

# 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"

**Thursday, June 3, 2021**  
**Regular Calendar**

## Children and Family Law

**SB93**, relative to permanency planning under the child protection act. **OTP Vote: 14-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill clarifies various aspects of permanency planning. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**SB94**, relative to juvenile diversion programs. **OTP Vote: 13-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill clarifies the procedure for obtaining a needs assessment through juvenile diversion prior to proceeding with a delinquency petition under RSA 169-B. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**SB35**, relative to membership in risk pools. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would expand membership in risk pools contrary to their formation. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**SB38**, relative to the organization of alternative treatment centers. **OTP Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill permits the 4 licensed alternative treatment centers to organize as business corporations and limited liability companies. This change from non-profit status gives these 4 centers monopoly privileges contrary to both our platform and constitution.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**SB59**, relative to the collaborative care model service delivery method. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** While the minority report claims a savings in health care costs, the fiscal note reports "this bill may cause inflationary pressure on claim costs." Platform: Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**SB107**, relative to financial assistance for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill imagines the state overriding the terms of a Federal grant program; perhaps we ought not send money to D.C. to return with strings attached. Platform: Oppose federal programs that contradict the ninth or tenth amendment to the US Constitution; these amendments reserve unenumerated rights and powers to the states and the people.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**SB124**, adopting omnibus legislation relative to insurance. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 18-1**

**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues are identified in this omnibus bill. It is worth noting the minority report in the calendar regarding these omnibus bills. Were it not for the possibility to amend out sections of these bills, the point could rise to a solid question of transparency.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**SB125**, relative to beverage manufacturer licenses. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes changes to the requirements for serving samples for beverage manufacturers and nano breweries; provides for contract brewing arrangements for nano breweries and brew pubs; and requires reports for intrastate direct shippers of alcohol. The committee amendment adds direct to consumer shipments of alcohol to New Hampshire residents. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## **Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

**SB34**, relative to the definition of a controlled drug analog and prohibiting the sale or possession of synthetic urine and urine additives. **OTP Vote: 13-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill inserts a new definition of controlled drug analog, inserts a prohibition on the sale or possession of synthetic urine and urine additives, and repeals obsolete statutes governing the sale of synthetic drugs. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**SB110**, relative to animals in motor vehicles. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-5**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill would allow 'rescue' of an animal in a car based on the judgement of a 'concerned' citizen with law enforcement oversight. This is a violation of property rights made without due process. Constitution: Part I, Article 2. [Natural Rights.] 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:** Support ITL

**SB122**, adopting omnibus legislation relative to certain crimes and judicial processes and procedures. **OTP/A Vote: 15-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended addresses exemptions from prosecution for victims of human trafficking, guardianship by grandparents, and immunity from arrest or prosecution for prostitution for seeking medical assistance for reporting certain crimes. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**SB141**, relative to the procedure for conducting firearm background checks. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill eliminates the 'gun line' and uses the FBI for firearms background checks. The 'gun line' caused long delays in clearing handgun purchases, harming dealers. On the other hand, it is argued that the 'gun line' better handles cases of denials which might be in error, and can better assist in clearing up issues.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**SB154**, prohibiting the state from enforcing a Presidential Executive Order that restricts or regulates the right of the people to keep and bear arms. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-10**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended adds protections from Federal overreach by Executive Order. U.S. Constitution 10th Amendment, N.H. Constitution Part I, Article 2-a.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## **Education**

**SB19**, relative to the degree granting authority of Signum university. **ITL Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** No constitution or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**SB147**, adopting omnibus legislation relative to student aid, the central registry, transportation of students, and special education costs. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** Part 1 relative to applications for federal student aid - removes the requirement for students to fill out the FAFSA or a waiver for student/family privacy Part 2 - the central registry, clean up language added to RSA Part 3- transportation of pupils now includes use of coach bus transportation Part 4 - mitigation of special education costs through an insurance pool. Risk pools will make special ed funding more efficient and eliminate major school budget impacts of special education costs. Part 1, Article 2b, right to privacy. Platform - support innovative measures to reduce tuition costs. We believe government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible and always limit spending & growth of government.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A with committee amendment

**SB148**, adopting omnibus legislation relative to vocational and career education, environmental education, and emergency plans for sports injuries. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 12-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Part 1 - repeals outdated statutes and allows BOE rulemaking for provision of vocational rehabilitation. Part 2 - changes transportation policy for students attending CTE schools and changes "sending" district to "resident" district. Part 3 - requires emergency safety plans for students attending cocurricular activities. Part 4 - excludes entities post secondary schools making under 100,000 from being considered "career" schools. Part 5 - deletes reference to "climate" in criteria for an adequate education while adding a review of outdoor recreation programs in the Career & Technical Education. Education in this field is so important to the north country. While Part 1-4 are mostly administrative with no platform impact, Part 5 - supports platform "environment" Promote conservation of open space, sensitive ecosystems wildlife, scenic vistas, responsible land use, adequate protection for indigenous plants and animals, support New Hampshire's natural beauty.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A with committee amendment

## **Election Law**

**SB31**, relative to voter checklists and modifying the absentee ballot affidavit. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill modifies the actions required to be taken by supervisors of the checklist upon adding applicants to the checklist, requires the secretary of state to provide certain voter information to chief elections officers in other states, and modifies the absentee ballot affidavit. NH Constitution: Part First Art. 11, Also Platform: Responsibility to hold Government accountable and that it is through the integrity of the Ballot Box that we do so.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**SB89**, adopting omnibus legislation relative to election procedures and registers of probate. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adopts legislation relative to the city chief elections officer, prohibiting the taking of certain photographs within the guardrail, establishing a committee to study post election audit counting devices, and the effect of certain federal laws on New Hampshire election procedures. NH Constitution Part First Art. 11 Platform: We believe that New Hampshire, with her rock-solid values and proven history of Political Activism, must preserve her First In The Nation Primary.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## **Executive Departments and Administration**

**SB105**, adopting omnibus legislation relative to memorials and commemorations. **OTP/A Vote: 14-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended creates Solar Eclipse Day. No constitution or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**SB155**, codifying provisions included in select emergency orders issued by the governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **without recommendation Vote:**

**HRA Analysis:** The provisions included in this bill are made permanent for an emergency that has passed. Amendment 1685h, is forward looking and protects our citizens' rights of privacy and conscience.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support amendment 1685h, vote your conscience on the bill.

## **Finance**

**SB82**, relative to funding kindergarten adequate education grants and making an appropriation therefor. **ITL Vote: 12-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would appropriate nearly \$2 million dollars for 8 towns with new full day kindergarten. Constitution Part I, Article 18. [Money Bills to Originate in House.] All money bills shall originate in the house of representatives; but the senate may propose, or concur with amendments, as on other bills.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**SB152**, relative to affordable housing program funding. **ITL Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** The issues in this bill are being addressed elsewhere. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Fish and Game and Marine Resources

**SB129**, relative to minimizing environmental impacts on the habitats of endangered or threatened species. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill seeks to address permitting problems that cause delays to construction where there is no environmental impact. As amended subjects our citizens' property rights to the whims of a bureaucrat allowed by rule making. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork. Constitution: Part I, Article 2, [Natural Rights.] 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:** Vote your conscience

## Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

**SB74**, relative to advance directives for health care decisions. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 16-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is not about euthanasia. Platform: Oppose euthanasia and physician assisted suicide.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**SB149**, adopting omnibus legislation on health and human services. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 18-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill in part absolves those who are 'following orders' from accountability. "Accordingly, no such organization or person shall be liable for the death of or injury to persons, or for damage to property, as a result of such compliance or reasonable attempts to comply with such an emergency order or rule under this section." Constitution: Part I, Article 8 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:** Oppose OTP/A

**SB162**, relative to the department of health and human services, the New Hampshire granite advantage health care trust fund, and health facility licensure. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 19-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This 72 part omnibus bill stretches the limits of social virtues. Constitution: [Art.] 38. [Social Virtues Inculcated.] A frequent recurrence to the fundamental principles of the constitution, and a constant adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, industry, frugality, and all the social virtues, are indispensably necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty and good government; the people ought, therefore, to have a particular regard to all those principles in the choice of their officers and representatives, and they have a right to require of their lawgivers and magistrates, an exact and constant observance of them, in the formation and execution of the laws necessary for the good administration of government.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## Judiciary

**SB95**, (New Title) adopting omnibus legislation relative to access to remote meetings, penalties for violation of privacy, and establishing a committee to study remote meetings. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP Vote: 12-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended creates a study committee on remote meeting of municipal bodies. Our constitution demands transparency and this study will ensure that remote meetings are done properly with full transparency.

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

**SB134**, adopting omnibus legislation relative to civil actions and criminal liability. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This omnibus bill includes parts that are unnecessary and certainly not urgent. It includes an appropriation of \$210,000 for mental health intervention training programs at Police Training and Standards Council. This training is not integrated with other training and may even offer conflicting views. The nature of remote hearings prevented full and thoughtful discussion of the various part to this bill. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

**SB61**, prohibiting collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join a labor union. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows private sector employees to choose to participate in a union, just like public sector employees under the Janus decision. Platform: Uphold the right to join or avoid labor unions without coercion or intimidation; support "right to work" legislation.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**SB123**, (New Title) relative to employer payment of required COVID-19 testing. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** I don't get a warm fuzzy feeling from the FDA, who allowed wide-scaled use of an experimental vaccine, to honestly evaluate vaccines which they supported in spite of a number of effective treatments being available. Constitution: [Art.] 4. [Rights of Conscience Unalienable.] Among the natural rights, some are, in their very nature unalienable, because no equivalent can be given or received for them. Of this kind are the Rights of Conscience.

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

**SB137**, relative to the minimum hourly rate for tipped employees. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill changes the hourly rate for tipped employee contingent on an increase in the federal minimum wage. The changes in this bill are helpful for small businesses. Platform: Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## **Municipal and County Government**

**SB52**, (New Title) relative to municipal charter provisions for tax caps. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires city charter exclusions and ordinances that have the effect of an override of a tax cap, to require a supermajority vote. Platform: We believe that low taxes are the result of low spending; that government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible, to always limit spending and growth of government, and to cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**SB86**, adopting omnibus legislation relative to planning and zoning. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 10-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended adopts legislation relative to: I. Third party inspections conducted pursuant to a planning board approval. II. Prohibiting the installation of certain commercially available heating systems and engaging the services of certain energy providers. The committee amendment removes a housing and conservation planning program that is contrary to our 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 amendment 0964h, No recommendation on the bill with the committee amendment.

**SB102**, adopting omnibus legislation on property taxation. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 15-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill provides property tax exemptions and property tax relief to certain properties. As is always the cases, these issues do not reduce spending and therefore other property owners will pay more. This is just shifting the burden from one class to another which is contrary to our constitution Part I, Article 10.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## **Public Works and Highways**

**SB26**, relative to roads within the Woodsville Fire District. **OTP Vote: 18-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill modifies the law on the operating and funding of the Woodsville Fire Dept. and directs appropriations to the Woodville Fire district directly by warrant articles duly voted at town meeting. Platform- government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible; that economies flourish when all people retain as much of their hard earned income as possible, to spend and invest as they see fit; it is our responsibility to hold government accountable through the integrity of the ballot box that we do so. The bill ultimately "maintains local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services" with which is a tenet of both the party and the HRA.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

## **Science, Technology and Energy**

**SB91**, (New Title) adopting omnibus legislation on renewable energy and utilities. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** Part 1 permits customer energy storage (batteries) to reduce peak power demand or other purposes; authorizes PUC to investigate ways to compensate for avoided transmission and distribution costs Part 2 - permits hydro units to be evaluated individually rather than in aggregate; hence potentially be eligible for net metering. Impacts 3 hydro units in Nashua. Part 3 - net metering rates grandfathered to the date of the PUC's project registration. Part 4 - permits the purchase of intra-state power from limited electrical producers <5MW. Part 5 - removed - essentially identical to other bills passed HB 315. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs and remove New Hampshire from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## Ways and Means

**SB3**, clarifying the tax treatment of federal Paycheck Protection Program loans. **OTP Vote: 23-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill keeps forgiven PPP loans from becoming taxable under NH BPT. Platform: Cut or eliminate taxes which inhibit enterprise, earnings and savings and investment, such as the Interest and Dividends Tax and the Business Enterprise/Business Profits Tax.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**SB27**, relative to the sale of lucky 7 tickets. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 23-1**

**HRA Analysis:** No constitutional or platform issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**SB101**, increasing the minimum gross business income required for filing a business profits tax return. **OTP/A Vote: 24-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the minimum gross business income required for filing a business profits tax return. Platform: Cut or eliminate taxes which inhibit enterprise, earnings and savings and investment, such as the Interest and Dividends Tax and the Business Enterprise/Business Profits Tax.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## Removed from Consent Calendar

### Transportation

**SB131**, (New Title) adopting omnibus legislation relative to vehicles, municipal water maintenance certificates, nondriver's picture identification, and firefighter and emergency medical services decals. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** Any floor amendment giving special status on axle weight for a particular product will be opposed. Axle weight is not dependant upon the product being loaded. Our constitution forbids special classes of men, such as those hauling some particular product.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose floor amendment unless it treats all equally.