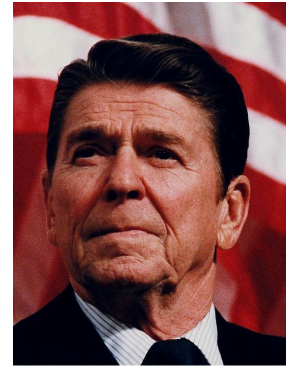


# House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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.

**Thursday, June 11, 2020**

## Senate Amendments

### Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

**HB490**, (New Title) establishing a commission to study the role of clinical diagnosis and the limitations of serological diagnostic tests in determining the presence or absence of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and available treatment protocols, and appropriate methods for educating physicians and the public about the inconclusive nature of prevailing test methods and available treatment alternatives. **Vote:**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this is a study commission. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

### Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

**HB253**, relative to criminal records checks in the employee application process. **Vote:**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill still forbids employers from asking about criminal records early in the hiring process. We believe employers - and applicants - may well need it sooner. This is an attempt to micromanage the hiring process. Platform: Minimize business regulations.

**HRA Recommendation:** Do not concur.

### Science, Technology and Energy

**HB466**, relative to the capacity of electricity customer generators for eligibility for net energy metering. **Vote:**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this is still a net metering bill that attempts to shift costs to the other power users. Platform: Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses,

**HRA Recommendation:** Do not concur.

**HB496**, relative to the definition of antique snowmobiles, relative to water quality rules, and relative to the disposition of administrative fines for asbestos management violations. **Vote:**

**HRA Analysis:** This is our first "Christmas tree," an assemblage of unrelated items tacked onto an innocuous bill. There are three separate sections, with different recommendations. 1. broadening the definition of antique snowmobiles to allow those owned by non-residents (no recommendation) 2. broaden Environmental Services' rulemaking authority for water quality (oppose) 3. Assigning fines for violating asbestos rules to a dedicated fund, rather than the general fund (oppose) In addition, this version of the bill does not include the original purpose of the bill, a study commission on reaching 50% renewable energy.

**HRA Recommendation:** Do not concur.

**HB715**, relative to electrical energy storage. **Vote:**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill requires the PUC to investigate energy storage systems, and refer action to the legislature. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Regular Calendar

**Thursday, June 11, 2020**

## Children and Family Law

**HB1716**, relative to the treatment of veterans' disability benefits for purposes of determining child support. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill seeks to remove veterans' disability income from consideration in child support. Federal law protects veterans' disability payments. Platform: Respect New Hampshire's honored veterans by ensuring that they receive the benefits they have rightfully earned and deserve

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose Interim Study

**SB295**, relative to the office of the child advocate. **Maj. OTP; Min. Int. study Vote: 18-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill recodifies the statutes governing the office of the child advocate. Its extraordinarily broad language creates an agency with no oversight; "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, operate with full independence from any state official, department, or agency in the performance of its duties." This violates our constitution Part I, Art 8; Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**HB1411**, establishing a commission to study long-term supports and services in New Hampshire. **without recommendation Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill establishes a commission to study long-term supports and services in New Hampshire. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Criminal Justice and Public Safety

**HB1117**, relative to penalties for dog theft and tampering with a dog's radio collar. **OTP Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill elevates the penalty for dog theft and tampering to a Class B felony. Our judicial system is already overburdened, this will shift a great expense onto our county attorneys. If there is a large financial cost to the victim, they should pursue civil remedy. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1580**, (New Title) regulating the use of unmanned aircraft systems. **OTP Vote: 17-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, prevents anyone from operating weapons from a drone and limits law enforcement use of a drone. It also provides an enhanced penalty for violations of privacy committed with a drone. While this bill may provide privacy protections it may also restrict citizen in the use of their own property.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB1662**, relative to the purchase, use, and possession of tobacco products and e-cigarettes. **Maj. Int. study; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the age for purchase, use and possession of tobacco products and e-cigarettes to 21. If we are to discriminate based on age, we should do so uniformly; 16, 18, 21, pick one. Constitution Part I, Article 1. [Equality of Men; Origin and Object of Government.] All men are born equally free and independent; therefore, all government of right originates from the people, is founded in consent, and instituted for the general good.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose Int. Study; Support ITL

## Executive Departments and Administration

**HB702**, (New Title) relative to requirements for supervised visitation centers. **OTP Vote: 17-3**

**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

**HB1692**, (New Title) establishing a license for mushroom harvesters. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-4**

**HRA Analysis:** FDA requires that states regulate the sale of wild mushrooms. This bill addresses that mandate but far exceeds the requirements of the FDA by setting up unnecessary and excessive state regulation. Our platform states that we should remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses, minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork, and keep state government lean to allow lower business taxes. This bill violates all of those tenets.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## Finance

**HB1549**, establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP/A Vote: 13-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates and funds (at over \$100K/yr) a new administrative position to coordinate and assist school counselors, psychologists, and social workers. The amendment delays funding until the next budget. How much counseling, social work, and psychology is required in our schools? Platform: Emphasize knowledge attainment and academic achievement.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1647**, relative to post-conviction DNA testing. **OTP/A Vote: 13-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires the Judicial Council to pay ALL costs for the DNA testing and ALL legal costs for defense. Despite the fiscal note, lawyers and testing will cost money. As the Platform states, low taxes are the result of low spending.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**HB1681**, (New Title) establishing a committee to study school meal programs in New Hampshire's public schools and non-sectarian schools that accept public funds. **OTP Vote: 13-9**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill creates a study committee. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1708**, relative to certain liquor license fees and establishing 2 liquor investigator positions. **OTP/A Vote: 14-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will increase fees and use those funds to hire more regulators. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**SB8**, establishing an independent redistricting commission. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-8**

**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

## Judiciary

**HB1642**, (New Title) prohibiting the state or a state official from using a face recognition system. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 12-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, prevents state and local government agencies from engaging in facial recognition technology and protects the DMV database of photos and other data. Constitution: An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose ITL

## Municipal and County Government

**HB1218**, (New Title) relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators and the purchase of output of limited electrical energy producers. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This is one more attempt at feel good net metering that shifts the cost of subsidies to electric ratepayers. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs and remove New Hampshire from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

**SB79**, relative to required reporting on waste reduction. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill mandates more detailed data on municipal solid waste disposal for use by the NH Department of Environment Services. Constitution Part I, Art 28-a prohibits unfunded mandates.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## Public Works and Highways

**HB2020**, relative to the 10-year transportation improvement plan. **OTP/A Vote: 16-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is the biennial update to New Hampshire's 10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Ways and Means

**HB1599**, establishing a special marriage officiant license. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a special marriage officiant license, and directs the bulk of the fees to the fund for domestic violence support. This bill is opposed by town clerks because the documentation is critical and special licensees are known to be less than diligent in returning necessary documents. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB1632**, relative to financial investments and incentives for affordable housing development. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a package of tax incentives (property and business profits taxes) for affordable housing projects, and creates a "Housing Champion" program that gives towns that qualify funds from the profits of such projects. Our Constitution requires tax rates be equal for all.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A