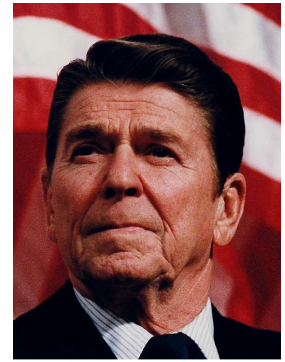


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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, January 8, 2020

Veto Override

Education

HB226, relative to the renomination of teachers. **Vote:**

HRA Analysis: Renomination was changed to 5 years several years to give new teachers the opportunity to grow and learn the profession. This same legislation was killed by the House just a year ago. Platform: "Eliminate tenure and institute merit pay." Though not truly tenure, reducing the time requirement goes in the wrong direction.

HRA Recommendation: Uphold Veto - RED

Election Law

HB315, (Second New Title) relative to the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program and the accuracy and efficiency of voter registration systems. **Vote:**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill grants the Secretary of State authority to enter into an interstate crosscheck program, and also to receive motor vehicle registration data. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Regular Calendar

Children and Family Law

HB362, relative to the calculation of child support in cases with equal or approximately equal parenting time. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP Vote: 14-1**

HRA Analysis: It is important that shared parenting be encouraged and to that end that child support be equitably determined to avoid using child support as a back door method of redistribution of wealth or of punishing one of the parties in divorce. This is an area which clearly requires a closer look. No constitution or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB377, relative to the best interests of the child under the child protection act. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-1**

HRA Analysis: It has always been the policy of the State of New Hampshire that natural parents are the best caretakers of their children unless they are a danger to their children. Poverty has never been considered neglect. This Bill replaces "Preserving the unity of the family." with "Determine if the preservation of family unity is in the best interests of the child." Best interest of the child is necessarily a subjective standard. This places the State in the position of determining whom children should have for parents. Under the Family: Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL

HB702, relative to licensing of supervised visitation centers. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, sets "guiding principles" that supervised visitation centers must meet. It does not establish who is to enforce this requirement, thereby opening centers to conflicting and contradictory requirements since local, regional, and state agencies may be involved. No platform or constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB308, establishing a condominium dispute resolution board. **OTP/A Vote: 14-5**

HRA Analysis: This poorly written bill/amendment creates a condominium dispute resolution board. It allows ONLY the owner of a condominium unit to seek an administrative resolution. It makes no mention of any limits to a normal legal remedy through the court process. It is another expansion of government, and has no fiscal note. This administrative process explicitly denies the rights of the common law. NH Constitution Part I [Art.] 14. [Legal Remedies to be Free, Complete, and Prompt.] Every subject of this state is entitled to a certain remedy, by having recourse to the laws, for all injuries he may receive in his person, property, or character; to obtain right and justice freely, without being obliged to purchase it; completely, and without any denial; promptly, and without delay; conformably to the laws.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB462, relative to digital electronic product repair. **Int. study Vote: 17-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill is a heavy handed over-reach into digital electronic product repair. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork

HRA Recommendation: Support Int. Study

HB685, relative to ambulance billing, payment for reasonable value of services, and prohibition on balance billing.

OTP/A Vote: 13-5

HRA Analysis: The amendment to this bill creates a study committee regarding ambulance billing. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment, Oppose OTP/A

HB739, requiring parity in the spend-down requirements for mental health and medical expenses. **OTP/A Vote: 15-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill simply ensures that mental health expenses are included in "medical expenses" as allowed for persons eligible for Medicaid or other welfare programs. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

SB63, relative to sharing of insurer rebates with enrollees. **OTP/A Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds mandates with regard to pharmaceutical rebates. More regulations will not magically reduce drug costs. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB201, increasing penalties for buyers under the law regarding trafficking in persons. **OTP Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill increases a criminal penalty on a law with 'strict liability'. This means if you technically violate what is written, you are guilty. Normally, where penalties are more serious the state of mind must be considered. This is fundamental due process. In this case, if a person under 18 convinces another that they are 18 or older, that factor will not be considered with this change. Constitution Part I Art. 15 Rights of accused.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB687, relative to extreme risk protection orders. **without recommendation Vote:**

HRA Analysis: The bill attempts to predict and prevent future crimes by subjecting NH citizens to gun confiscation without there being an underlying crime and even under the possibility of hearsay 'evidence'. This bill and all proposed amendments to date violate the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th amendments under the US Bill of Rights and numerous articles in the NH Constitution including but not limited to: 2, 2-a, 2-b, 15 and 19. The bill completely tramples any due process violations and was opposed by numerous groups including all firearms groups and several non-firearms groups such as the ACLU of NH. The policy is a direct assault on the Natural rights of the NH Citizens.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A

HB705, increasing the cap on assistance for victims of crime and relative to the rights of victims of crime. **OTP/A Vote: 17-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill, in addition to raising the limit for victims' claims, is a sweeping expansion of victims 'rights'. It goes so far it will encourage people with the slightest harm to file for claims and make demands of an expanded bureaucracy. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB311, relative to annulment of criminal records. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 17-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended allows for annulments of arrest and/or convictions records in certain cases. NH Constitution Part I Art. 18 All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Education

HB677, relative to discipline of students, addressing students' behavioral needs, and making an appropriation therefor.

Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 9-6

HRA Analysis: This bill revises guidelines for district suspensions and expulsions. However, it also requires the Department of Education to pay for alternate educational services during a suspension or expulsion which could cost the state millions. This is a reverse cost shift - to the state. Our platform states that "We believe that low taxes are the result of low spending; that government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible, to always limit spending and growth of government,"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB721, relative to special education in towns with no public schools. **OTP/A Vote: 9-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill throws roadblocks in the town tuitioning program that allows school districts not providing all grade levels to contract with other public schools or non-sectarian private schools. It requires the new school to get state special education program approval – even if the district is not sending any special needs children. This bill is an attack on local control and school choice. Our platform states we should 'Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children' and "Promote local control of education policy".

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB138, relative to the degree granting authority of Signum University. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill gives Signum the authority to grant academic degrees in New Hampshire. Signum has been accredited and meets all requirements for granting degrees; the committee apparently voted to refuse them on the grounds that the school does not accept federal student aid programs. Platform position is to "Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses".

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

Election Law

CACR9, relating to redistricting. Providing that an independent redistricting commission shall be established to draw boundaries for state and federal offices. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This proposed constitutional amendment would replace the requirement that the legislature establish these districts with an "independent:" commission. This commission would replace the open partisanship of the current process by a concealed partisanship, since the members are nominated by partisan elected officials. While constitutional, of course, this process is more complex and costly, as well as less transparent, than the current one. Platform: Keep state government lean.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB7, establishing the secure modern accurate registration act (SMART ACT). **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill would replace the current voter registration system (go to town hall, fill out the form) overseen by the town clerk and the supervisors of the checklist with a more "modern" process (go to the DMV, fill out a form – then the DMV sends the data to the secretary of state, who sends you a letter with another form to fill out, then communicates this to the supervisors of the checklist.) This process adds 26 new state employees, plus additional costs for postage, software, overtime, and all the new forms. It also centralizes a process that is carried out perfectly well by local officials, with no apparent benefit. The people who don't want to register at town hall can, of course, register at the polls on Election Day. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB8, establishing an independent redistricting commission. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 18-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill would establish an "independent:" commission to redistrict after the census. Besides being unconstitutional, this process is more complex and costly, as well as less transparent, than the current one. Constitution: "the legislature shall make an apportionment of representatives."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Environment and Agriculture

HB371, adding cats to the definition of commercial kennel. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-4**

HRA Analysis: The original bill was to extend an exemption to cats that currently existed for dogs in RSA 437:1 and 437:7. The E&A committee retained the bill because there were other bills moving forward that affected the same areas of statute. During the budget process major changes to the “pet vendor” definition occurred in HB4 that were not vetted through either chamber of the legislature. The E&A committee objected during the budget process and submitted a signed petition to the Finance committee conveying concerns with the proposed language. The language moved forward regardless and became law. The subcommittee reviewed the new language from HB4 and recommended an amendment to the full E&A committee that would accomplish the desired result of animal transfer reporting without placing onerous regulatory burdens on the dedicated companion animal breeder community that exists all across rural NH. The platform states: “Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork”.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB646, relative to labeling, signage, and restrictions on the sales and use of bee-toxic pesticides. **Maj. Int. study; Min. ITL Vote: 13-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to add definitions and new restrictions to existing statute for pollinator protection. While bees are very important to our food production, this bill goes too far. The bill creates a new governing Board to assess and regulate a newly established class of “bee toxic” pesticides which subverts the current Pesticide Control Boards authority. The current Board uses scientific data and US EPA guidelines in establishing the use protocols for pesticide application in NH. The committee reviewed several amendments but were not able to identify a clear path forward and recommended Interim Study. The platform states: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork and Support cost-efficient means to protect, develop and market agricultural, forest and high value natural resource product.

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study

Executive Departments and Administration

HB221, renaming Columbus Day as Indigenous People's Day. **without recommendation Vote:**

HRA Analysis: A basic tenet of Republicanism is that we defend our founding principles, our Flag, our culture and our history from attacks driven by political correctness, and revisionism driven by political expediency. Still, no specific platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB387, clarifying change of use occupancy classifications. **ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill attempts to shield repurposed buildings from expensive and unnecessary building code updates, imposed at the whim of local officials. A change of use from a florist to a clothing store should not impose new requirements for doorways or stairs, but some officials want to do so. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB506, establishing state holidays for elections. **OTP/A Vote: 10-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, recognizes that the general election is, in fact, already a state holiday (even if usually unobserved) and requests employers to allow employees up to 3 hours away from work to vote, when practical. No mention of whether or not it is to be paid time off. This is so minimal that it doesn't even count as a mandate, but it's also ineffective and meaningless. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits, and this bill has no measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB546, relative to the regulation of art therapists. **OTP/A Vote: 15-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, creates a new license and governing board for art therapists, plus a mandate that all health insurance policies cover their services. The title “art therapist” is already protected in NH, but there is no information available on how many art therapists are working here, nor how many have other licenses as mental health professionals. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Finance

CACR1, relating to alcohol and drug abuse prevention. Providing that a portion of liquor commission revenue be used for alcohol and drug abuse prevention. **ITL Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: HRA Analysis: This proposed constitutional amendment would require five percent of the Liquor Commission gross profits to be used exclusively for alcohol and other drug abuse prevention, treatment and recovery services. While well-meaning, this approach would permanently fund programs and organizations, many of which are of doubtful effectivity. Enshrining this funding in the constitution just makes it harder to change. Platform: Sunset programs and regulations to force periodic reevaluation

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB168, making an appropriation to the FRM victims' contribution recovery fund. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill allocates \$1.5M to the people who were defrauded in the FRM scheme. Strong evidence exists which points to the state's culpability. On one hand, the constitution: Government is "not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men.", on the other "When men enter into a state of society, they surrender up some of their natural rights to that society, in order to ensure the protection of others; and, without such an equivalent, the surrender is void."

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB327, making an appropriation to the community college system to continue the math learning communities program in partnership with New Hampshire high schools. **OTP/A Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, appropriates \$1 to the community college system for this high school to college math program. While the platform encourages this sort of innovative, low cost program ("Support innovative measures to reduce tuition costs") \$1 won't go very far.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB352, appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible wastewater projects under the state aid grant program. **ITL Vote: 19-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill allocates over \$3M to various wastewater projects, which have been funded in the budget. However worthy they are, one set of funds is enough.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB709, relative to the formula for determining funding for an adequate education. **ITL Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill sets a new formula for education funding. It re-institutes "donor towns," addresses the fiscal capacity issue and increases funds for poorer students, but eliminates stabilization grants. However, it also ensures that no matter what the formula determines, no town would get less aid than last year, thereby perpetually increasing state spending on education. Platform: Promote local control of education policy and funding

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB712, relative to a family and medical leave insurance program. **OTP/A Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a new mandate on businesses to participate in this program, and pays for it with either employer "contributions" or payroll deductions (in either case, a new tax.) Platform: Strongly oppose new taxes.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB366, adding opioid addiction, misuse, and abuse to qualifying medical conditions under therapeutic use of cannabis. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, authorizes certain qualified medical practitioners to prescribe cannabis for some symptoms of opioid use. On one hand, this lessens regulations on these practitioners and patients; on the other, the therapeutic cannabis program is highly regulated and this relief is limited to only a few. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB461, adding qualifying medical conditions to the therapeutic use of cannabis law. **OTP/A Vote: 17-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, allows therapeutic cannabis to be prescribed for insomnia. On one hand, this lessens regulations the program; on the other, the therapeutic cannabis program is highly regulated and this relief is limited to only a few. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB690, removing the work requirement of the New Hampshire granite advantage health care program. **OTP Vote: 14-7**

HRA Analysis: Implementing the work requirement for expanded Medicaid has been an administrative nightmare, and HHS has squandered over \$4M trying to get it started. However much we want to maintain this requirement, (Platform: "Support the repeal of Obamacare and oppose its implementation in New Hampshire") the mismanagement, voluminous paperwork, and excessive spending already seen, fails the platform test ("Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" and "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.")

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Judiciary

HB305, relative to the duties of the registers of probate. **Maj. ITL; Min. Int. study Vote: 12-5**

HRA Analysis: The bill provides a mechanism for the court system to allow the Register of Probate to perform the Constitutionally required duties. Opponents say those duties are performed through the electronic court documents and the Register has no function in the real world. "Provided nevertheless the legislature shall have authority to alter the manner of certifying the votes, and the mode of electing those officers; but not so as to deprive the people of the right they now have of electing them." if the duties of the register of probate have been assigned, by the legislature, to an unelected clerk of court, then that's depriving us of the right to elect them.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB513, relative to allowing the use of therapy animals or facility dogs for therapeutic purposes in proceedings involving children or certain other persons. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: The bill allows the use of a "Facility dog" during testimony of certain classes of witnesses in some criminal or civil proceedings. The intent is to enable the witness to more calmly testify, and, thereby enable the witness to offer more compelling testimony. Proponents claim the Facility dog will enable victims of various traumas or abuses to accurately describe what happened to them and provide evidence they couldn't do otherwise, leading to better outcomes in difficult cases, without prejudicing the jury. Opponents fear the very presence of the dog will prejudice the jury and that the court's already allow support persons and could allow support animals by rule. More importantly, if a witness is not telling the truth and a facility animal aids that testimony the defendant is deprived of due process. Constitution Part I Art 15 Right of Accused.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB661, relative to a private right of action for toxin exposure. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: The bill provides the ability to sue for medical monitoring for potential harms from exposure to harmful substances, either officially listed or established in court by the preponderance of expert testimony. The amendments narrowed the damages awarded to medical monitoring only and require the offender be found negligent, meaning he knew or should have known both about the dangerous nature of the substance and also failed to take known and reasonable precautions. The bill provides a means for those exposed to toxic materials to sue to get medically monitored for potential harms. This is a totally new type of claim, since no actual harm has occurred, and none may ever occur, but the defendant may be liable for long-term testing of the plaintiff(s). No Constitutional or Platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB532, relative to payment for earned but unused vacation or personal time. **OTP/A Vote: 14-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill would mandate that businesses treat unused vacation as "earned wages" and requires that they be paid on termination of employment. It does not consider that some employer vacation policies may not fit into this model. Our platform urges us to leave business decisions in the hands of the business owners and urges us to "[m]inimize business regulations."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB731, relative to the minimum hourly rate. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-6**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill sets the NH minimum wage higher than the Federal Minimum and raises it until reaching \$13.00 per hour. It also raises the tipped minimum wage. This is an attempt to supplant decisions between employers and employees with government mandates. Most work in NH pays well above the Federal minimum, and this bill ignores reasons why any particular position pays less than \$13/hr. A wage floor may eliminate those positions, hurting rather than helping the very people who most need an income. The platform asks us to trust free markets over government intervention.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB19, relative to the privacy of certain information concerning public employees. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-6**

HRA Analysis: Although this bill would seemingly protect public employee information, it contains a glaring loophole. Personal contact information for employees will be provided to labor unions. Republicans on the committee proposed and supported a minority amendment that would allow employees to retain control over this information. The NH Constitution states that "[a]n individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support Minority Amendment (2830h) and if passed support OTP/A)

Legislative Administration

HB363, including the legislature as a public employer under the public employee labor relations act and relative to the duties of the joint committee on legislative facilities. **OTP/A Vote: 9-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes the legislature as a public employer under the public employee labor relations act and establishes procedures for collective bargaining by nonpartisan employees. The bill would remove the authority of the presiding officers to deal with hiring and firing and would give that authority to various subcommittees. Additional and unknown costs would be incurred by petitions to form bargaining unit(s), grievance procedures, and any unfair labor complaints. Platform; Justify expenditures against measurable results.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Municipal and County Government

HB102, relative to municipal ordinances regarding the use of plastics. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, authorizes municipal ordinances regulating paper or plastic bags. This is likely to create a patchwork of local ordinances that will harass businesses and confuse consumers. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB143, relative to incompatibility of offices. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill prohibits a member of a ZBA, historic commission, or other regulatory agency from participating in an appeal from another board (planning board, most likely) in which decision they participated. No platform or constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB311, regulating sober living facilities. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, permits the fire marshall to grant exemptions to the state fire control code for sober living or other congregate housing facilities. The bill clearly limits the areas of the code that can be exempted, the most critical being sprinklers which are required for congregate housing but are not normally installed in older buildings or converted single or dual unit houses. This will save the facilities a great deal of money, and the un-waivable smoke and fire alarm rules limit the risks. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB559, enabling municipalities to ban single-use sources of plastic pollution. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, regulates paper or plastic bags, requiring they not be given away for free, and being a certain thickness and material content. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB655, regulating disorderly houses. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, adds to the current authority of towns to enact noise ordinances the ability to regulate "disorderly houses." Since the problems they are trying to solve are largely noise, this new authority is unnecessary. Platform: Recognize that private property owners ... have a fundamental right to freely use and enjoy their property

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Public Works and Highways

HB478, establishing a road usage fee and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP/A Vote: 16-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes a new fee for high gas mileage vehicles, collected at registration instead of the gas pump. Platform: Strongly oppose new taxes and fees.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB300, eliminating certain ramp tolls on the Everett turnpike in the town of Merrimack. **ITL Vote: 19-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill eliminates the Exit 11 ramp toll when the 1980's vintage bonds to build the ramps are paid off (in 2025, apparently) and toll revenues have increased by enough to cover the gross revenue from these tolls. No mention of netting the (very high) cost to collect the tolls. Recently the Fiscal Committee has lowered the toll to zero, but they can't eliminate it. The committee is willing to eliminate the tolls, but only if the town accepts responsibility for Continental Boulevard. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB683, relative to the rights of property owners abutting certain highways and railtrails. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, not only forbids OHRV operators from suing abutters to trails and public roads open for use, but also establishes procedural requirements for opening a public trail or road to OHRV use. New requirements give abutters a stronger position to prevent OHRV traffic on public roads and trails, and require re-analyzing the trail connectors in Coos and Grafton counties that created the "ride the Wilds" trail network. Platform: Provide public access to all public lands

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB269, making an appropriation to the department of natural and cultural resources to perform an ecological integrity assessment. **OTP/A Vote: 13-6**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill allocates \$50K to develop an "upland ecological integrity assessment." No constitutional or platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Science, Technology and Energy

HB735, relative to carbon pricing. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill increases energy costs and promises to properly redistribute the stolen wealth. NH Constitution Part I [Art.] 10. [Right of Revolution.] 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; therefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government. The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB122, relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill re-engineers the plumbing from the bucket of money taken from electric ratepayers, shifting it from returns to the ratepayer to public school energy efficiency funding. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs and remove New Hampshire from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB124, relative to renewable portfolio standards after 2025. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: Until the renewable portfolio standards are repealed someone will want to tinker with the 'best' central plan for energy sources. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs and remove New Hampshire from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB159, relative to net energy metering limits for customer-generators. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill subsidizes, at ratepayers' expense, energy production which is unsustainable of its own merits. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

SB166, relative to competitive electricity supplier requirements under net energy metering. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill passes costs on to ratepayers to the benefit of producers under net energy metering. Platform: We believe that economies flourish when all people retain as much of their hard earned income as possible, to spend and invest as they see fit.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

HCR6, applying to congress to propose a congressional term limits constitutional amendment. **ITL Vote: 10-2**

HRA Analysis: This resolution would request Congress to call an Article V convention for a term limits amendment. Besides the concerns about an article V convention, a Congressional term limit prevents voters from re-electing their congressman simply because of time in office. Platform: it is our responsibility to hold government accountable and that it is through the integrity of the ballot box that we do so.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Transportation

HB317, relative to tinted windows on motor vehicles. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, would allow aftermarket tint on the windows to the left and right of the driver to be no less than 70%, meaning that 70% of available light would enter the window. Current law subjects a used car owner to a \$93 fine for having the same tint as allowed on a new vehicle. This bill allows used cars to be tinted at the same percent as new cars. Constitution: All penalties ought to be proportional to the nature of the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

SB34, relative to the applicability of certain DWI prohibitions. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 9-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill would allow a person to sleep, rest or shelter in place in a vehicle without facing the charge of DWI. This bill would change the RSA so that a person sleeping in the back seat of his car could not be charged with a DWI. Sleeping in a car would no longer be treated as being the same as driving while intoxicated. The minority amendment removes unclear language of "lacking intent" and "controlling an inoperable vehicle". Constitution: all penalties ought to be proportional to the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support minority amendment, support OTP/A with minority amendment

Ways and Means

HB274, relative to the payment of the meals and rooms tax by individuals renting cars through an online service. **OTP/A Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill clarifies that the meals & rental tax is to be collected and paid by the facilitator, if a room or vehicle is rented from a private individual through an online facilitator (say, airB&B for rooms). It ensures that the individuals renting out rooms or vehicles need not register with the DMV, collect and pay the tax. This tax is due now, but the responsibility for collection has been unclear, and not all rentals are actually taxed. Platform: Encourage small businesses.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB647, relative to lucky 7 tickets. **OTP/A Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill allows Lucky 7 games to offer both 50c tickets and \$1 tickets, as well as the current \$.50. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation