, prohibiting the sale of certain furniture and carpeting with flame retardant chemicals. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-6**

HRA Analysis: The bill's new regulations would be prohibitively costly and impractical to enforce. Platform: minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Education

SB263, relative to anti-discrimination protection for students in public schools. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill continues down an unconstitutional path by providing extra-constitutional protections for special classes of people. Constitution Part I, Art 10; Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Fish and Game and Marine Resources

SB200, relative to wildlife corridors. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill defines "wildlife corridors" and sets them as worthy of LCHIP funding and DOT deference. Platform: Recognize that private property owners are the most effective land stewards and have a fundamental right to freely use and enjoy their property.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

SB293, relative to federally qualified health care centers and rural health centers reimbursement. **OTP Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires HHS to pay for services at these centers, when incurred by people who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid but don't meet the work requirement. This is an issue because New Hampshire law suspends them first, but federal law doesn't allow payment for suspended patients, and the hospitals get caught in the middle. Platform: "Support the repeal of Obamacare and oppose its implementation."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

SB2, relative to funding for job training programs in the department of business and economic affairs. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill proposes to fund workers training programs with an additional \$4 million, tripling the current budget. It does so for "free" by a portion diverting employers' uninsured workers premium at a time when the uninsured workers' trust fund is exceptionally healthy. Eventually, this money will have to be paid and, when it does, the costs may even exceed the benefits. At best, this obscures the cost of transferring money from its intended purpose of aiding the unemployed to benefit a particular subset of employers and workers. This is the opposite of what the platform says: "Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB59, adding post traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder to the definition of "injury" for purposes of workers' compensation and reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill is a combination of the original SB-59 and something that was originally in the Governor's budget. In both cases, the effect is to shift the burden of proof away from the injured worker and toward the insurance company. As the first subject, there is a higher-than-normal relation between first response jobs and PTSD, which would justify the smoother road to fulfilling a claim. For the second, this was extracted from the Governor's budget so as to have policy committee review. In this case, the presumptive link between cancer and fire fighting service is already in law, but it was restricted by a lifetime ban on tobacco use, which this bill adjusts. It also spends money on physical examinations, a budget item passed along with the House's HB-2. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB271, relative to requiring prevailing wages on state-funded public works projects. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill attempts to reimplement the policy of requiring the prevailing wage on State contracts. This puts a floor on wages that is determined by a Federal program based on surveys completed by participating contractors. NH eliminated this policy in 1985 due to the unaffordable cost it was causing on State and Local contracts. School Districts in particular found that the imposed cost of a "Davis Bacon" -style wage law was crippling their budgets. Proponents assert, without data or examples, that restricting wages would increase quality on government contracts. In practice, we know that a competitive market is far more efficient at making sure the State gets the best value for the taxpayer's dollar. Such a policy violates our platform by downshifting costs and removing the local control over the terms of contracts that happen to fall under the jurisdiction of the prevailing wage law. This will also fail to "keep state government lean."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

Municipal and County Government

SB285, establishing a coastal resilience and economic development program. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, creates yet another way for towns to work together, including a merger process. Except for the newly established bureaucracy, these actions are either allowed by current law or will require an act of the (future) legislature. The urgent need to anticipate any problems has not been established, and any future legislature can override our plans. Platform: minimize growth of government.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Public Works and Highways

SB185, establishing a rail trail corridors advisory committee to assist the department of transportation in updating the state trails plan and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP/A Vote: 18-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, mandates that the department of transportation update the trails plan to include rail trails, forms a commission to help, and appropriates \$200K for consultants. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Science, Technology and Energy

SB167, establishing a clean energy resource procurement commission. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a redundant commission and funds it by assessments on utilities. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB204, relative to distributed energy resources and consumer energy storage. **OTP/A Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: Energy storage at a massive scale is necessary to effectively use intermittent energy sources, such as solar or wind, without major expenditures for reserve power generation. Current battery technology is too expensive to use at utility levels. This bill requires utilities to set up pilot projects in energy storage, and the PUC to remove bureaucratic obstacles to private energy storage projects. This bill puts forward lofty promises but leaves ratepayers at risk. Platform: We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB275, requiring that all of the state's motor vehicles will be zero emissions vehicles by the year 2039. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill mandates an expensive, impractical goal to signal our environmental virtue. For "zero emissions" vehicles to completely replace internal combustion, either a massive increase in nuclear power or a drastic revision in personal mobility would be required. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

SB284, establishing a statewide, multi-use online energy data platform. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill puts privacy at risk and is a perfect example of government overreach using monopolistic corporations as a shield. Constitution; [Art.] 2-b. [Right of Privacy.] An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB307, relative to outdoor lighting. **OTP Vote: 19-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill supports the state's Dark Sky Initiative to prevent light pollution, specifies a specific color temperature for outdoor lighting when funded by state agencies, and would allow state agencies to own street lights in areas under their jurisdiction. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Ways and Means

SB310, relative to casino gambling. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill authorizes two casinos and creates a complex regulatory structure, with an estimated \$100 million per year in regulatory costs. Platform: Reject expanded casino and video lottery gambling as a means to balance the budget or increase spending

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Regular Calendar - Part Two

Children and Family Law

SB30, relative to the advisory board on services for children, youth, and families. **OTP/A Vote: 15-1**

HRA Analysis: Appointed representatives are not showing up to meetings of the Advisory Board on Services for Children, Youth, and Families. They should be removed from their post instead of changing the definition of "quorum" to have to avoid looking for new representatives interested in the topic. Constitution: Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

SB4, relative to the group and individual health insurance market. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill, like HB233, establishes ACA provisions into NH law preemptively, in case Obamacare is repealed in the future. From experience we know that the ACA is clearly not affordable, and delivers inferior care. Platform: Support the repeal of Obamacare and oppose its implementation in New Hampshire.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

SB145, relative to the organization of alternative treatment centers. **OTP Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows alternative treatment centers, to convert from non-profit organizations to for-profit ones. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB224, relative to insurance coverage for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders. **OTP/A Vote: 17-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill is a new insurance mandate, requiring all insurance policies to cover these rare but extremely expensive conditions. Platform: Allow free market driven health care plans and "ala carte" insurance plans free from government mandates.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

SB297, extending the deadline for arraignments. **OTP Vote: 15-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill delays an innocent person's appearance before a judge and makes the assumption that the person is guilty. Further the extension of the delay is a downshifting to the county from the courts. Constitution: No subject shall be held to answer for any crime, or offense, until the same is fully and plainly, substantially and formally, described to him.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

SB314, relative to release of a defendant pending trial. **OTP Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill makes changes to conditions for release on bail. It establishes a new position in the judicial branch; although it does not appropriate funding. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Education

SB137, relative to the certification of school nurses. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This issue dates back to 2016 legislation that never had a public hearing and requiring for a Bachelor's Degree and Board of Education certification. This bill attempts to clarify a timeline for meeting those requirements. However, requiring a school nurse to possess a 4-year degree after July 2022 continues an unfunded mandate on districts. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits and Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

SB142, requiring feminine hygiene products in school restrooms. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill is an unfunded mandate on our school systems. If community organizations wish to supply such products, it's a nice idea, but the state should not require them. Constitution: The state shall not mandate or assign any new, expanded or modified programs or responsibilities to any political subdivision ... unless such programs or responsibilities are fully funded by the state.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB267, relative to the release of student assessment information and data. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-2**

HRA Analysis: The intent of the original bill was to allow the DOE to provide additional student data to the firm that does the state-wide assessment so that they can mail results to all parents. The firm does that for a dozen other states and it is in our contract with them. A provision was included that if they disclosed any student data, they would be guilty of a class B felony. We know that some districts do not mail results to parents in violation of federal law. For those districts that do mail the results, it would save them the time and cost of that mailing. The Committee amendment removes the student data that would allow them to do the mailing, removes the disclosure penalty, but allows them to keep testing results for 10 years. The floor amendment will return the bill to the original intent and add references to federal law requiring parents to be provided with the test results. Our Platform says to “Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending” and to promote “parental rights to control the education of their children”.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose committee amendment; support floor amendment; oppose OTP/A with committee amendment

Executive Departments and Administration

SB174, proclaiming an annual observance of Juneteenth. **OTP Vote: 14-5**

HRA Analysis: No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Finance

SB5, (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for Medicaid provider rates for mental health and substance misuse and emergency shelter and stabilization services. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 13-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill spends more than that requested by DHHS, and more on top of the bloated budget passed by the house. Money is being thrown at the substance use disorder industry with little regard to outcomes. While the minority amendment seeks to better target the spending, and should be supported, we have come to the point of assessing where the spending is effective. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits; and Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose committee amendment; support minority amendment; oppose OTP/A

Judiciary

SB183, relative to salaries of certain circuit court judges. **OTP Vote: 18-1**

HRA Analysis: Primarily removing obsolete references. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

SB12, establishing the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership program and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: The NHGOP Platform encourages “to always limit spending and growth of government..” This bill involves state government in a program to provide money to pay student college loans by statute. Enshrining this in statute is bad policy. Even worse policy may be the use of any taxpayer money in a program to provide reimbursement to individuals for loans that they freely incurred for their individual benefit. In addition, this bill is poorly written and leaves many questions as to intent and ramifications unclear.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB20, relative to notification requirements for employees, workplace inspections, and the youth employment law. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill contains an assortment of unnecessary regulations on labor. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

SB146, relative to eliminating the waiting period before eligibility to receive unemployment benefits. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill repeals a one week waiting period prior to collecting unemployment. This minor waiting period has in part contributed to a healthy fund available for an economic downturn. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

Municipal and County Government

SB21, relative to notice to cut timber. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 17-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires any intent to cut form signed outside a regular meeting (already allowed) must have a minimum of 24 hours notice published. Constitution: Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

SB22, relative to the construction property tax exemption. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows municipalities to create projects or districts where increased value of commercial or industrial properties would not increase assessments proportionately, for limited periods of time. Platform: Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

SB43, establishing a commission to study barriers to increased land development in New Hampshire. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: It's a study commission. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Public Works and Highways

SB217, marking the Lafayette Trail in New Hampshire. **OTP Vote: 14-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows marking various highways as part of the Lafayette trail, by private organizations at their expense. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Science, Technology and Energy

SB72, relative to issuance of renewable energy certificates. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill deliberately amends the renewable energy process to increase costs for utilities and electric rates for all of us. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

SB78, relative to public utility customer data. **OTP Vote: 17-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill extends the use of customer's individual data. The alleged privacy protections are paper thin and lack penalties. Constitution; [Art.] 2-b. [Right of Privacy.] An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

SB205, (New Title) relative to energy efficiency programs funded from the systems benefits charge and the duties and members of the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows the NH Public Utilities Commission to raise the energy efficiency portion of the System Benefits Charge on its own motion by an order, without legislative approval. Platform: We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Removed from Consent Calendar

Environment and Agriculture

SB77, relative to costs of care for animals seized in cruelty cases and prohibiting the future ownership of animals in certain animal cruelty cases. **OTP/A Vote: 18-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, creates a fund to pay the cost of care for animals seized in cases of abuse or neglect, which is the responsibility of the municipality. Money comes from the town share of dog license fees and from the registration of pet foods. One might consider the town contribution an insurance fee, since it pays for a potentially large but randomly occurring cost; however, towns are mandated to pay it without their vote.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A