

House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet

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.



"Trust but Verify"

Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Regular Calendar - Part One

Children and Family Law

HB188, relative to appointment of counsel in juvenile court proceedings. **OTP/A Vote: 15-0**

HRA Analysis: The majority believes that this bill allows earlier intervention needed with indigent minors to facilitate justice. While this may be a good policy, its cost has yet to be determined. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB76, prohibiting paper billing fees. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill prohibits a person from being charged an additional fee for paying by mail or receiving a paper bill statement. Expenses not borne by those needing a service should not be shifted to other customers by government mandate. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB63, relative to the reversal or forgiveness of emergency order violations. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended forgives violations of unconstitutional executive orders. Constitution: Part I, Article 12, But no part of a man's property shall be taken from him, or applied to public uses, without his own consent, or that of the representative body of the people.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB498, relative to the appointment of bail commissioners. **OTP/A Vote: 14-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill addresses an ongoing issue regarding the payment of bail commissioners. NH Constitution part First, Art 10: Government being instituted ... not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support ITL

HB615, reducing the penalty for certain first offense drug possession charges. **OTP/A Vote: 15-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill reduces the penalty for certain first offense drug offenses. Constitution: Part I, Article 18, All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense. No wise legislature will affix the same punishment to the crimes of theft, forgery, and the like, which they do to those of murder and treason.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Education

HB96, establishing the office of school counseling and psychology, establishing the position of school counselor coordinator, and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes a position that is an unnecessary position in a time of decreased revenue. Platform: local control

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB497, allowing a school district to exempt its chief administrative officer from compulsory participation in the retirement system. **ITL Vote: 18-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill would reduce solvency of the retirement system. Platform: Ensure that public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB594, relative to the school building aid program. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended sets the amount of school building aid grants for construction and renovation projects at no less than \$50 million per fiscal year. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment 2021-0400h; Vote your conscience

HB613, relative to state aid to school districts with special education pupils. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows school district to work together to mitigate financial risk regarding special education. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Election Law

HB121, establishing an independent redistricting commission. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill sets up a redistricting commission of unelected citizens. Our constitution does not allow the delegation of authority to such unelected bodies.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Environment and Agriculture

HB532, creating an animal records database. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds regulations and increases the size of government, and puts private information at risk. Our platform opposes the first two and our constitution respects our right to privacy.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Executive Departments and Administration

HB91, relative to death benefits of first responders who die from suicide. **OTP Vote: 14-4**

HRA Analysis: While this bill has good intentions, it also sets up a very perverse incentive for a person possibly plagued by financial troubles. Platform: Ensure that public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB274, relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers. **without recommendation Vote:**

HRA Analysis: This bill rewards cities and towns without the will to control their employee costs, shifting the burden to state tax payers. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB425, establishing the position of chief information security officer and deputy chief information security officer in the department of information technology. **OTP/A Vote: 17-0**

HRA Analysis: These positions exist now and are in the budget as proposed. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB591, relative to certain liquor license fees and establishing 2 liquor investigator positions. **OTP/A Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, would permit the issuance of a retail tobacco license to any business which already has a license to sell alcoholic beverages for an additional fee of \$6. It also established two investigator positions. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork; also keep state government lean to allow lower business taxes.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB187, relative to the emergency powers of the commissioner of health and human services. **OTP/A Vote: 19-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds oversight to the use of unconstitutional emergency powers.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB246, establishing a protective order for vulnerable adults. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill violates the due process rights of an accused. Constitution: Part I, Article 15 No subject shall be arrested, imprisoned, despoiled, or deprived of his property, immunities, or privileges, put out of the protection of the law, exiled or deprived of his life, liberty, or estate, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Judiciary

HB420, relative to the use of funds in the drug forfeiture fund. **ITL Vote: 15-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill shifts the distribution of forfeiture proceeds, increasing visibility of the funds. Constitution: Part I, Article 8, government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP

HB481, establishing the office of the right-to-know ombudsman and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 16-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill attempts to correct 91-A issues by installing a government agency. The 91-A protections are far from guaranteed. Constitution: Part I, Article 8, Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB625, relative to the protection of fetal life. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: Prohibits abortion after 24 weeks. 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; Support OTP

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB590, relative to paid sick time. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill interferes with business and labor relations. Just like a minimum wage it will inhibit employment of those most in need. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Municipal and County Government

HB459, prohibiting a transfer of funds within an adopted budget to a general ledger line item in such budget that contains an entry of zero dollars. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill presents a common sense fiscal control. Platform: Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP

HB586, relative to training and procedures for zoning and planning boards and relative to financial investments and incentives for affordable housing development. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 15-3**

HRA Analysis: While this bill increases property owners' possible options, it also expands government bureaucracy.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Science, Technology and Energy

HB614, exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill allows a county, city, town, school district, or other public body to reduce costs that could then lower property taxes. It shifts no costs to other ratepayers. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB624, decreasing the fee to file a petition for a declaratory ruling with the site evaluation committee. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 19-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill reduces the fee charged to obtain a declaratory ruling from the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Regular Calendar - Part Two

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB81, relative to the justified use of deadly force upon another person. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill simply allows the use of deadly force to protect someone in your home. Constitution: Part I, [Art.] 2. [Natural Rights.] All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights – among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB197, relative to the use of deadly force in defense of another. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill expands the use of deadly force to a vehicle. Constitution: Part I, [Art.] 2. [Natural Rights.] All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights – among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB365, giving peace officer status to federal law enforcement officers. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill would allow Federal agents to enforce NH laws. Constitution: Part I, [Art.] 8. [Accountability of Magistrates and Officers; Public's Right to Know.] All power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB564, prohibiting the use of rubber bullets and tear gas by law enforcement. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Education

HB110, relative to the distribution of adequate education grants. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: Consistent with school funds raised through tax assessments, this bill would direct adequate education grants to the municipality rather than directly to the municipality's school district or districts. Platform: Promote local control of education policy and funding in order to create the best-managed school systems.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB194, relative to the release of student assessment information and data. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill aims to provide parents with a better understanding of their students' achievement, test scores, etc in a more timely manner. Platform: promote parental rights to control the education of their children

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB242, relative to the content of an adequate education. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill improves educational quality while ensuring that all students have the opportunity for an adequate education as defined by the legislature. Platform: Emphasize knowledge attainment and academic achievement.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB320, requiring a civics competency assessment as a high school graduation requirement. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: It is shameful that the minority lacks faith in our teachers and feel that they would resort to "teaching to the test" to enable our children to pass a test given to non-native speakers. Platform: Emphasize knowledge attainment and academic achievement.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB349, relative to certification requirements for school nurses. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill will allow school districts and the DOE to develop their own criteria for school nurses. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB513, relative to the degree granting authority of Signum university and relative to the authority of the higher education commission. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill authorizes Signum University to grant degrees in New Hampshire. Signum is a new, nonprofit, and independent university with an innovative and completely online structure. Platform: support innovative measures to reduce tuition costs and increase national competitiveness.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB609, relative to innovation schools. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill will provide districts and schools support in meeting challenges resulting from declining student demographics and related program and funding issues. Platform: Support market forces to provide and improve education.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Election Law

HB105, relative to political contributions made by limited liability companies. **ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill proposes that political contributions made by a limited liability company (LLC) be allocated to the company's membership and the total amount contributed tracked by each member. Constitution: Part I, Article 22 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 ITL

HB391, increasing the threshold for reporting by political committees. **OTP Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill proposes that the threshold for the itemized reporting requirement for political campaign contributions be increased from \$25 to \$100. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB465, relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations and labor unions. **ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill proposes to modify the current prohibition on labor unions making direct political contributions by allowing them to contribute through political committees that operate independently of such organizations. Constitution: Part I, Article 22 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 ITL

Executive Departments and Administration

CACR7, relating to the governor. Providing that there be a lieutenant governor who shall assume the duties of the governor if the governor is incapacitated. **ITL Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB345, establishing a license for mushroom harvesters. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill would license wild mushroom harvesters to sell to restaurants and markets. The adoption of Federal food code forces this upon those wishing to enter the market. While this helps those wishing to pursue this business, it also adds to bureaucracy.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB163, relative to cannabis use during pregnancy. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 18-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill treats adults as though they are children. Platform: 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 OTP/A

HB185, removing the work requirement of the New Hampshire granite advantage health care program. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill removes the work requirement from the granite advantage health care program, allowing participants to lift themselves out of poverty. Platform: Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB290, relative to policies required for health facilities and special health care service licenses. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 18-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill would help drive down healthcare prices for consumers by reducing administrative costs for medical facilities that accept only direct payment. Platform: Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs.

HRA Recommendation: Support motion to table

Judiciary

HB233, relative to the right of any infant born alive to medically appropriate and reasonable care and treatment. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill supports the life of a child born alive. Platform: Oppose euthanasia and physician assisted suicide.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP

HB430, repealing the prohibition on entering or remaining on a public way or sidewalk adjacent to a reproductive health care facility. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill would repeal the 'buffer zone' anti-free-speech area near abortion clinics. Constitution: Part 1 Art. 22 (Stating that "Free speech... ought... to be inviolably preserved.").

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB107, relative to the minimum hourly rate. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 19-1**

HRA Analysis: Go big or go home, \$22.50/hour, at least most of our friends on the other side acknowledge there is a breaking point. Platform: Support the concept of "merit pay".

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB348, requiring a public employer to provide notice of a new or amended collective bargaining agreement. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This common sense bill assures that a contract is available for 30 days prior to agreement. Platform: Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB385, relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill will add 5 years to make claims beyond age 65 for workers' compensation. Platform: Ensure that public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support ITL

HB448, establishing a committee to study and compare federal Occupational Safety and Health Act standards with the safety and health standards the New Hampshire department of labor uses for public sector employees. **without recommendation Vote:**

HRA Analysis: No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB563, establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: The economics of the goals of this study are well researched and scientifically proven to be of no value. Any time wasted on this study committee would be excessive and contrary to our platform.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

HB112, establishing a committee to study the effects of deportation of primary earners on family members who are United States citizens. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: Study committees that seek a result contrary to our platform are a waste of resources.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB580, requiring the approval of the governor before the New Hampshire National Guard can be deployed overseas. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 20-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires the Governor to review any overseas deployment orders of our NH National Guard, and requires the Governor withhold permission should the reason not be constitutional or due to invasion of the USA or an insurrection. The Governor already has to approve deployment of the National Guard at his or her discretion.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HCR1, relative to urging Congress to practice fiscal restraint and applying to Congress for a Constitutional Convention for such purpose. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 19-2**

HRA Analysis: Part of this bill is innocuous and ineffective, simply urging congress to practice fiscal restraint. This is something we already do by our elections of conservative members when we can. The second part of this bill is more troubling as it calls for a Convention of States to revise the Constitution, and there are conflicting viewpoints as to the danger of that action as far as not being bound to specific issues and exposing the Constitution to liberal revision.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation