

NHHRA RECOMMENDATION SHEET



"TRUST BUT VERIFY"

The purpose of the NHHRA caucus 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 21, 2018

HB1707 Vote Your Conscience		
HB1816 Support OTP W/Maj Amendment	HB1279 No Rec	HB1295 No Rec
HB1347 Support OTPA	HB1373 Support OTPA	HB1485 Oppose ITL Support OTP
HB1627 No Rec	HB1680 Support OTP	HB1701 No Rec
HB1721 Oppose ITL Support OTP	HB1393 No R	HB1397 Support ITL
HB1417 Support ITL	HB1711 Support ITL	HB1716 Support ITL
HB1762 No Rec	HB1463 No Rec	HB1652 Oppose OTPA; Support I/S
HB1541 Oppose OTPA Support ITL	HB1313 Oppose Minority amendment, Support OTP	HB1436 Support ITL
HB1544 Support ITL	HB1550 Support OTPA	HB1647 Support ITL

HB1507 Oppose ITL Support OTP	HB1549 Support OTP	HB1718 No Rec
HB1381 Vote Your Conscience	HB1422 Support ITL	HB1609 Support ITL
HB1802 Support ITL	HB1267 Support ITL	HB1275 Support ITL
HB1287 Support ITL	HB1586 Support OTP	HB1214 Support IS or ITL
HB1521 No Rec	HB1610 Support ITL	HB1632 Support ITL
HB1678 Support ITL	HB1499 Support OTPA	CACR11 No Rec
HB1240 Support ITL	HB1479 Support ITL	HB1543 No Rec
HB1568 No Rec	HB1759 No Rec	HB1210 No Rec
HB1702 oppose ITL; Support OTP	HB1728 No Rec	HR20 Support OTP
HB1822 Vote your Conscience	HB1104 Support OTPA	HB1592 Oppose OTPA Support ITL
HB579 Oppose ITL Support OTPA	HB628 Support Amend 1111h Support OTPA Support ruling that this amendment is germane.	HB1316 No Rec
HB1415 Oppose OTPA Support Table or ITL	HB1763 Oppose OTPA Support ITL	HB324 No Rec

March 21, 2018

Regular Calendar Part 3 Continued

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB1707, relative to information regarding abortion. Maj. Int. study; Min. ITL

Vote: 11-9

HRA Analysis: Party platform: support the moral and ethical right of informed consent. The bill also prohibits a doctor from billing the patient for any unrelated services within 24 hours of the patient asking about or scheduling and abortion. This conflicts with NH Constitution Art 2 part 1: All men have the inherent rights...acquiring, possessing and protecting property. Conflicting issues

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB1816, relative to Medicaid managed care. Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP/A Vote: 13-9

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to have the NH General Court set reimbursement rates for those in Medicaid Managed Care rather than actuaries. These comport more to Government planks rather than Health planks, “Justify expenditures against measurable benefits” and “Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending”.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP W/Majority Amendment

Judiciary

HB1279, allowing additional charges under a lease to be included in a demand for rent. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-6

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to allow landlords to include late fees and utility bills in a demand for rent, the prelude to an eviction notice. This might be in conflict with existing eviction law [different eviction notice required for rent or utilities].

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1295, relative to persons held in civil contempt. OTP/A Vote: 14-3

HRA Analysis: Over the years it has been observed that civil contempt has been used as a sort of debtors prison. The divorce proceeding can occur in such a manner that enormous arrearages can occur virtually instantaneously. Individuals are often held in jail for significant periods until the court determines that they do not in fact have the ability to pay. This Bill ensures that the court determines that they have the ability to pay first and are wilfully disobeying the order before they can be jailed.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1347, relative to information to be included in the minutes under the right-to-know law. OTP/A Vote: 8-7

HRA Analysis: This bill would require all public meetings of public bodies to include in their minutes any pertinent information relating to decisions that are made by the body. The bill was driven by public bodies failing to include the cost of taking actions they just voted for. We see this as an important part of allowing citizens to know what the public body is really doing. NH Const. [Art.] 8. ... Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive. To that end, the public’s right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

HB1373, relative to an individual's property right in his or her DNA. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 9-6

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, recognizes that people have a privacy right in their DNA and genetic information. This would prevent anyone from obtaining it without consent of the individual or with a warrant or probable cause. Information gathered with consent could only be used for a specific purpose and must be destroyed when that purpose is complete. NH Const. [Art.] 19. Every subject hath a right to be secure from all unreasonable searches and seizures of his person, his houses, his papers, and all his possessions.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

HB1485, relative to security deposits. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8

HRA Analysis: The bill would allow landlords to ask for two (2) months rent as security deposit as opposed the te current maximum of one (1)month. Platform: Minimize business regulations.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL - Support OTP

HB1627, prohibiting the transmission of images or sounds of another person who is on private property or to conduct surveillance activity. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8

HRA Analysis: This criminalizes violating someone's privacy by filming /recording/transmitting images of them where they have an expectation of privacy. The bill provides exceptions so that someone observable on at the ground level on a space observed by the public can be filmed and further prohibit certain surveillance for financial gain. Law enforcement & the Insurance Industry strongly oppose the bill as they believe it would criminalize much, if not all, insurance fraud investigation & seriously impair law enforcement's ability to surveil suspects from above ground level. No platform issues

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1680, relative to abortions after viability. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8

HRA Analysis: This bill prohibits abortions on babies who can live outside of the mother's womb, except when the alternative poses significant risk to the life or health of the mother. Our platform 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,

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1701, making the Coakley Landfill Group subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A. Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP Vote: 9-6

HRA Analysis: The Coakley Landfill is a Federal Superfund site and has received funding to mitigate documented environmental concerns, but, is not a public entity. No Constitutional or Platform issue.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1721, relative to coercive abortions. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-3 **HRA Analysis:** We believe in free people says our platform and that includes freedom for coercion. It also says endowed by our Creator with the right to life.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL - Support OTP

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB1393, relative to compensation for vacation time and personal time earned. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-9

HRA Analysis: This would create a new set of rules for paying employees for unused vacation time. This would override existing employer policy if it does not comply with the new law. Note that the law does not require that employers offer a vacation time benefit. An unintended consequence might be that employers withdraw vacation benefits from their employees to avoid exposure to new fines, record keeping, and financial liability. The platform asks us to minimize business regulations and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1397, relative to the rights of temporary workers. Maj. ITL; Min. Int. study Vote: 12-9

HRA Analysis: The bill would tell businesses what rate of pay they must offer, force businesses to pay the employees for driving to work, and post and give to all employees the list of information as written in the bill and the posting must be in English or any other language used in the locale or by the clients.

Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1417, relative to failure to make workers' compensation payments. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-8

HRA Analysis: The bill would have any employer, insurance carrier, self-insurer, or claims adjusting company who willfully and without good cause failed to make an on time payment would be ordered to pay double the payment that was due. Current practices of the NH Dept of Labor indicates the Dept. has the ability to address these concerns without this bill. Platform: Prefer incentives to penalties and warnings before fines.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1711, relative to rehabilitation under the workers' compensation law. Maj. ITL; Min. Int. study Vote: 12-9

HRA Analysis: Testimony in committee stated that this bill is already covered under existing law. The bill calls for a new employee with a pay scale of approx. \$70,000 a year. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1716, establishing apprenticeship programs for unemployed workers. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-10

HRA Analysis: This bill would explicitly redirect unemployment money towards workers enrolled in union apprenticeship programs by paying them \$12 per hour while enrolled. This earmark would favor only union apprenticeships, and does not support similar opportunities in other organizations. It would be funded by redirecting money from other unemployment training programs currently funded. We passed a bill, HB 1100, that will review all workforce and job training programs in NH. Encouraging apprenticeship should be looked at as part of that bigger picture. The platform asks us to always limit spending and growth of government.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1762, relative to documentation requirements for the department of labor. Int. study Vote: 17-4

HRA Analysis: This is a large bill containing a number of good ideas and some that cannot be implemented in the current form. The committee asks for a support of Interim Study so that the best ideas can be isolated and proposed as simpler legislation in a future session.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Municipal and County Government

HB1463, relative to requirements for noise ordinances in towns. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-7

HRA Analysis: No Platform or Constitutional Issue

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1652, relative to default budgets. Maj. OTP/A; Min. Int. study Vote: 10-8

HRA Analysis: the amendment replaces all of the original bill. HB1307 as amended, passed the House without objection on 3/6/18; As amended HB1652 would erase the gains of HB 1307 amended by allowing the governing bodies of town and schools to continue to inflate default budgets so that

voters are not given the opportunity to vote for a lower budget and lower taxes. Platform: Economies flourish when all people retain as much of their hard earned income as possible. Government has the moral obligation to always limit spending and growth.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support I/S

Public Works and Highways

HB1541, relative to registration and road toll fees for hybrid and electric vehicles. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 19-2

HRA Analysis: Increases the fees for certain vehicles. Platform: Strongly oppose new taxes and fees
HRA Recommendation: Oppose OPTA - Support ITL

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB1313, relative to prohibitions on carrying a loaded firearm on an OHRV or snowmobile. Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-7

HRA Analysis: Allows the carry of firearms on ATVs and Snowmobiles, a house cleaning measure left over from passing SB12. Platform: Protect the rights of law-abiding individuals to own and carry firearms to defend themselves, their families and their property; oppose any taxation, licensing restrictions, or registration of firearms; oppose the requirement to obtain a license to carry a concealed firearm; oppose any "assault weapons" ban; support the universal right of self defense wherever one has a legal right to be"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Minority amendment, Support OTP

HB1436, relative to lakes with shared borders with 2 or more towns. Maj. ITL; Min. Int. study Vote: 11-7

HRA Analysis: This bill requires all septic systems within the protected shoreland to meet all rules of the department of environmental services for sewage system design.

This bill would put an undue burden on towns. Platform says to "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses, ands paperwork."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Science, Technology and Energy

HB1544, establishing a committee to identify the requirements needed to commit New Hampshire to a goal of 100 percent renewable energy for electricity by 2040. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-9

HRA Analysis: This bill seems to be nothing more than a political statement, with little or no technical advantage, by those who want to see the eradication of our current energy uses, such as natural gas, oil, and coal. "Green" energy businesses are subsidized. We do not know what they will be 22 years in the future, but per the platform, we should work to privatize programs.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1550, requiring electric bills to include the cost of compliance with renewable energy standards. OTP/A Vote: 11-8

HRA Analysis: "Transparency" is the keyword here. As stated in previous blurbs, the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is Crony Capitalism. This bill requires the electric utilities to provide the cost of

compliance on each rate payer's December bill. Consumers should know what they are paying for. The Amendment (p. 124) directs the electric utilities to provide an Internet link to the details of the programs supported by RPS. RPS is a tax that raises the cost of energy. Our platform calls us to "work to energy reduce costs".

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

HB1647, relative to inclusion of energy storage in distributed energy resources for electricity transmission and distribution. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 12-9

HRA Analysis: This bill defines energy storage as a taxable energy source, sticking the ratepayers with the bill, similar to the gas pipeline arrangement. It is inconsistent with the state restructuring statutes. Lowering the cost of energy is in our platform.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Transportation

HB1507, relative to state inspection of new motor vehicles. ITL Vote: 15-4

HRA Analysis: Bill provides that new motor vehicles shall not be required to be inspected during the three years following the manufacturer's model year. Platform: minimize business regulations, permits, licences, and paperwork

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP

HB1549, relative to the availability of vehicle accident reports. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 8-6 HRA

Analysis:The bill would have people involved in a vehicle accident have access to the police accident reports at the same time the report is filed with the State Dept. of Safety. NH Constitution: Art 8 part 1: the public's right of access to Governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restrained.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

HB1718, regulating the use of license plate scanning devices by private parties. Int. Study Vote: 14-1

HRA Analysis: The bill as written does not reference license plate scanners. As written the bill is unclear as to whether a private party who had their vehicle stolen would be legally allowed to look for his vehicle using drone/video cameras. However, bill just adds determining vehicle location to the existing highway surveillance statute. No platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Ways and Means

HB1381, relative to determining the taxable value of utility property for local property taxation. OTP/A Vote: 13-8

HRA Analysis: The bill as amended, standardizes the taxable value of utility property for local property taxation. The amended bill is a compromise with the State Assessing Board and the utility companies. Platform: Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business. NH Constitution: Art 10, part 1 states that we shouldn't be taxing utility property at a lower rate than the property of others.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB1422, relative to the applicability of certain business tax rate changes. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-9

HRA Analysis: This bill adds a requirement that the business tax rate reductions adopted in 2017, 156 (HB 517) shall not take effect if the combined revenue growth in general and education funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 does not exceed the change in the Consumer Price Index for the period, plus 1%. This legislation is intended to prevent the reduction of the Business Enterprise/Business Profits Tax. Platform:cut or eliminate taxes which inhibit enterprise.j

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1609, establishing a local option for an additional surcharge on occupancy under the meals and rooms tax. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 14-7

HRA Analysis: This bill allows cities and towns to establish a surcharge under the meals and rooms tax of up to \$2 per night. Platform: oppose new taxes and fees.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB1802, relative to the statewide education property tax. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 15-6 HRA

Analysis: This bill requires that excess StateWide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) be remitted to the state. Currently if SWEPT is greater than adequacy cost, it stays with the school district. Sponsors aim to return to "donor towns". Platform: maintain local control of spending and taxes; oppose downshifting of costs.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Pulled from Consent

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 1267, relative to court-ordered drug and alcohol testing under the Child Protection Act. ITL Vote 12-0.

HRA Analysis: The calendar blurb includes the Constitutional issue

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 1275, relative to the placement of minors at the Sununu Youth Drug Treatment Center. ITL Vote 12-0.

HRA Analysis: Our Platform states: We believe that individual liberty is guaranteed under the Constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire, that the liberty of the people must be protected above the power of the government.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 1287, relative to the age at which persons may marry. ITL. Vote 12-0.

HRA Analysis: HB1587 as amended and passed on Voice Vote 3/6/18 sets the marriage age at 16. HB1287 creates exceptions and carve outs for certain class of people. ART 10 NH Constitution.....'not for the private interest or emolument of any one ...class of men.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 1586, relative to judicial review for underage marriage. OTP. Vote 13-0.

HRA Analysis: the bill says the marriage can't be used to hide a sexual assault, rape or statutory rape. US Constitution: 14th amendment. 'no State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 1214, prohibiting the sale of certain furniture with flame retardant chemicals. INT STUDY. Vote 20-0.

HRA Analysis: This bill would ban all flame retardant chemicals in new residential upholstered furniture. However, upholstered furniture in public facilities would be exempt from the ban, which would be an inconsistent application of the law. The state of Maine is the only state in the US that has passed a similar law, but it has not yet gone into effect, and the committee felt that more study was needed before pursuing such legislation (banning current, as well as future flame retardants in furniture) in NH. Moreover, a number of larger furniture manufacturers nationwide have moved toward producing "organic" lines of furniture in response to consumer demand, so the free market has been addressing this issue already. Platform: We believe in free people, free markets, and free enterprise.

HRA Recommendation: Support IS or ITL

HB 1521, relative to the adoption of budgets and special assessments by condominium associations. OPA. Vote 20-0.

HRA Analysis: The original bill changed the requirement for the number of unit owners of a condominium to be present at a vote to reject the budget--this would be possible with the creation of a "super minority" of 25%, plus one. Additionally, the bill included a definition for "emergency" under 356-B40-c, to clarify what type of situation constitutes an emergency that would trigger a board vote on a special assessment. The committee had concerns about the super minority aspect of the bill. The committee amendment completely replaces the bill to simply add the definition of emergency. No Platform or Constitutional Issues.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 1610, requiring sellers of real property to disclose certain information concerning environmental hazards. ITL.. Vote 19-0.

HRA Analysis: Our Platform says: "all people are created equal, ... unimpeded by intrusive government regulation..."...minimize business regulations, permits, licences, and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 1632, relative to the labeling of bottled water. ITL.. Vote 17-1.

HRA Analysis: This bill would require new mandates for retailers, wholesalers, and producers of bottled water Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 1678-FN, reducing the penalty for certain first offense drug possession charges. ITL. Vote 18-1.

HRA Analysis: Our platform says: "Support the State's Constitutional right to determine legal restrictions on possession of controlled substances"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

EDUCATION

HB 1499, relative to the focus and components of New Hampshire kindergartens. OTPA. Vote 19-0.

HRA Analysis: Our Platform says to promote local educational control, beginning with parents, teachers and principals, Common Core (CCSSI) should be abolished in New Hampshire in order to protect local control, and that every child is filled with potential and is unique in their own right.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

ELECTION LAW

CACR 11, relating to elections. Providing that a majority of selectmen shall be present at certain polling places. ITL . Vote 19-0.

HRA Analysis: NH Constitution Art 32 Part Two states: "The selectmen whose duty it shall be to attend" . This CACR would allow a majority of the selectmen to be present rather than all the selectmen. Remember this CACR is an ENABLING change, and passing it STILL requires that it appear on the ballot for all voters to decide. All Selectmen (or their substitutes) could be present if they want to, but this change would enable them to take shifts at the polls.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 1240, allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates for an office. ITL. Vote 20-0.

HRA Analysis: Our Platform says that it is our responsibility to maintain the integrity of the ballot box.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 1479-LOCAL, relative to the nomination of political candidates. ITL. Vote 20-0.

HRA Analysis: Our Platform says that it is our responsibility to maintain the integrity of the ballot box.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 1543, relative to domicile of students for voting purposes. ITL. Vote 20-0.

HRA Analysis: HB1264 was passed last week dealing with domicile, resident & inhabitant.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 1568-FN, allowing voters to register as members of political organizations. ITL. Vote 20-0.

HRA Analysis: No Platform or Constitutional Issues

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 1759-FN, regulating the use of drones. ITL. Vote 17-0.

HRA Analysis: No platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1210, establishing a committee to study the effect of current use taxation on small and rural municipalities. OTPA. Vote 14-0.

HRA Analysis: No Constitutional or Platform issue

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 1702, relative to the management of the Gunstock Area. ITL. Vote 13-0.

HRA Analysis: The county has responsibility for the debts of the area without either equity in or control of Gunstock. The legislature set it up this way in the enabling legislation. The situation amounts to a downshift of the cost of losses to the county without control or recourse. Platform: 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: Oppose ITL – Support OTP

HB 1728-FN-LOCAL, removing the homestead exemption. ITL. Vote 14-0.

HRA Analysis: No Platform or Constitutional Issues

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HR 20, affirming states' powers based on the Constitution for the United States and the Constitution of New Hampshire. ITL. Vote 16-2.

HRA Analysis: This is the same bill as passed last year as a HCR. Supports the statement in Part first, Art. 7 " [State Sovereignty.] The people of this state have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state; and do, and forever hereafter shall, exercise and enjoy every power, jurisdiction, and right, pertaining thereto, which is not, or may not hereafter be, by them expressly delegated to the United States of America in congress assembled."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

REGULAR CALENDAR

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 1822-FN, making hormonal contraceptives available directly from pharmacists by means of a standing order. MAJ: OTPA. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-6.

HRA Analysis: HB 1822 making hormonal contraceptives available directly from pharmacists by means of a standing order is the result of the work of a commission staffed with medical professionals who looked at medical organizations, other state laws, and NH needs. This bill allows women a lower

cost method to obtain oral contraceptives which should mean fewer unplanned pregnancies. Platform: "Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs", and "Encourage individuals and organizations who provide alternatives to abortion." However, it would also require insurance company payments thus creating conflicting platform planks.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 1104-FN, (New Title) relative to dredge and fill permit time limits; relative to time limits under the administrative procedure act; and relative to online filing with the secretary of state's office. MAJ: OTPA MIN: INT STUDY. Vote 7-6.

HRA Analysis: The platform states "minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork" This bill with amendment makes changes to benefit New Hampshire citizens and businesses by streamlining DES and approval processes, permit applications and review times. Platform says to Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

HB 1592-FN, (New Title) requiring the commissioner of the department of environmental services to review standards relative to arsenic contamination in drinking water. OTPA. Vote 13-0.

HRA Analysis: Our Constitution Art 2 states that "The supreme legislative power, within this state, shall be vested in the senate and house of representatives." Not with DES.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA - Support ITL

FINANCE

HB 579-FN, relative to registration of semi-trailers. ITL. Vote 22-2.

HRA Analysis: This bill provides an incentive for out-of-state trailer owners to register in NH. This is not a unique program as other states have similar programs. We heard testimony that there are 5.7 million semi-trailers registered in the country. This bill gives a discounted registration fee for multi-year registrations for out-of-state companies with fleets of semi-trailers and the amendment allows in-state companies with fleets to register for multi-years but only if they register for 12 years can they receive a discount. Otherwise nothing changes for NH municipal agents registering in-state semi-trailer registrations. Municipalities under current RSA would benefit from revenue sharing (at least 12%) of these new out-of-state registrations. Registrations of out-of-state semi-trailers would be handled only by nongovernmental registering trailer agents similar to the program the DMV currently operates with privately-owned marinas throughout NH processing out-of-state boat registrations. The business of these agents would be to market to companies with fleets of out of state trailers to register in NH. The Party platform states "Privatise programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL - Support OTPA

HB 628-FN, relative to a family and medical leave insurance program. MAJ: OTPA. MIN: OTPA. Vote 15-11.

HRA Analysis: The amendment replaces the bill and makes many positive changes. The amendment establishes disability and family and medical leave insurance provided through private insurance companies and thus it does not need to hire 43 new employees to run the program and there isn't a \$50 million start up cost. The program allows employees to opt in and out on a yearly basis thus doing away with the hidden income tax associated with forced enrollment once on the plan that only offered an opt out if the employee quit his job. Platform: Allow free market driven health care plans. Privatize programs that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.

HRA Recommendation: Support the ruling that amendment #1111 is germane; Support majority committee amendment #1111h and OTPA

HB 1316-FN, relative to revenue collected from concealed carry licenses. OTP Vote 24-2.

HRA Analysis: The bill moves the first \$400,000 of revenues from concealed carry permits to NH Dept of Safety permitting and licensing unit instead of sending the funds to the general fund. The legislation does not change the current fee structure or amount and does not change anything with respect to the concealed enacted carry laws.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB 1415-FN-A, establishing a death benefit for a school employee killed in the line of duty. OTPA Vote 26-0.

HRA Analysis: The bill creates a new state funded death benefit for one class of public employees. All employees risk death on the job, why is any one class better and more deserving than another? NH Constitution Article 10 prohibits this stating that 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 OTPA - Support Table or ITL

HB 1763-FN-A, establishing a road usage fee and making an appropriation therefor. OTPA. Vote 21-5.

HRA Analysis: The bill establishes a road use fee based on the EPA fuel economy rating. This is a new fee. Platform states: strongly oppose new taxes and fees.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA - Support ITL

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 324, relative to the valuation of utility property. OTPA. Vote 23-0.

HRA Analysis: As amended, the bill establishes an 11 member commission to look at the issue of varying local taxation rates of public utility property across the state. No platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation