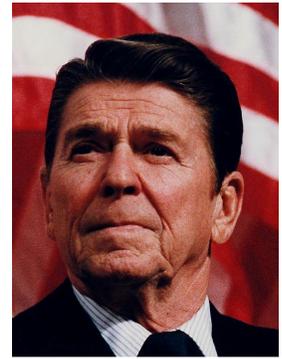


# House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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, March 11, 2020**  
**Regular Calendar**

## Children and Family Law

**HB1162**, relative to adoption and parentage. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, changes those eligible for an adoption from "husband and wife" to "two adults together." Platform: Recognize marriage as the legal and sacred union between one man and one woman as ordained by God, encouraged by the State, and traditional to humankind.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1167**, relative to the type of counseling that may be required by the state. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, requires court ordered counseling or any other state mandated counseling be of a type recognized by insurance companies and appropriate to the person's insurance. This is extreme micromanagement of the courts and the personal lives of the people affected. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1278**, relative to the use of psychotropic medications for children in foster care. **Int. study Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a complex program of control and regulation for the use of such medications in children in foster care. While agreeing that the state owes any children in its care reasonable and appropriate care, this bill seems to assume that the use of these medications is necessary and appropriate if properly monitored. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1349**, establishing a committee to study firearms incidents involving children with access to unsecured firearms. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-6**

**HRA Analysis:** Although this bill just creates a committee, the intent is to find a problem that does not exist, namely to restrict gun owners' rights to protect the children. Our Constitution protects all to keep and bear arms.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1360**, relative to confidentiality under the child protection act. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows a legislator, with parental approval, to receive confidential information from family court. Appropriate safeguards are included. If a parent requests a legislator's help, and is willing to share this information, why should another agency (which has access to the data) stop them? Constitution: An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB1516**, raising the minimum age for marriage. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-5**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill forbids any person under 18 (except an emancipated minor) from getting a marriage license or contracting a valid marriage. Since the age of consent for sexual activity is 16, pregnancy is legitimately possible for 16 and 17 year olds, and this bill would prohibit a marriage even with parental and/or judicial consent. Marriage before 18 is very rare, and rightly so, but banning it serves to provide state sanction to out of wedlock births, living together without benefit of marriage, abandoning NH to find a more tolerant state, the use of welfare, and/or abortion. Platform: We believe that traditional families are the foundation of strong communities.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020**

**HB1597**, relative to dispositional hearings under RSA 169-B. **OTP/A Vote: 18-0**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill requires juveniles with behavioural health problems who are committed to the care of the state to be evaluated and a care plan developed to minimize their commitment and resolve their health issues. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1657**, relative to reimbursement of court-ordered services for juveniles. **OTP Vote: 17-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill relieves parents of the responsibility of paying for court ordered services for juveniles. While the platform emphasizes personal responsibility, it also urges us to "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" and the state spends nearly as much as it collects under this program.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

## Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**HB546**, relative to the regulation of art therapists. **OTP/A Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, creates a new license and governing board. 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

**HB1102**, requiring food service establishments to establish food allergy awareness procedures. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill requires all restaurants to have on hand at all times a person certified by HHS as a "food protection manager." This is, in essence, a new license, with all requirements set by the department and not in statute. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1140**, establishing a hospital merger advisory commission. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

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

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1166**, establishing a committee to study obtaining health insurance for those persons who are uninsured in New Hampshire. **OTP Vote: 11-9**

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

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1186**, establishing a committee to study the filing of certain organizational income reports with the secretary of state. **Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

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

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1209**, requiring fidelity insurance coverage for condominium board members, managers, and employees. **OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires condominium associations have insurance to protect them from employee theft, embezzlement, or misappropriation of funds. While a sensible idea, does it need to be a mandate on all associations? Platform: Minimize business regulations.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1233**, relative to coverage for children's early intervention services. **OTP/A Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires all health insurance that includes early intervention services to so with zero deductible, copay, and coinsurance. This increases the demand for these services and the cost of health insurance for everyone. Platform: Allow free market driven health care plans and "ala carte" insurance plans free from government mandates.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1274**, relative to the labeling of bottled water. **OTP/A Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires drinking water bottled in the state meet the same requirements as municipal water systems. Most people would assume that is the case now. However, the amendment requires DES to implement, in rules, our requirements on waters bottled out of state. That appears to violate the federal constitution which assigns to Congress the regulation of commerce between the states.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1280**, relative to copayments for insulin. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. Int. study Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, mandates that all health insurance plans that include drug coverage provide all insulin, regardless of type, cost, or quantity, for no more than \$100/mo with no deductible. Platform: Allow free market driven health care plans and “ala carte” insurance plans free from government mandates.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1287**, relative to the duration of antibiotic therapy for tick-borne illness. **OTP/A Vote: 11-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, mandates that all health insurance plans provide long term antibiotic coverage (longer than 4 weeks). Platform: Allow free market driven health care plans and “ala carte” insurance plans free from government mandates.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1320**, establishing a renter's insurance notification requirement. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP/A Vote: 18-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require landlords to include, in the lease agreement, notice of renter's insurance. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Interim Study or ITL.

**HB1345**, relative to the organization of alternative treatment centers. **OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows alternative treatment centers (medical cannabis dispensaries) to reorganize as for-profit entities. Platform: Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB1410**, prohibiting the use of flavors and certain chemicals in vaping products. **OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill prohibits selling flavored vapes, once to children and once to adults. For adults, banning flavors makes no sense from a state that sells (and profits from) all flavors of wine and liquor. the constitution states : All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property; and, in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1417**, prohibiting the use or collection of biometric data. **OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, puts the same restrictions on private businesses that apply to the state as far as collecting or using biometric information without the person's consent. the constitution states: An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB1446**, establishing a committee to study the labeling of products containing PFAS. **OTP Vote: 12-8**

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

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1455**, relative to vehicle repairs. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. Int. study Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill further inserts a government regulation between insurance companies and car repair outfits. It would require insurers to cover more repairs than are currently required, and limit the insurer's ability to negotiate. This is a heavily regulated industry already; this adds another thin layer and increases insurance costs for everyone. Platform: “Minimize business regulations”

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1470**, permitting elementary, middle, and high schools to produce and sell certain amounts of maple syrup for educational purposes. **OTP Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows schools to sell maple syrup without the minimal labeling required from other producers (quantity, grade, identity["maple syrup"], and the name and address of the producer.) No platform or constitutional issues identified, although one wonders why this is a problem.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1472**, restricting the distribution of plastic straws. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill restricts the distribution of plastic straws by food service establishments to customers who explicitly ask for them. Platform: Minimize business regulations.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1483**, relative to allowing dogs on open air restaurant patios. **OTP/A Vote: 14-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows restaurants to permit dogs in open-air areas, as long as the extensive list of signs and prohibitions are followed. Platform: Minimize business regulations.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB1484**, relative to retroactive denials of previously paid claims. **OTP/A Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, modifies some areas of interaction between health care providers and insurance companies. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1495**, prohibiting the sale of over-the-counter rape test kits. **OTP/A Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill forbids the sale of rape test kits to consumers. Platform: Improve access to the information necessary to make informed health care decisions.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A.

**HB1500**, relative to a student loan bill of rights and a student loan ombudsman. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would create a new license for student loan servicers and mandate a new position of ombudsman within the NH Banking Department. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1535**, relative to installation of solar photovoltaic energy systems by condominium unit owners and owners subject to deed restrictions in a homeowners association. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill seeks to force owners in a homeowners' association to allow installation of a solar system on a property even if the original covenants or deed restrictions prohibited such systems. This bill violates the rights of property owners and is contrary to our constitution.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1564**, prohibiting the use of polystyrene foam. **OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would prohibit the use of polystyrene foam containers designed for one-time use in food service businesses such as restaurants and grocery stores. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1588**, establishing a mortgage mediation procedure. **Int. study Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would mandate a mortgage mediation process for mortgages moving into foreclosure. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1589**, requiring businesses in the state to take cash for monetary transactions. **Maj. ITL; Min. Int. study Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires all New Hampshire businesses to accept cash as payment for goods and services offered for sale at retail. Platform: Prefer incentives to penalties and issue warnings before fines.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB1633**, relative to insurance coverage for tick-borne illness. **OTP/A Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This legislation with the amendment clarifies that New Hampshire health insurance providers will cover all medically necessary blood testing prescribed by a primary care provider. Platform: Allow free market driven health care plans and "ala carte" insurance plans free from government mandates.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1695**, relative to background checks for certain persons under the banking law. **OTP/A Vote: 17-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This amended bill requires that every director of said trust company shall submit to a background investigation and criminal history records check. Platform: Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business and increase responsiveness.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1701**, relative to the recycling of single use plastics. **OTP/A Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended would require certain retailers to provide consumer collection bins for film plastics, the non-rigid plastic resin packaging such as plastic carryout bags, food storage bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags and shrink wrap, then recycle them. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## **Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

**HB1159**, relative to cyberbullying, cyberstalking, and doxxing of a public servant. **Int. study Vote: 14-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is protective of liberals who don't want their actions and votes made public. The constitution states: Free speech and Liberty of the press are essential to the security of Freedom in a State: They ought, therefore, to be inviolably preserved.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Int. study or ITL

**HB1174**, requiring screening for all law enforcement officers for psychological stability and substance use disorders prior to assuming their duties as certified officers. **OTP/A Vote: 15-4**

**HRA Analysis:** The amendment clarifies that monies deposited in the PSTC Police Psychological Stability Screening fund may be used to underwrite the expenses incurred for psychological stability screening for candidates for certification for law enforcement officers. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1257**, establishing a committee to study the opportunities for citizen involvement in attorney general investigations of officer involved shootings. **OTP Vote: 15-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would establish a study committee on the opportunities to involve citizens in attorney general investigations dealing with police shootings. This is an unnecessary intrusion in a process that is working. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1283**, relative to prohibiting the online disclosure of personally identifiable information. **Int. study Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would add to the harassment statute by including disclosure of personally identifiable information. Whereas this is not restricted to non-public information it stands against freedom of speech.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Int. study

**HB1350**, requiring a locking safety device be provided for commercial firearm sales and transfers. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill mandates that firearms be sold with a lock approved by the commissioner of the department of safety, allowing the commissioner indirect control over all firearm sales. Current manufacturers and dealers already sell firearms with locks so this is an additional burden and cost to the consumer. Our platform states "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork" Requiring all dealers to supply a lock that might be different than the one provided by the manufacturer, would be an additional hurdle for them.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB1374**, relative to voluntarily surrendered firearms. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Current law prohibits voluntarily surrendered firearms from being destroyed. This bill would allow destruction instead of sale of surrendered firearms. Our platform states "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" paying someone to destroy an article of value instead of selling it, costs the taxpayers more.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP, Support ITL

**HB1560**, relative to the criminal penalties for certain negligent actions which cause the death of an animal. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill has a penalty of a class B felony for the first offense. The minority supports the present law which has for the first offense a misdemeanor and a class B felony for a second or subsequent offense. Many animal cruelty cases involve owners who may not know or realize the consequences of their actions. The current law allows for education of those offenders without adding a felony and prison time to the charge. Part I Art. 18. Penalties to be proportioned to offenses.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1586**, relative to the statute of limitations for sexual assault. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP Vote: 18-2**

**HRA Analysis:** The statute of limitations for incest remains the same. The testimony in favor of passage was heart-wrenching and most of us were uncomfortable with the current 6 year limitation, but there was no consensus on what it should be. Platform supports strong penalties for sexual predators but this bill was not ready for prime time.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Int. study

**HB1608**, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transfer, and possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill would ban sale and transfer of standard capacity firearms magazines. The NH Constitution states: "[Art.] 2-a. [The Bearing of Arms.] All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state." by limiting magazine size to some arbitrary the bill would limit the ability of someone to protect their family of themselves.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP, Support ITL

**HB1613**, allowing prisoners serving life sentences to be eligible for parole after 25 years. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes all criminals eligible for parole after serving 25 years which includes first degree murder. New Hampshire already has existing procedures available under the law to commute sentences or granting pardons. Platform has several citations for strong penalties.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB1645**, relative to the annulment of misdemeanor domestic violence offenses. **OTP Vote: 18-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This raises time form 3 to 10 years before annulment can be requested. Passing this bill will prevent people with multiple domestic violence convictions from getting an annulment unless all of their prior domestic violence convictions are eligible for an annulment. No Constitution or platform issue.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1671**, relative to arrest and search warrants issued by superior court. **ITL Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** The current study group that is being conducted within the court system should be allowed to continue its work to completion. Part of that study deals directly with the subject matter of this bill.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

## Education

**HB1136**, relative to the duty of school superintendents regarding criminal history records checks. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** Allows for Superintendents to appoint designees to review criminal background records and for the Dept of Education to provide training. No Constitution or platform issue.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1148**, relative to the display of the national motto in schools. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows for the display of our national motto "In God We Trust" in public schools. Our Constitution states: "We believe, above all else, in the founding principle that all people are created equal, endowed by our Creator with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1206**, relative to the membership of the state board of education. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill calls for a non-voting student member for the State Board of Education. The issues are transportation expenses and lost days of school for the student spent at day long Board meetings. The platform issue is "Emphasize knowledge attainment and academic achievement".

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1231**, establishing a commission to study approaches to allowing parents or guardians of school children to be educated on the content of non-core topics periodically discussed. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** Our platform says to maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children. This bill would establish a commission to look at ways to improve parental involvement in our children's education and especially in non-academic subjects.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1232**, relative to the burden of proof in special education hearings. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP Vote: 17-2**

**HRA Analysis:** Due process special ed hearings is an issue because the school district has the resources unavailable to parents. Currently the burden of proof rests with whoever brought the complaint – usually the parents. HB1232 specifies that the burden will always be with the district to provide a fairer system. The platform says to promote parental rights to control the education of their child.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose Int. study

**HB1243**, relative to the degree-granting authority of an educational institution in New Hampshire. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** An issue arose last year with the process for degree granting authority for new colleges. This bill and amendment would clarify that the Higher Ed Commission reviews and approves applications which then come to the General Court for legislative approval. No Constitutional or platform issue.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1251**, relative to participation in school sports programs for female student-athletes. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** The goal of the bill is to protect Title IX and women's sports. Transgender females are now being allowed on women's teams displacing some biological females as well as putting them at an athletic disadvantage. Transgender athletes are not being barred from participation but let girls play on girls teams. There has already been a federal lawsuit filed by CT high school girls. Our NH Constitution states we have natural rights and "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged".

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1285**, relative to possession of firearms on school property. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill would strip citizens of the right to protect their children and themselves, both on school grounds and, to and from school for those that walk to school. The NH Constitution states: "[Art.] 2-a. [The Bearing of Arms.] All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state.". This bill is a blatant violation of several constitutional principles.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL

**HB1306**, relative to the recitation of the Lord's prayer in public elementary schools. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill repeals a statute allowing voluntary recitation of the Lord's Prayer during instruction on religious freedom. This same bill was ITL'd in committee and tabled by the House. What has changed? Nothing. As we said last year: Our Platform says: "We believe that the Founding Fathers gave the 1st Amendment its preeminent position with intent that religious freedom deserves to be protected".

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1321**, establishing a committee to study the reporting criteria of chartered public schools. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill relates to an existing oversight committee and modifies its duties to include reviewing the public chartered school system and making legislative recommendations. Give what we have seen with the charter school grant denial, this could have negative implications for our charter schools. Platform: "we support expanded education choices, including but not limited to: education tax credits, charter schools, and homeschooling."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1323**, relative to the statewide assessment report. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require schools to provide the statewide annual assessment results to families by June 30 each year. We know that in some districts the results are not provided on a timely basis or at all. As stated in our platform: "promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children".

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1327**, relative to the authority of the department of education. **OTP Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes minor language changes. No Constitutional or platform issue.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1334**, relative to religious activities of teachers and students in public schools. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill replaces the existing statute regarding the Lord's Prayer with a moment of silence in classrooms. It also replaces the current school religious freedom statute with updated and additional language regarding the religious freedoms of students and teachers in schools based upon guidance from the US Department of Education. Our Platform says: "We believe that the Founding Fathers gave the 1st Amendment its preeminent position with intent that religious freedom deserves to be protected" and "Enable and encourage a momentary silent prayer or reflective silence in the classroom".

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1423**, relative to reports on education tax credit scholarships. **Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Another attack on the tax credit scholarship program. This bill calls for additional reporting requirements that endanger student and family privacy. In addition, it requires submission to the Department of Revenue Administration of all expense receipts from home school families with scholarships. For what purpose? This bill conflicts with our platform call to expand education tax credits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1432**, relative to competency assessments. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require schools to have a competency assessment for each course. No Constitutional or platform issue.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1435**, repealing the powers of the state board of education. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. Int. study Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill does not repeal the Board's powers but does modify them. It removes eliminating illiteracy for example. It also removes the "Americanization of immigrants" because as indicated by the sponsor, it is "outdated". Is the concept of America as a melting pot outdated also?

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1459**, relative to non-academic surveys administered by a public school or a chartered public school to its students. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Current law states that parents have the right to opt-in (written consent) for their child to take a non-academic survey other than the YRBS survey which is opt-out. This is another bill to change the opt-in to opt-out. A similar Senate bill was vetoed by the Governor last year. Our platform says to "Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children".

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1473**, requiring schools to have a special education parent advisory council. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would mandate that schools have a special education advisory council. Our platform says: "Promote local control of education policy".

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1487**, relative to freedom of speech and association on college campuses. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill protects the freedom of speech of students on all college campuses in NH. Our platform says we should support freedom of speech at all education levels.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1501**, establishing a commission to study financial literacy in New Hampshire and to make recommendations for a multi-generational approach to financial education. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** A commission to study financial literacy for student and adults is proposed. We already, however, require students to take 1/2 credit in economics which includes personal finance. The committee also had testimony about the many information resources made available by private industry. No Constitution or platform issue.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1635**, requiring climate education in grade and secondary schools. **Maj. Int. study; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would place a climate change curriculum statute. NH has always considered curriculum a local issue and only standards are established by the state Board of Education. Climate change is a topic within our NH science standards. The proposal called for education geared to man made climate change to start in pre-K and was certainly not a balanced approach. The platform position is to promote local control of education policy.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Int. study

**HB1636**, relative to special education services for children in charter schools. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** There are issues with services to special education students who are in charter schools. Services to them are the responsibility of their resident school district. Some districts are requiring students to go back via bus to their resident school for services costing them hours out of the school day. This bill places federal language in our statutes to give parents a simple place to find their rights and tools for discussion of service location with the district. Our platform says: "Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children".

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1686**, relative to the Medicaid to schools program. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill clarifies duplicate language in two sections of statute and serves as a vehicle for any changes necessary to program. No Constitutional or platform issue.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1687**, relative to the installation of video surveillance cameras in special education school buses. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires installation of audio/video surveillance cameras in any vehicle used to transport children with disabilities. This is an unfunded mandate on local districts which violates Article 28-a of our Constitution.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1715**, relative to the renomination of teachers. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This is another attempt to reduce the time-frame for renomination of teachers from 5 years to 3 years. The same bill was vetoed last year by our Governor. As we recommended last year: Platform: "Eliminate tenure and institute merit pay." Though not truly tenure, reducing the time requirement goes in the wrong direction.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## **Election Law**

**HB1266**, relative to absentee ballot request forms. **OTP/A Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, makes minor corrections to the request form for absentee ballots. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1279**, relative to the terms resident, inhabitant, residence, and residency. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** The current law has been found constitutional by the NH Supreme Court which ruled the state has an interest in making sure that when residency is claimed by a person it should not be just for voting but for all purposes. Platform: Prosecute violations of election law and ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1299**, relative to selectmen pro tem on state election day. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill states that only one selectman needs to be at the polls throughout election day. The constitution states: a moderator, who shall, in the presence of the selectmen (whose duty it shall be to attend) in open meeting, receive the votes...

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB1390**, relative to access to ballots and verification counts of machine-counted ballots. **Maj. Int. study; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Creating a new way of accessing ballots outside of well defined and well performing current law will be detrimental to the public's trust in our elections. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Int. study or ITL

**HB1415**, establishing a committee to study the Montana disclosure act and anonymous out-of-state contributions preceding an election. **OTP/A Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a study committee, wasting more tax dollars. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1525**, relative to the definition of political advocacy organization. **OTP Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds unnecessary regulation to advocacy organizations. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1534**, establishing a commission to study the creation of online voter registration for the 2022 state elections. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a study commission, wasting tax dollars is imprudent. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1643**, relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations and labor unions and relative to funding source disclosure for political advertising. **OTP Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill essentially allows businesses and labor organizations to set up segregated political action funds and then make campaign donations from those funds. It also repeals the ban on contributions from partnerships, allowing them to make donations from their treasury if desired. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1651**, relative to prisoners' voting rights. **OTP/A Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill clarifies that prisoners awaiting trial or imprisoned on a misdemeanor conviction are eligible to vote in elections and adds imprisonment as a reason to request an absentee ballot. Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only."

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB1653**, relative to domicile, residency, voter registration, and investigation of voter verification letters. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is an effort to repeal current law that was passed in the previous session known as SB 3. Platform: To prevent voter fraud we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registering and voting to prevent voter fraud we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registering and voting.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1665**, establishing an independent redistricting commission. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-6**

**HRA Analysis:** The Constitution of the State of New Hampshire, Part the Second, Articles 11, 26 and 65 clearly and unequivocally make the formation of Districts for State offices the exclusive duty of the Legislature. Therefore, any delegation of the this power, or subrogation to any other branch of government or unelected body is clearly unconstitutional pursuant to Part the First, Article 29 and Part the Second Article 2. The Vice Chairman of any Committee which makes a positive recommendation on such a proposal ought to be reprimanded pursuant to House Rule 44 (d).

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1672**, allowing voters to vote by absentee ballot. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows anyone to vote by absentee ballot. This opens our elections to voter fraud. Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only."

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## **Environment and Agriculture**

**HB1319**, prohibiting the siting of new landfills or expansions of existing landfills near state parks, national parks, or United States Department of Agriculture forest land. **OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** While few want a landfill anywhere near them, it has to go somewhere. Arbitrarily excluding options may put a landfill in an economically unreasonable area causing a more significant use of fuel to haul it, perhaps to the Canadian border. If instituted will have grave consequences on communities and their property taxes. Not only will it create higher property taxes, it will in effect create a monopoly as only one facility. Our platform guides us to protect the environment and our constitution protects property rights.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB1422**, establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills or the expansion of existing landfills for the purpose of studying the creating of municipal waste districts. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP/A Vote: 15-5**

**HRA Analysis:** If instituted will have grave consequences on communities and their property taxes. Not only will it create higher property taxes, it will in effect create a monopoly as only one facility currently owned by Casella has capacity until 2034. 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:** Support Int. study

**HB1570**, establishing an architectural paint program. **ITL Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would approve a centralized paint recycling or disposal program, set up by the manufacturers and funded by an increase in the cost of paint. Minimally, this will cost \$50K/year at the state just to administer. Platform: Keep state government lean.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB1630**, relative to pet vendors. **OTP/A Vote: 19-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill eases the onerous restrictions for qualifying as a pet vendor that were included in HB4 without a hearing in the House. Additionally, it creates an exemption process for a breeder that doesn't normally qualify as a pet vendor but has an unexpected large litter. The platform states: "Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses" and "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork"

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## Executive Departments and Administration

**HB1122**, relative to death benefits of first responders who die from suicide. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 18-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, adds a presumption that suicide is a line of duty death for first responders and thus makes them eligible for the \$100,000 state death benefit. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1228**, proclaiming Climate Change Awareness Day on October 1. **OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds to the established Earth Day duties those of climate change awareness. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1253**, establishing an advisory council on the dispensing of eyeglasses and contact lenses. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates an unnecessary advisory council, which the committee amendment requires to meet at least quarterly. Platform: Keep state government lean.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1286**, relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill licenses music therapists. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1382**, establishing April 8, 2024 as Solar Eclipse Day. **OTP Vote: 17-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill establishes Solar Eclipse Day on the date northern New Hampshire will see totality. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1494**, relative to death benefits for public works heavy equipment operators killed in the line of duty, and relative to workers' compensation offsets for certain retirement system benefits. **OTP/A Vote: 15-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, adds state and local highway workers to those eligible for a line of duty death benefit. This is paid from the general fund regardless of the employer's liability. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1644**, relative to information required on marriage licenses. **Int. study Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill deletes the "race" question on marriage licenses, and also on a host of other vital documents. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1713**, relative to continuing education requirements for child day care workers. **Maj. ITL; Min. Int. study Vote: 13-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill decreases the mandatory continuing education requirements for child care workers, which will help child care businesses recruit and retain workers. Platform: encourage small businesses.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

## Fish and Game and Marine Resources

**HB1504**, establishing a committee to study prohibiting recreational trapping. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-5**

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

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1571**, relative to the qualifications for the members of the fish and game commission. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds conservationists and others to those eligible for appointment to the fish & game commission. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

**HB1223**, relative to schedule I and unscheduled drug take-back programs. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, authorizes, but does not mandate, take-back programs for illegal drugs. Clearly, there are implementation issues and this bill delegates all the details to the department of justice in writing rules. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1275**, relative to laboratory testing. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows a person to have medical tests performed on their own initiative and at their own cost - insurance reimbursement is forbidden. Platform: Improve access to the information necessary to make informed health care decisions.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1404**, relative to HIV/AIDS prophylaxis treatment for minors without parental consent and allowing pharmacists to dispense a limited supply of pre-exposure prophylaxis for the human immunodeficiency virus. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. Int. study Vote: 11-7**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill authorizes preventive treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, as well as treatment of the disease, for minors over the age of 14, without parental consent. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1520**, establishing the New Hampshire health policy commission. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, creates an unelected policy commission that appears to duplicate and encroach on the duties of other sections of government, with no oversight planned or possible, and no expiration. Platform: Sunset programs and regulations to force periodic reevaluation

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1577**, relative to initiating amendments and corrections to birth records. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows an individual to change the gender designation on a birth certificate that is not a simple error. It requires a one time, \$100K programming change at Vital Records to implement. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1655**, expanding the New Hampshire vaccine association to include adult vaccines. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill expands the department of health & human services by four positions to order, stock and distribute adult (but not senior) vaccines for every adult in New Hampshire. Insurance companies are assessed for every adult they cover, and while saving the cost of the vaccines they currently buy, there is no assurance that supply and demand will align. Those companies all of whose insured currently get every vaccine recommended by the centers for disease control will likely see a cost saving; others will see an increase. Platform: Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1666**, relative to investigations of sudden undetermined infant deaths (SUID) by the office of the chief medical examiner. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** The minority amendment simply requires SUID that occur shortly after vaccination be reported as an adverse effect (the vaccine is not necessarily a cause of death, just a correlation) to the national vaccine registry, rather than leaving it as optional. Platform: Improve access to the information necessary to make informed health care decisions.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose Interim Study, support OTP/A

## Judiciary

**HB1120**, requiring periodic water tests of rental property. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** While this bill as amended only creates a study committee, it is an unnecessary study. Platform tell us to justify expenses.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1143**, repealing limited liability for manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill if passed would destroy the firearms industry of the state. Not an insignificant economic engine for the Granite State. Violates both the constitution and our platform.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1164**, concerning support for cats and dogs that are neglected or treated cruelly. **ITL Vote: 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would create a special advocate for animals in court proceedings. Our constitution is in place to protect the rights of people.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB1169**, relative to requiring a roll call vote when one member of a public body participates electronically. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill removes the requirement of a roll call vote when a member attends via phone. This will reduce transparency as required by our Right to Know law as directed by Part I, Art. 8.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1177**, relative to qualifications of referees in the superior courts and circuit courts. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require a referee to be a justice of the peace, thereby giving oversight to more than the judiciary. Part I, Art 8 demands accountability of magistrates, yet some may consider it a violation of 'separation of powers'.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB1178**, relative to safety requirements for pools on foreclosed residential property. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires a cover be in place to secure a pool at a foreclosed property. This is a pointless burden on a distressed property. Our platform directs us to reduce regulatory burdens.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1202**, relative to matters discussed in nonpublic session under the right-to-know law. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow a person to be present at a non-public session where they will be the topic of discussion. While there may be times this would be inappropriate, generally this would fit a right of due process. No platform or constitutional issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1212**, relative to the effect of homicide on distribution at death. **ITL Vote: 14-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This "Slayer" bill intends to ensure no killer inherit from the victim's estate. This bill applies when there has been no criminal conviction but someone is dead. Just how we might determine to whom it might apply is unknown. No Constitutional or Platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1226**, prohibiting surveillance by the state on public ways or sidewalks. **OTP Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill provides protection from government surveillance while people are on streets and sidewalks. This is in line with our natural right to privacy.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB1236**, relative to the expectation of privacy. **OTP/A Vote: 14-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill limits the government's ability to obtain personal information on citizens unless there is an emergency or legal process issued. This affirms the citizen's right to privacy.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB1247**, relative to notice of rent increases in certain residential rental property. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is a step toward rent control. If the government can force a 60 days notice of rent increase it can require a 12 month notice or a 2 year notice. Rent control harms those most in need of affordable housing as it has been shown to push owners to upscale their units. This violates the property owners right to property.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1312**, relative to persons held in civil contempt. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will provide protection from government surveillance while people are on streets and sidewalk. This is in line with our natural right to privacy.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB1376**, establishing a civil penalty for unauthorized sharing of electronic location information. **OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires affirmative consent be given to a cell phone service provider prior to sharing of location information. While this may be seen as an issue of privacy, it is also a mandate on businesses.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB1391**, relative to prohibiting discrimination in housing against persons with pets. **OTP/A Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended is a compromised reached between landlords and tenants' rights groups in an effort to make more apartments available to pet owners. Our platform tells us to prefer incentives over punishment.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB1461**, relative to the penalty for carnival or amusement ride operators. **OTP/A Vote: 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is a lawyer's employment bill. It will expose adventure activities like zip lines and mountain coasters to law suits for simple rules violations even though riders have signed waivers. Platform: Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business and increase responsiveness.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1475**, prohibiting abortions after detection of fetal heartbeat. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** Platform: Support the pre-born child's fundamental right to life and personhood under the Fourteenth Amendment, and implement all Constitutional and legal protections.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1511**, relative to actions against tenants. **ITL Vote: 18-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This is a poorly drafted attempt to provide landlords with some protection. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1539**, relative to the relocation of children with elevated lead levels. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will have landlords pay (tenants actually) for relocation where lead remediation is required. This will add to homelessness and discrimination against renters with children. Platform: Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business and increase responsiveness.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1542**, relative to children, vulnerable adults, and animals in hot vehicles. **ITL Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would give immunity to a person who breaks into a car to save a child or pet. It sounds good but it comes with a set of rules to follow which would actual delay a response. If a child is going to die; save the child and worry about consequences later. Platform: Promote personal responsibility and consequences for one's actions.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB1559**, relative to sealing records in nonpublic session under the right-to-know law. **OTP/A Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended is a small step toward more transparency for non-public minutes that have been sealed. Part I, Art 8 supports this increase in transparency.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB1640**, relative to parental notification prior to abortion. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would remove the judicial bypass option for minors seeking abortions. Platform: Require parental consent for minors seeking abortions.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1659**, relative to patient directed care and patient's rights with regard to end-of-life decisions. **Maj. Int. study; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow medically assisted suicide and forbid it be called suicide. Platform: Oppose euthanasia and physician assisted suicide.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose Interim Study, support ITL

**HB1673**, relative to the definition of "public body" under the right-to-know law. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 19-1**  
**HRA Analysis:** This bill would add recipients of public fund to public bodies under 91-A. The minority amendment would exclude organizations that receive less than half their income from reporting. No constitutional or platform issues.  
**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1675**, relative to the right of any infant born alive to medically appropriate and reasonable care and treatment. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** We are told that this is never done. The section cited in the committee report track maternal mortality, but does not include infant mortality. Platform: We believe that life is sacred, from conception to natural death and that we cannot diminish the value of one category of human life without diminishing the value of all human life.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1678**, relative to prohibiting abortion in certain cases. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-7**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill would prevent abortion based on various preferences. Platform: Support the pre-born child's fundamental right to life.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1685**, providing for the appointment of special conservators of the peace. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill would create private police with arrest powers deemed necessary be the superior court. The problems of law enforcement are numerous because they are granted extraordinary levels of immunity. These private police would have no such immunity and would carry insurance should they err in judgment. Platform: Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

## **Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services**

**HB1171**, relative to the application of federal Occupational Safety and Health Act standards to public employers. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill creates a new Board to bring all public employers in NH under OSHA. This would add roughly two new positions to the Dept. of Labor, funded in part by Federal dollars. There is concern that the compliance costs to Agencies could be substantial and the similar costs to cities and towns would be an unfunded mandate. Platform: Keep state government lean. Constitution: 28-A.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1386**, relative to employment protection for qualified patients of New Hampshire's therapeutic cannabis program. **Int. study Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This would prohibit firing of employees who test positive for Marijuana who also have a State-issued medical marijuana card. It would provide an exception for all employers who have a policy that forbids marijuana use. As structured, it is unclear what such a law would do. The recommendation of Interim Study seems sensible. No platform or Constitutional issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## **Legislative Administration**

**HB1358**, relative to the identification of lobbyists. **ITL Vote: 10-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require lobbyists to identify themselves more frequently and conspicuously than they do now, for the benefit of those unable to understand the orange badges. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1486**, establishing a committee to study information technology in the legislative process. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. Int. study Vote: 7-6**

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

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1694**, relative to recusal by members of the general court for conflicts of interest. **OTP/A Vote: 12-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill defines financial and non-financial special interest for legislators and requires recusal from legislation affecting their employer or a special interest, rather than the current standards which only require announcement of a conflict, not recusal. The constitution states: No member of the general court shall take fees, be of counsel, or act as advocate, in any cause before either branch of the Legislature.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## Municipal and County Government

**HB1105**, relative to warrant articles in official ballot town, school district, or village district meetings. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-7**

**HRA Analysis:** The few people who go to the deliberative session in an SB2 town may amended warrant articles, particularly petition ones to make them very different than the original. This bill requires that both the original and amended versions of warrant articles must be placed on the ballot in SB2 towns so more voters have a say on the outcome. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1115**, relative to the discharge of a firearm in the compact part of a city or town. **Maj. ITL; Min. Int. study Vote: 17-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would significantly increase the distance someone must be from certain buildings if they wish to shoot. It also permits municipalities to prohibit shooting on certain town land. This would drastically reduce the areas where people may shoot, including hunting with a firearms. Constitution: [Art.] 2-a. [The Bearing of Arms.]. All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB1147**, prohibiting municipalities from requiring a license for a lemonade stand operated by a person under the age of 18. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would prohibit municipalities from requiring a license for a lemonade stand operated by a person under the age of 18. Platform: Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses; Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1160**, allowing municipalities to collect an occupancy fee from operators of local room rentals. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow municipalities to charge up to \$2/room/night for short term rentals. Platform: Require super-majorities to raise taxes

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1173**, relative to the use of an official ballot in towns. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow SB2 municipalities to boost the default budget by increasing the amount of multiyear contracts and by other means, including money in that budget the voters never approved. Platform: Low Taxes are the Result of Low Spending

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1211**, relative to a capital reserve fund in towns under the control of the budget committee. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 17-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow the governing body of a town or school district to create a capital reserve fund controlled by the budget committee. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1309**, relative to the effect of warrant articles. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires towns and school districts to be bound by votes on petitioned warrant articles. A citizen's petitioned warrant article should be sacred and implemented if voted by a majority of the legislative body. Failure to implement by the governing body undermines the faith citizens have in their government. Platform: Support the concept of a people's veto

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1443**, relative to the city of Claremont police commission. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 14-3**

**HRA Analysis:** Under current law, the city's police commission is appointed by the city manager. HB 1443 changes that, allowing the city council to make those appointments instead. Claremont's city council approves this change. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1451**, relative to the definition of contracts relative to official ballot default budgets. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow SB2 municipalities to boost the default budget by increasing the amount of multiyear contracts, including money in that budget the voters never approved. Platform: Low Taxes are the Result of Low Spending

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1460**, relative to the form of municipal budgets. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would increase the transparency of the municipal budget process by requiring that the budget be available to the public in an active, detailed, spreadsheet format. Platform: Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1490**, establishing a committee to study the taxation of property owners on private roads. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill establishes a study committee to examine the status of private roads in New Hampshire. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1533**, limiting the increase in property taxes for certain persons **ITL Vote: 16-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill mandates cities and towns not increase property taxes for persons 67 years and older by more than 1% per year. Our Constitution requires tax rates be equal for all.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

## **Resources, Recreation and Development**

**HB1124**, relative to the definition of prime wetland. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would have a significant impact on property owners. Our constitution provides that the government is to protect the rights of property owners.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## **Science, Technology and Energy**

**HB1116**, relative to the definition of "eligible facility" as it pertains to renewable generation to provide fuel diversity. **OTP Vote: 14-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill removes municipal solid waste from qualifying as a renewable energy source. This hurts the business, Wheelabrator, that sorts and burns waste from demolition. Without this company, waste would have to be trucked to landfills. It's anti-business and part of the Climate Crisis panic. Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business and increase responsiveness

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1225**, allowing increased net energy metering limits for municipal hydroelectric facilities. **Int. study Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow the city of Nashua to net meter power produced by city-owned hydroelectric dams. It could increase ratepayers costs.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Int. study

**HB1229**, requiring proposed natural gas facilities to include decommissioning costs. **without recommendation Vote:**

**HRA Analysis:** Redundant to existing SEC regulations.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support motion to table or ITL

**HB1261**, relative to the energy consumption reduction goal. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** The modern world runs on fossil fuels, like Natural Gas, but the majority is anti-natural gas and all fossil fuels. This bill would change the focus of NH's energy consumption reduction goal to "greenhouse gas emissions" rather than "fossil fuel consumption." Natural Gas emits less CO2 than other FF's and certainly costs less than other energy sources. Our platform calls for us to reduce energy costs. Getting rid of reliable, affordable energy sources is counter-productive.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1301**, establishing a committee to study applications of microgrids in electricity supply. **OTP Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study committee. We can limit the growth of state spending by voting no to yet another Study. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1430**, establishing a commission to study attainment of a clean-energy electric grid by 2030. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** Besides this being yet another Study, this bill's intent is to enact a rosy dream that is unattainable. Aggressively pushing so-called "Green Energy," in such a short time could leave us all sitting in the dark and freezing to death. As stated in the Minority report, it would be like building the equivalent of a new Seabrook Station, which cannot be accomplished in nine years. We can limit the growth of state spending by voting no to yet another Study. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1444**, requiring the adoption of vehicle emissions standards based on the California clean car standards. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** First of all, why would we want to follow in the footsteps of the People's Republic of California? Secondly, if there was a demand for more electric cars then the free market would respond by having them for sale. This bill forces car dealerships to get electric cars, regardless of whether or not they can sell them. If they don't sell, then they will be forced to reduce the price of the electric cars to get them off the lot, and raise the prices of the cars that most consumers want. This will not improve NH's Business climate, thus is contrary to our platform.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1478**, repealing the law on preservation and use of renewable generation to provide fuel diversity. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill repeals RSA 362-H which has been found by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to be contrary to the Federal Power Act. It unclutters unenforceable law currently on the books. Platform: Sunset programs and regulations to force periodic reevaluation.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1481**, relative to the net metering cap for customer-generators. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would have guaranteed that a customer-generator greater than one megawatt would use 80 percent of the power generated. They could net meter the surplus 20 percent. Essentially, it prevents cost-shifting and requires the Public Utilities Commission to investigate an appropriate new metering tariff. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1496**, relative to the regional greenhouse gas initiative cap and trade program for controlling carbon dioxide emissions. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Currently, \$4 of every \$5 of the RGGI Carbon Tax is returned to ratepayers. This bill would undo that for residents but preserve the rebates for commercial/industrial customers, which is a corporate subsidy. Our platform clearly states that we should work to reduce energy costs and remove NH from RGGI.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1518**, relative to the alternative compliance payments for renewable energy obligations not met through the purchase of renewable energy credits. **OTP/A Vote: 13-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill changes the rates for Alternative Compliance Payments for renewable electricity so that they are all the same. No platform issues

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1676**, requiring monitoring of certain radioactive air pollutants. **without recommendation Vote:**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill seeks to provide additional monitoring of radioactive discharges. The bottom line here is that the bill provides no additional safety or protection over what currently exists at Seabrook Station. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

## **State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs**

**HB1330**, proclaiming an annual observance of a day commemorating caregivers of wounded veterans. **OTP Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** Our platform tells us to honor our veterans.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB1493**, establishing a committee to study the effects of deportation of primary earners on United States citizen family members. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study committee. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HCR9**, rescinding all requests by the New Hampshire legislature for a federal constitutional convention. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 18-2**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study committee. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HCR10**, urging Congress to grant states broader authority to set higher environmental standards than those established in federal law. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study committee. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HJR4**, urging Congress to enact legislation or propose a constitutional amendment to grant statehood to the District of Columbia. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study committee. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HR10**, urging the return of armed service members from the Middle East. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** It's a study committee. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Transportation

**HB1114**, relative to state motor vehicle inspections. **Maj. ITL; Min. ITL Vote: 18-2**

**HRA Analysis:** The link between inspections and highway safety is tenuous at best. Countless vehicles from states without inspections travel New Hampshire roads on a daily basis without any problems or any concerns from state highway or law enforcement officials. Platform: Sunset programs and regulations to force periodic reevaluation.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1153**, relative to limited driving privilege after operating under the influence revocation or suspension. **ITL Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill seeks to adjust restrictions on driving after OUI revocation. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1401**, prohibiting smoking and e-cigarettes in motor vehicles when a passenger is under 16 years of age. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill prohibits smoking and e-cigarettes in a motor vehicle when a passenger under the age of 16 is in the vehicle. The amendment makes this a secondary offense. Most children under 16 do not have state issued ID. The bill as written could subject a person to a \$100 fine for using legal products on the road or in their driveway. NH Constitution Art 18: All penalties ought to be proportional to the nature of the offense.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1463**, relative to the operation of a mixed use school bus. **ITL Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill removes the requirement that a driver of a mixed use school bus that qualifies as a commercial motor vehicle shall hold a CDL. In NH school bus drivers are not required to hold a CDL; they are required to hold a school bus endorsement and a school bus certificate. The bill adds 'or a passenger vehicle' to RSA 259:96-a 'Mixed use school bus' shall mean a station wagon, suburban, sport utility vehicle, passenger van, panel body vehicle. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1489**, allowing registered nurses to certify walking disability plate eligibility. **ITL Vote: 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow Registered Nurses ( RN's) to authorize walking disability placards and plates. The form that must be signed has the provider swear to their medical diagnosis. RN's are not allowed to diagnose. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1502**, relative to equipment required for vehicle inspections. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would clarify equipment requirements for vehicle inspections. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

**HB1547**, eliminating fees for walking disability placards. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill eliminates the \$5 fee to cover printing and handling for a temporary disability placard. The bill was brought forward because the DMV decided to stop charging the fee, notwithstanding the fact the General Court passed the bill charging the \$5 fee and the Governor signed it into law in 2016. It is not the duty of a state agency to decide that charging a \$5 fee for a one-month temporary disability placard is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Nothing was presented to the committee showing a ruling that the \$5 fee violated Federal Law. NH Constitution Art. 29: Suspension of Laws by Legislature Only.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1552**, requiring learner's permits for certain persons seeking drivers' licenses. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill changes the learner's permit process. The minority believes this is too flawed and expensive to implement. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1617**, clarifying the prohibition against the use of mobile electronic devices while driving. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, raises 2nd offense fines and changes the 3rd offense from fines to a mandatory 30-day suspension of the drivers' license. ( the amendment raises 2nd offense fines) for violation of RSA 265:79-c, Use of mobile electronic devices while driving, with the effective date 90 days after passage. This committee voted 20-0 OTP on HB 1506 to establish a commission to study the issue. No constitutional or platform issues identified

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1622**, relative to the use of passenger restraints in motor vehicles. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended (the amendment becomes the bill) requires mandatory seat belt use for all drivers and passengers with certain exceptions and adds passenger restraints to NH DMV safety inspections. New exceptions are that seatbelt use is not mandatory for vehicles with a GVW of over 8,000#. Platform: Promote personal responsibility and consequences for one's actions.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## Ways and Means

**CACR17**, relating to taxation. Providing that a new state broad-based tax may be enacted only to reduce property taxes. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This constitutional amendment requires any new broad based tax only be used to reduce property taxes. History has shown in multiple states that a new broad based tax supplements property taxes and does not reduce them other than momentarily. Platform: Strongly oppose new taxes and fees, including an income, sales and capital gains tax.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB1132**, establishing a committee to study the establishment of a multi-state agreement to phase out corporate giveaways. **ITL Vote: 16-4**

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

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1200**, relative to the tax expenditure report. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill started as a minor technical correction to the tax expenditure report. The amendment adds a committee to evaluate bases for the apportionment of business taxes, and delays the start of using single sales factor as the apportionment until data is available. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1477**, relative to the rate of the tobacco tax for cigarettes. **OTP/A Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** The initial version of this bill raises the tax on cigarettes. As amended, this bill establishes a study committee on tobacco taxes. No constitutional or platform issues identified after amendment.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support amendment, Oppose OTP; no recommendation on OTP/A

**HB1646**, relative to historic racing. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allows existing charitable casinos to install "historic racing" machines, which look very much like slot machines, but slower. The charity is estimated to receive less than half as much as the lottery commission, so this is a government revenue increase. On one hand, the platform urges us to Reject expanded casino and video lottery gambling as a means to balance the budget or increase spending; on the other, that all people are created equal, endowed by our Creator with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience.