

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, February 16, 2022 Regular Calendar

Children and Family Law

HB1465, relative to the appointment of counsel for juveniles. **OTP/A Vote: 15-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended better defines the intent of the appointed juvenile attorney in representing the juvenile within the petitioned juvenile proceeding and further articulates matters as it pertains to interrogations and confessions. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1647, relative to the calculation of child support. **OTP/A Vote: 8-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, updates the child support formula to better provide for children. Platform: Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB1237, relative to cigar bars. **Maj. OTP/A Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: As amended this bill allows additional tobacco products to be sold in cigar bars and to be included in the revenue percentage required to meet the 60% threshold. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1469, prohibiting banks or businesses from using social credit scores. **Maj. OTP/A Vote: 10-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended seeks to protect the people of New Hampshire from fascistic banking cartels. Whereas the US government has failed to provide sound money, it is our duty provide a buffer against corporate tyranny. Constitution: Part I, Art. 10, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB1468, relative to the legalization of cannabis. **Maj. ITL Vote: 16-1**

HRA Analysis: As written this is a simple and plain law that legalizes cannabis. Current NH laws on cannabis allow possession and use of medical cannabis only if purchased through a state run facility, while possession of a similar amount of cannabis not purchased through the State is subject to monetary penalties. NH Constitution Part First Art. 18, All penalties ought to be proportional to the nature of the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB1540, relative to recording custodial interrogations. **Maj. OTP/A Vote: 13-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended would require every law enforcement officer to record the questioning associated with an arrest. As these mandated responsibilities are not fully funded by the state this bill is in violation of the NH Constitution Part First, Article 28-a.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB1598, legalizing the possession and use of cannabis. **OTP/A Vote: 17-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended would implement a responsible recreational cannabis policy similar to how our state sells and regulates liquor. While this reduces restrictions on a natural plant product, it also expands a government run 'business.'

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Education

HB1516, relative to the source of funds for education freedom accounts. **Maj. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires that the education trust funds used for funding EFA grants or transfers exclude any revenues collected and locally retained from the state Etax or local school taxes - Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children, expand education tax credits and ESA's.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1624, relative to students with disabilities participating in co-curricular activities and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP Vote: 16-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires the Dept of Ed to review the consolidated state plan to ensure school districts establish unified co-curricular activities and make appropriations. No platform or Constitution issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1627, establishing an education freedom account program administrator in the department of education and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP Vote: 18-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill provides for the appropriation of funds for a position at the Dept Of Ed to coordinate and administer the very successful Education Freedom Account program. This position will provide technical assistance to students, parents and the scholarship organization. Platform; Encourage education freedom to allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school programs for their children. Promote Education Savings Accounts.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1657, establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program. **Maj. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill looks to establish a farm to school reimbursement program. This concept needs to be studied further. Testimony from Dept of Ed indicates start up costs, appropriations and personnel would be additional costs to the taxpayer. This is an unfunded mandate which violates the New Hampshire Constitution, Part 1, article 28A. This subject warrants further study and the committee has included this subject in an interim study.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1660, relative to school lunches and establishing the meals for students fund. **Maj. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires school board to make breakfast & lunch available during school hours for every student. Start up costs, appropriations and labor. Approximately 30 schools of 466 are not participating. This issue has been a suggested topic in a school meals interim study, but would violate our New Hampshire Constitution Part 1, Article 28A as an unfunded mandate.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1661, relative to regional career technical education agreements. **OTP/A Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill will better align sending and receiving district calendars; therefore, resulting in reduced student absenteeism due to calendar conflicts as well as encouraging districts to move toward more shared professional days. Platform -Excellence in Education. This bill allows for easier logistical access for families to get their children to the school that fits them best.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1684, limiting education freedom account funding to budgeted amounts. **Maj. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill would decimate the successful EFA program by establishing an arbitrary budget for the program. Platform: Educational Excellence - Expand education savings accounts and encourage education freedom to allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Election Law

HB1423, relative to campaign contributions and expenditures, and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes a mechanism for voluntary funding of political campaigns, which could result in different funding rules for the same race and does not affect the expressed intent of the bill which is to address the "dark money" issue. Majority feels this bill is unnecessary and would have negative consequences. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1482, relative to ranked-choice voting. **ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes procedures for ranked-choice voting for federal and state offices. Constitution: Part II, Art. 33 requires senators and representatives be elected, by a plurality of votes.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1484, requiring a forensic audit of the 2020 election results. **ITL Vote: 19-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill proposes to require a forensic audit of the general election of November 2020. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1496, requiring political subdivisions to make voter checklists available in spreadsheet form to any resident. **Maj. OTP/A Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, opens up access to electronic copies of the voter checklist to registered voters of the town in which the list is being requested. Constitution: Part I, Art. 8 government transparency.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Environment and Agriculture

HB1226, prohibiting the declawing of cats. **ITL Vote: 16-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill would prohibit the declawing of cats. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1584, establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs. **Maj. OTP Vote: 14-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a dedicated fund and a process to provide matching grants to the state fairs for infrastructure projects. State taxpayer dollars should not support the private non-profit organizations that run them. Constitution: [Art.] 10. [Right of Revolution.] Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men. Do you believe that gifts to a private non-profit DO benefit the whole community?

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Executive Departments and Administration

HB1417, relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers. **Maj. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill would require the state to pay 7.5 % of retirement system contributions of other employers, namely cities, towns, school districts and counties, for teachers, fire and police. Platform: Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1535, relative to cost of living adjustments for retirees in the state retirement system. **OTP/A Vote: 17-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as introduced, not only gave a 1.5% increase on the first \$30,000 of their pension to persons retired at least five years, it also delegated to the retirement system the power to grant further increases. In fact, they were tasked with following the Social Security increases, with no legislative oversight! The committee amendment deleted that authority since the constitution requires all taxes be imposed by elected officials - and this is a tax, since no funding was suggested and the default is to take out a 20 year mortgage, paid by property taxes. The committee amendment also requires full funding at once.

HRA Recommendation: Support the committee amendment. No recommendation on the bill as amended.

HB1587, relative to determination of average final compensation under the retirement system and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. OTP Vote: 12-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill modifies final compensation for Group II retirees of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) by including their highest 5 years in the calculation. Constitution: Part I, Art. 10, Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB1590, relative to municipalities withdrawing from the state retirement system. **Maj. ITL Vote: 15-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows towns to withdraw new employees from the retirement system. No constitution or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB1536, relative to expanding Medicaid to include certain postpartum health care services. **Maj. Int. study Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill expands Medicaid and encourages having serial pregnancies to stay on assistance. Constitution: Part 1, Article 28 A - unfunded mandates

HRA Recommendation: Support IS

HB1578, relative to including certain children and pregnant people in Medicaid and the children's health insurance program. **Maj. ITL Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill would extend Medicaid benefits to a subset of immigrants currently excluded from coverage. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1604, including state medical facilities in the statute providing medical freedom in immunizations. **Maj. OTP/A Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended limits the exemption to facilities which are subject to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) COVID-19 vaccination mandate. It also mandates that such facilities shall automatically grant an exemption from vaccination to any person who requests an exemption. The mandate of an experimental treatment which does not prevent infection nor stop transmission of a disease is simply medical tyranny. Constitution: whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1609, relative to the scope of the fetal protection act. **OTP/A Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill as introduced would have stripped the qualifying sections of the law. The amendment strips all of that language and replaced it with clarifying language regarding the misunderstandings surrounding the ultrasound portion of the act. 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: Support committee amendment, Support OTP/A, Oppose OTP without the committee amendment

HB1662, related to privacy obligations of the department of health and human services. **Maj. OTP/A Vote: 18-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill sets up a data privacy and information technology board. Two notable problems with the amendment cause serious concerns. First, it sets up the board to be in violation of the RSA 91-A requirement to have draft minutes available in 72 hours. Second, it allows a board member to delegate a replacement to substitute for their absence. Constitution: Part II, Art. 5, urges us to establish "all manner of wholesome and reasonable orders, laws, statutes."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support IS

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB1207, requiring an employer to provide paid time off for an employee to vote. **Maj. ITL Vote: 14-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires employers from all sectors to pay employees up to three hours of paid time off to vote. This would violate Part I, Art. 28-a and place a burden on businesses.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1538, requiring prevailing wages on state-funded public works projects. **Maj. ITL Vote: 11-10**

HRA Analysis: This legislation would mandate that workers on public works construction projects in New Hampshire be paid the prevailing minimum hourly wage and benefits. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Legislative Administration

HB1586, relative to a likeness of Wentworth Cheswill at the state house. **OTP/A Vote: 17-0**

HRA Analysis: The legislation, as amended, seeks to authorize the Joint Legislative Historical Committee to accept a gift of a portrait of Newmarket, New Hampshire native, Wentworth Cheswill for the purpose of hanging the portrait within our State House in recognition of his service to his New Hampshire community and his state. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Municipal and County Government

HB1665, establishing a municipal road and bridge disaster relief fund. **OTP/A Vote: 15-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill would establish a municipal bridge and road disaster relief fund. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Science, Technology and Energy

HB1419, relative to establishing a New Hampshire civilian climate corps advisory commission. **Maj. ITL Vote: 12-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill would create the New Hampshire Civilian Climate Corps Advisory Commission (CCCAC). Platform: Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1506, establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy. **ITL Vote: 12-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to set up a “green bank” revolving fund to finance green energy projects. Constitution: [Art.] 10. [Right of Revolution.] Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1601, relative to funding of the NHsaves program **Maj. ITL Vote: 13-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to change the threshold of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) rebates from \$1 per auction allowance to 15% of such allowances. It would therefore decrease the amount of money rebated to customers, which would increase the cost of a ratepayer bill. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs and remove New Hampshire from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1621, relative to reducing the rebates distributed by the energy efficiency fund. **Maj. ITL Vote: 12-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill aims to gradually phase out the energy rebates to consumers, until the rebate is eliminated by 2028; all proceeds will then go to energy efficiency programs. This will have the effect of increasing the cost of electricity for NH residents. Platform: Work to reduce energy costs and remove New Hampshire from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1644, relative to the placement of telecommunication antennae and establishing a registry for residents who are experiencing biological symptoms from wireless radiation exposure. **Maj. Int. study Vote: 17-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires telecommunication antennas be placed at least 1,640 feet from residentially zoned areas, parks, playgrounds, hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers, and schools. This bill also creates a registry for anyone experiencing symptoms of radiation exposure. Opposing concerns regarding property rights and possible environmental hazards must be weighed.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Transportation

HB1100, relative to changing the penalties for driving without a license. **Maj. ITL Vote: 10-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill would change the penalties for driving without a license to a violation instead of a misdemeanor. Given that this would be a first offense in a 12 month period, the penalty seems a bit extreme. Constitution: [Art.] 18. [Penalties to be Proportioned to Offenses; True Design of Punishment.] 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. Where the same undistinguishing severity is exerted against all offenses, the people are led to forget the real distinction in the crimes themselves, and to commit the most flagrant with as little compunction as they do the lightest offenses.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB1208, relative to driver education. **Maj. ITL Vote: 14-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill would allow for a waiver for the driver education requirement for 16 and 17-year-old drivers when taught by a responsible adult. Platform: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB1461, increasing penalties for littering. **OTP/A Vote: 16-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes penalties for littering on any right-of-way. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation