

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/Thursday, March 8/9, 2017 Regular Calendar

CACR2 NAY ITL	HB85 YEA OTP/A	HB94 NAY OTP	HB115 YEA ITL
HB116 YEA ITL	HB119 NAY ITL	HB121 NAY OTP	HB130 YEA ITL
HB136 YEA OTP	HB138 NAY ITL	HB170 YEA OTP/A	HB174 NAY ITL
HB184 YEA OTP(OTP/A)	HB194 YEA OTP	HB254 YEA OTP/A	HB279 YEA OTP(OTP/A)
HB293 YEA ITL	HB294 NAY OTP	HB320 YEA ITL	HB332 YEA OTP/A
HB348 YEA ITL	HB349 YEA OTP/A	HB352 NAY OTP	HB353 YEA OTP/A
HB361 NAY ITL	HB362 YAY OTP/A	HB364 YEA OTP/A	HB370 YEA ITL
HB372 YEA OTP	HB376 NAY OTP/A	HB384 YEA ITL	HB385 YEA ITL
HB394 NAY ITL	HB395 NAY ITL	HB396 YEA ITL	HB402 YEA ITL
HB419 NAY ITL	HB430 YEA OTP/A	HB436 YEA OTP/A	HB441 YEA ITL
HB442 YEA ITL	HB447 YEA ITL	HB461 YEA OTP	HB464 YEA ITL
HB469 NAY OTP	HB478 YEA TABLE(ITL)	HB481 YEA ITL	HB483 NAY ITL
HB493 YEA ITL	HB494 YEA ITL	HB519 YEA ITL	HB520 NAY ITL
HB522 NAY ITL	HB524 YEA OTP/A	HB536 NAY OTP	HB548 NAY ITL (YEA OTP/A)
HB552 YEA OTP/A	HB553 NAY ITL	HB557 YEA OTP/A	HB571 YEA ITL

HB576 YEA ITL	HB578 YEA OTP/A	HB581 YEA ITL	HB589 NAY ITL
HB598 YEA ITL	HB599 NAY ITL	HB606 YEA ITL	HB612 YEA OTP/A
HB614 YEA OTP	HB615 NAY ITL	HB617 YEA OTP/A	HB620 YEA OTP/A
HB622 YEA ITL	HB625 YEA ITL	HB633 NAY ITL	HB638 NAY ITL
HB648 NAY OTP	HCR2 YEA ITL	HCR5 YEA TABLE	HR8 YEA ITL

Children and Family Law

HB349, relative to out-of-home placements under the child protection act.

OTP/A Vote: 8-5

HRA Analysis: This bill supports the concept include in Part 1, Article 2 as expressed by the New Hampshire Supreme Court that absent evidence to contrary, parents are the first and best protectors of their children’s interests. It is consistent with the fifth plank under family in the Republican platform, that children do best when they have the care and nurture of both parents. It also protects the right of parents to seek the support of legislators when they believe the courts have acted contrary to these principles.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB79, relative to New Hampshire products purchased and sold by the liquor commission.

OTP/A Vote: 17-3

HRA Analysis: Establishes requirements for the labels "Grown in NH", "Made in NH", and "Packaged in NH". While on its face, this bill creates new regulation, the liquor commission is already charged with creating special shelf space for NH products, so this clarification takes some of the ambiguity out of the true origins of such products. No Platform or Constitutional Issue Identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB279, relative to smoking on private property. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7

HRA Analysis: This was the smoking ban repeal bill, which should be supported in its original form as the ban is profoundly anti-business and anti-consumer-choice. As amended, the only effect will be to permit cigar bars to allow cigarettes if they choose. While we do not believe any cigar bar will choose to accommodate cigarette smokers, this amended bill will at least open up the opportunity to do so. Even as amended, this bill is pro-business and is a tiny but positive step forward. The platform states “Remove barriers to business and encourage small businesses.” It further states, “the liberty of the people must be protected above the power of the government.” Business owners have the natural right to decide whether to allow cigarette smoking; customers have the natural right to decide whether to patronize businesses that allow cigarette smoking.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Committee Amendment, Support OTP or OTP/A

HB353, relative to sales of beer in refillable containers. OTP/A Vote: 17-3

HRA Analysis: This is the growler bill, allowing a business under the very strictest of circumstances to refill beer containers. While most of us cannot imagine any business making use of this law as written, it is indeed enabling legislation allowing a choice that does not presently exist, and is thus pro-business. The platform states "Remove barriers to business and encourage small businesses."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB385, relative to notice for foreclosures. ITL Vote: 11-9

HRA Analysis: This bill adds to the requirements for foreclosures on homes. The requirement is redundant, unnecessary, and over burdensome. The platform states "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" and "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB436, exempting persons using virtual currency from registering as money transmitters. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9

HRA Analysis: This bill takes the regulation of virtual currency, such as Bitcoin, out of the domain of the banking commission. This bill is necessary to ensure that NH people may use virtual currency without registering with the banking commission as a money-transmitter. The platform states "Remove barriers to business and encourage small businesses."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB633, allowing health insurance policies to be sold without mandates. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-4

HRA Analysis: The bill would allow additional insurers in the state and give greater options to the citizens for health insurance. Platform: Allow free market driven health care plans and "a la carte" insurance plans free from government mandates.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB94, prohibiting certain defenses in prostitution and human trafficking cases. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 17-4

HRA Analysis: The minority understands the wrong policy of convicting people who are deceived by pimps or prostitutes as to the age of the prostitute. The minority does not believe it is right to convict someone of a crime that they had no intention of committing. We believe those who are trying to deceive someone of a prostitute's age are the ones who should be prosecuted

more heavily. Unfortunately this bill only punishes unwitting persons. Constitution says penalties ought be proportional to the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB205, relative to flying a drone above a correctional facility.

Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-4

HRA Analysis: According to the NH Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has "exclusive sovereignty of airspace" in the United States according to 49 USC 40103 and maintains the right to "Sovereignty and Public Right of Transit." If this bill passes it will not hold up in court. The FAA told the committee that there is a process if the Department of Corrections wishes to not have drones fly over their prison. This bill is not the process to stop unwanted drones flying over NH prisons. No platform issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB284, relative to jury instructions in sexual assault cases. ITL Vote: 19-1

HRA Analysis: In this bill the word "victim" was changed to "complainant" at each appearance in RSA 632-A:6. The word "victim" is regularly used in statute and to change it to "complainant" for this particular sexual assault statute was thought to suggest equivocation although to label a person a victim when not proven still does not make it correct. There is no constitutional or platform issue.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB351, making a person who knowingly causes the death of a child guilty of capital murder. ITL Vote: 17-3

HRA Analysis: Two opposing platform planks are in conflict on this bill. On one hand, the Constitution says penalties ought be proportional to the offense, and the platform states that we should seek equal and fair applications of the Death Penalty while currently Police Officers are treated as a special class and children are not afforded the same justice. On the other hand, the platform states that we should avoid carving out special classes altogether, and expanding the class covered by the Death Penalty conflicts with that.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB640, relative to the penalties for possession of marijuana. OTP Vote: 14-2

HRA Analysis: Republican platform has been updated to state "Support the State's Constitutional right to determine legal restrictions on possession of controlled substances." and the Constitution says penalties ought be proportional to the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

Education

HB293, relative to the requirements for filing a chartered public school application.

Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-5

HRA Analysis: This bill is another attempt to alter the application for new charter schools and to make the mission statement the most important part of the application. The sponsor of all these bills has never identified the application criteria that are not needed or less relevant - and we know the reason for these bills. Our platform says we should encourage parents to be able to choose the best public, private or charter school for the children.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB395, relative to state board of education rulemaking authority over home education programs. ITL Vote: 14-4

HRA Analysis: This bill's major change is to remove home education rulemaking authority from the state Board of Education. Although the statutes require proposed rules to go to the Home Education Advisory Council, it is just for "review and comment". This gives big government education groups a second bite of the apple to implement through rules what has been stopped in the legislature. Some homeschoolers are concerned about this change, but the General Court should be the avenue to represent the interests of homeschoolers rather than the executive branch. Our platform states: "Encourage education freedom to allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children". Elimination of rule-making supports our homeschool families.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB494, relative to eligibility for a chartered public school charter.

Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8

HRA Analysis: This bill modifies eligibility for non-profits, including colleges or service organizations, to apply to start a charter school by requiring the organization to consist only of NH residents. We believe the restriction will be unworkable and will impact charter applications. Our platform says we should "encourage parents to be able to choose the best public, private or charter school for the children."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB557, relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools.

Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended is intended to provide options to towns, such as Croydon who do not have schools for all grades, to contract with another public or non-sectarian private school. The Department of Education had sued Croydon and won an injunction because they contracted with a local private Montessori school for 5 students. This is a local control issue. From our platform: "Promote local control of education policy and Repeal the Blaine Amendment to end discrimination against religious schools"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB605, establishing a scholarship for students pursuing careers in the service of children and the elderly. ITL Vote: 15-3

HRA Analysis: A bill with numerous practical issues but also does not address the real issue of college tuition costs. Not platform issue.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB620, relative to compliance with state and federal education mandates.

Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8

HRA Analysis: Rulemaking at the Department of Education and the state BOE has exploded and resulted in added costs at the local level. This bill is an attempt to rein in the downshifting by prohibiting rules that require additional local expenditures or exceed federal requirements only if authorized by state statutes. This is not an attempt to harm special-ed services but simply gain legislative control and prevent downshifting. Our Constitution Pt 1 Art.28-a: "state shall not mandate or assign any new, expanded or modified programs or responsibilities to any political subdivision in such a way as to necessitate additional local expenditures."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Election Law

HB116, relative to assessing the consequences of the Citizens United decision.

Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8

HRA Analysis: Our US Senator has already sponsored an amendment to the US Constitution to overturn this SC decision so the main point of the bill is moot. Additionally Citizens United protects our First Amendment rights. NH Constitution, Part 1st, Art. 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

HB320, relative to procedures for apportioning electoral districts.

Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8

HRA Analysis: The bill wants to substitute a computer algorithm for human judgment for determining electoral districts with the idea of removing politics from the process. It may sound like a good idea, but as all the inputs come from politicians, this will not accomplish that. Also there are lots of technical problems with the bill (e.g no method to resolve conflicts). Constitution says the House is responsible for redistricting under Part Second, Art. 9.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB348, relative to registering to vote. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8

HRA Analysis: The bill would require the DMV to register people to vote. This is not the so called "motor/voter bill" and would not eliminate the federal mandate for same day registration. Creates extra costs for the DMV, Sec of State and the towns/cities. Platform: "Reduce Bureaucracy and Government Costs"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB372, relative to construction of the terms "resident," "inhabitant," "residence," and "residency." Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9

HRA Analysis: This bill removes the phrase "for the indefinite future" from the law with regard to how long a voter will remain at their residency. In 1972, the US District Court in New Hampshire ruled in the *Newburger v. Peterson* case that "the indefinite intention test offends the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." As a result of that decision, the current definition of resident in RSA 21:6 is unconstitutional with respect to voting.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB384, establishing a committee to study ballot access in New Hampshire. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8

HRA Analysis: This is an unnecessary study committee that would add add expense and waste taxpayer money. Platform says to cut unnecessary expenses and avoid growing government.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB402, relative to presumptive evidence of domicile for voters. ITL Vote: 20-0

HRA Analysis: The bill proposes to eliminate motor vehicle registration as documentation permitted to support proof of NH domicile. The DMV can and - in many cases already does - mark registrations with "Non-Resident" so this bill is not necessary. Platform states: "always limit spending and growth of government, and to cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB430, relative to recording voters' out-of-state drivers' licenses.

Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9

HRA Analysis: This bill requires supervisors of the checklist to enter out of state license information into the statewide voter registration database. The amendment delays the effective date until July 1, 2018, as requested by the Secretary of State. Platform: "ensure voting is done by NH resident citizens only; preserve the integrity of the ballot box."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB447, relative to allocating electoral college electors based on the national popular vote. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8

HRA Analysis: This bill will dilute NH's voice in the selection of our president by creating an interstate compact and allocating NH's votes. The US Constitution requires that : "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector." This bill would forfeit our Constitutional duty to select the electors to the process adopted by other states. Furthermore, this bill will disenfranchise NH voters.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB464, relative to voter identification requirements when obtaining a ballot. ITL Vote: 20-0

HRA Analysis: This bill removes election official discretion in determining proper ID. Everyone should be treated the same with uniform standards; we should not enforce election laws differently. The platform states it is our responsibility to hold government accountable and that it is through the integrity of the ballot box that we do so.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB519, establishing a commission to study the feasibility of implementing a clearinghouse model for tracking political expenditures and contributions. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8

HRA Analysis: The study committee would look into ways to limit the ability for people to spend money sharing their concerns during an election. Platform: limit spending and growth of government, and NH constitution: "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

HB552, relative to investigation of undeliverable voter verification letters.

Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9

HRA Analysis: While this bill authorizes the Secretary of State to spend some taxpayer funds, it appears worthwhile in order to better investigate letters returned undeliverable regarding proof of eligibility to vote. Platform: "prosecute violations of election law and ensure voting is done by NH resident citizens only."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB622, allowing all voters to vote by absentee ballot. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8

HRA Analysis: Citizens who are unable to get to the polls on election day are already allowed to vote by absentee ballot and the process to get a ballot is simple. There is no need to allow those who can get to the polls to vote via absentee ballot. Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only; to prevent voter fraud we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registering and voting"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Environment and Agriculture

HB612, relative to livestock and meat inspection. OTP/A Vote: 16-1

HRA Analysis: This bill was the product of a study commission that was put in place last session. This bill, as amended, deals with primarily 2 issues: Religious slaughter rituals and livestock transportation. The religious slaughter issue presents no platform conflicts. The livestock transportation portion will potentially reduce regulatory burden on farmers and the platform states "Reduce Regulation and Encourage Business Growth."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Executive Departments and Administration

CACR4, relating to the attorney general. Providing that the attorney general shall be elected every 2 years. ITL Vote: 17-3

HRA Analysis: this CACR would amend the constitution so that the AG was elected, rather than appointed. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

HB85, relative to installation requirements for arc-fault circuit interrupters and relative to the state building code review board. OTP/A Vote: 18-2

HRA Analysis: This bill simply allows for the removal of an arc fault interrupter when, and only when, a homeowner is experiencing problems with the device and only after the integrity of the electrical circuit has been proven by a licensed electrician. It does not eliminate the requirement of having them installed in new buildings or when an electrical service is upgraded. Platform issue: "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 OTP/A

HB184, repealing licensure requirements for medical imaging and radiation Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP Vote: 17-3

HRA Analysis: this bill repeals last year's licensing requirement for these technicians, which is effective July 2017. The wording is so poor that many technicians (and their employers) came to protest the law and encourage repeal. The committee amendment simply extends the licensing date to 2018. The platform urges us to delete unnecessary regulations and licenses.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Committee Amendment; Support OTP or OTP/A.

HB254, relative to membership on the assessing standards board.

Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 16-4

HRA Analysis: Even though they pay a large share of our tax burden, the assessing standards board lacks any representation from the commercial or utility sector. This bill would have added one member from both arenas. It also would have reduced the number of assessors currently serving on the board and replaced them with one additional member appointed by the House and one from the private sector. The minority felt this was a more equitable makeup of the board. Our platform states that we should foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business and increase responsiveness

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB294, relative to the cost of fiscal analysis of legislation relating to the retirement system. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8

HRA Analysis: Currently, the costs of doing a fiscal analysis or actuarial study on the retirement system is borne by the retirement system. This bill will require that those studies become a budget item. Most often those studies are done with the intent of making the system more

solvent so it is the retirement system that ultimately benefits. The bill would allow these fees to be buried in the general spending with no budgetary oversight. Platform: "Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB322, adding rulemaking authority to require completion of a certain survey as part of the license renewal process for health care providers. OTP Vote: 15-5

HRA Analysis: This bill will grant authority for the licensing boards of certain health care providers to request voluntary participation in what is currently a demographic survey as part of the licensure requirements. Some on the committee felt the questioning would eventually become more intrusive. No platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB408, relative to the state guard. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-4

HRA Analysis: This bill modernizes the existing State Guard statutes, which were last revised in the 1970s. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB469, establishing a continuous quality improvement program for pharmacies. OTP Vote: 14-3

HRA Analysis: This bill will add a new compliance and record keeping requirement to our pharmacies. Though there was no evidence of a need, this bill will require quarterly "quality-related events" reviews along with record keeping requirements that pharmacists must comply with. Seemingly a simple requirement, this will add costs to doing business that will undoubtedly be passed on to consumers. Our platform states that we should "minimize business regulations, permits, licenses, and paperwork."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB522, establishing a committee to review occupational licensing to determine which licenses could be made optional for practitioners. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-4

HRA Analysis: Since NH has one of the highest numbers of licensed professions in the nation, and even though we have done this in the past, forming a committee to look at our licensure requirements from time to time is a way to support our platform which states the we should "sunset programs and regulations to force periodic reevaluation."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB548, increasing the age at which a pension begins for non-vested and newly-hired group I members of the retirement system. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 12-8

HRA Analysis: This bill would have taken some of the pressure off the retirement system that is currently over \$5.1 billion in the red by setting the age of retirement to coincide with social security retirement age. The System is currently underfunded and is out of sync with the private

sector. This bill would address both of these: Our platform states: “Ensure that public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support Minority Amendment, Support OTP/A

HB599, establishing the office of ombudsman in the department of state. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8

HRA Analysis: This bill would have formed a new position whereby an allegation of criminality filed by the public or general court could be referred to an unbiased investigator. The ombudsman would then forward his findings to the Attorney General for further investigation if he felt it was warranted. Since the investigator is paid only an honorarium and mileage, there would be minimum cost. Our platform states: “Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB625, establishing state holidays for elections Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-6

HRA Analysis: Though we should promote the idea of voter participations, NH boasts one of the highest voter turnout rates in the nation. Since many state and elections workers must work whether it is election day or not and some have to work because it is election day, the cost to taxpayers would be huge. UNH alone has stated that the lost productivity would surpass \$1.25 million dollars. Further, in the past, NH has actually given election day off for its workers. Since that day is now taken as a floating holiday we would essentially be granting state workers yet another holiday. This program would give an unfair advantage in voting to public employees. The NH Constitution states: “All elections are to be free, and every inhabitant of the state of 18 years of age and upwards shall have an equal right to vote in any election.” This plan gives a preference to those who are public employees.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Finance

HB370, making an appropriation for the purpose of meeting new federal regulations relative to child care. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-11

HRA Analysis: This bill asked for double the amount of money (\$15 million) that the agency testified they needed. In a budget year such large monetary requests should be considered as part of the budget. The Platform urges fiscal conservatism.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB387, making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the developmental services system. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-10

HRA Analysis: Finance recommended ITL as a matter of procedure. There is bipartisan support for the appropriation sought to increase funding for direct support providers, but this will be considered in the context of the overall budget. Since the committee has not yet made its

final policy decision on this appropriation, there is no platform or constitutional consideration at issue.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB571, making an appropriation to the New Hampshire Internet crimes against children task force. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 19-6

HRA Analysis: This poorly written bill proposed to give half a million dollars to a non-state agency with no state oversight of the money. The prime sponsor said his bill needed to be fixed and Finance could do that. However, the governor developed a better proposal for this, with oversight by a state agency. Finance will increase that oversight via the development of metrics and reporting against those metrics to ensure the money is achieving what it was intended. The Platform urges fiscal conservatism.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB606, establishing a scholarship fund for health care providers who stay in New Hampshire for 5 years and making an appropriation therefor. ITL Vote: 16-9

HRA Analysis: There are a number of scholarship bills. Again, it is a budget year and monetary bills should be part of the budget process where each expenditure must be vetted. The Platform urges fiscal conservatism.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB157, adding chronic pain to qualifying conditions under therapeutic use of cannabis. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-6

HRA Analysis: The bill adds to the list of conditions for which medical marijuana applies. Platform: Support the State's Constitutional right to determine legal restrictions on possession of controlled substances and the NH constitution says: [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: Vote Your Conscience

HB160, adding post-traumatic stress disorder to qualifying medical conditions under therapeutic use of cannabis. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8

HRA Analysis: The bill adds to the list of conditions for which medical marijuana applies. Platform: Support the State's Constitutional right to determine legal restrictions on possession of controlled substances and the NH constitution says: [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: Vote Your Conscience

HB361, relative to the authority of the commissioner of the department of health and human services relative to certain vaccine requirements. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-3

HRA Analysis: This bill would remove the authority of the commissioner of DHHS to adopt rules relative to additional vaccine requirements beyond those passed by the legislature and listed in statute. The bill would remove a conflict of interest the commissioner now has between deciding what vaccines should be required for children and bringing revenue to his department. The platform states "Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB472, permitting qualifying patients to cultivate cannabis for their own therapeutic use. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-7

HRA Analysis: Government regulations of a plant that can be grown in a pot are absurd. It took a Constitutional Amendment to prohibit alcohol. The NH Constitution: 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. The current federal laws are onerous and this is something the legislature can do to address the accessibility of cannabis for patients who have medical needs.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB478, prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity. OTP Vote: 15-2

HRA Analysis: HB478 would be a radical increase in the power of government to reach into even the intimate areas of our lives. Section 9 would make it unlawful for any business, because of the gender identity of any person, to deny to such person any of the facilities of the business. Gyms, health clubs, and others would no longer be allowed to have separate Men's and Women's locker rooms. Restaurants, theaters, and hotels would be forced to allow Men to use Women's bathrooms.

Our Constitution reminds us that Government is instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest of any one class of men. HB478 would diminish the protection and security of much of the community for the interest of a class that would be defined by an unverifiable claim of their mental/physical state.

Our platform declares our dedication to preserving freedom and limited government. We recognize the right to pursue happiness, "unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control". We believe that "the liberty of the people must be protected above the power of the government." HB478 runs counter to those principles. People would lose the freedom to use sex-segregated spaces for privacy. Business owners would lose the freedom to offer what they think is best for their customers and employees. When government can intrude into our

showers, locker rooms, and bathrooms, it raises the question as to whether there are any limits at all to the power of government.

Our platform further states "Establish strict laws against sexual predators." Actual transgendered individuals won't be a problem, but others can easily claim to be transgendered. HB478 practically invites sexual predators where they don't belong.

HRA Recommendation: Support Table, Oppose OTP or Support ITL

HB536, directing the wellness and primary prevention council to establish a system of family resource centers of quality. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9

HRA Analysis: By passing this law we are directing Family Resource Centers to do something which is better left up to them to decide. While these Family Resources Centers are not technically considered the private sector, they should have the discretion to determine if it makes sense for them to become a "center of quality." This bill appears to direct greater government involvement without clear and measurable benefits. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits", and "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB638, repealing the NH health protection program. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-6

HRA Analysis: The NHHPP is an extension of the obamacare program under expanded medicaid. The program provides free "healthcare" to those who meet the requirements. The program is currently funded through a combination of taxes, Federal subsidies and donations. The current law has no asset tests, nor does it require working. The bill would repeal this law as socialism has proven to be a failure and the system discourages participants from advancing out of the system. Platform: Support the repeal of Obamacare and oppose its implementation in NH

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

Judiciary

HB136, clarifying the equity jurisdiction of the judicial branch family division.

Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-6

HRA Analysis: The bill mandates Family court follow all laws dealing with their jurisdiction. This gives people full protection of Laws governing family matters by limiting the Court's discretion. Platform says "Support the people's oversight of the Judiciary through their elected Legislature."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB138, relative to persons held in civil contempt. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 14-3

HRA Analysis: This bill adds needed protection for people under Family court orders, some of whom have been jailed for non-payment when they just couldn't pay. Platform: "protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies & employees who abuse their power & position."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB170, relative to posting notice and minutes of public meetings on the public body's website. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-1

HRA Analysis: The bill promotes more government transparency. Our platform indicates we should “Expand openness and transparency”, also Constitution: Part I, Art. 8 Accountability of magistrates and officers; public’s right to know.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB174, limiting jurisdiction of the superior courts over certain adequate education statutes and adequate education grants. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-4

HRA Analysis: This bill promotes returning control of education funding to the General Court. The platform says to overturn the poorly decided Claremont rulings and return educational funding and policy to the people at the local level and support the people’s oversight of the Judiciary through their elected Legislature.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB186, relative to immunity from civil liability for sports officials. OTP/A Vote: 10-7

HRA Analysis: Bill limits government prosecution to within 3 years of when an offense becomes known. No platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB441, relative to confidentiality in applying for public sector jobs.

Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 8-6

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to exclude “The initial screening of applications for public sector employment” from Right-To-Know records requests. Removing these records could hide poor hiring practices from public view. Constitution: Part I, Art. 8 Accountability of magistrates and officers; public’s right to know.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB524, relative to participation in meetings open to the public.

Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended requires a quorum be physically present for a meeting except in an emergency but makes it clear that 'emergency' means a real emergency in which there is immediate peril to public health or safety. The definition used brings it in line with other statutory language. Our platform indicates we should “Expand openness and transparency” and Constitution: Part I, Art. 8 Accountability of magistrates and officers; public’s right to know.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB578, relative to banning abortion after viability. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7

HRA Analysis: The committee amendment contains an unqualified 'health' exception.

Platform issue: 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. The committee amendment weakens the bill but gives us the best chance to pass the House. Later we may be able to strengthen it in the Senate or in future years.

HRA Recommendation: Support Committee Amendment 440, Vote Your Conscience on Amendment 643. Although the Platform Strongly Supports Life, Oppose Amendment 661, Support OTP/A

HB589, repealing the law relative to providing certain parameters for access to reproductive health care facilities. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 9-8

HRA Analysis: This bill would repeal the “buffer zone” around abortion clinics. Protect rights of people to speak and associate in public spaces as in our platform: We believe that the Founding Fathers gave the 1st Amendment its preeminent position.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB614, relative to forfeiture of personal property. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8

HRA Analysis: This bill enhances due process rights by preventing the state from shifting drug cases to Federal process, which would remove necessity for conviction before forfeiture.

Constitution: Part I, Art. 15. [Right of Accused.] No subject shall be arrested, ... or deprived of his property...

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB617, relative to jury trials for imposition of fines in zoning violations. OTP/A Vote: 8-7

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended removes a provision from RSA 676:17 I, which allows planning and zoning boards to negate a person’s right to a jury trial. Constitution: Part I, Art. 15. [Right of Accused.] No subject shall be arrested, ... or deprived of his property...

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB115, establishing a state minimum wage and providing for adjustments to the minimum wage. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-9

HRA Analysis: Allowing the economic principle of “supply and demand” to work is preferable to instituting a government mandate that sets arbitrary and artificial minimum wage rates. The platform requires adherence to free market principles. The recommendation of ITL fulfills that platform obligation.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB130, prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-9

HRA Analysis: Adding further regulations and mandates on businesses make our state less business friendly. The platform states as its goal to “minimize business regulations”. This bill would have the opposite effect.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB194, permitting employers to pay wages to employees weekly or biweekly. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9

HRA Analysis: This bill would reduce a business’ regulations and paperwork by permitting employers to pay bi-weekly wages (rather than weekly) without the associated expense and time required for the waiver application. Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB442, relative to criminal records checks in the employee application process. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 12-9

HRA Analysis: Adding further regulations and mandates on businesses make our state less business friendly. The platform states as its goal to “minimize business regulations”. This bill would have the opposite effect.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB520, relative to right to work. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-7

HRA Analysis: One principle of the NHGOP platform states: “Uphold the right to join or avoid labor unions without coercion or intimidation; support “right to work” legislation.”

HRA Recommendation: Support Motion to “Consider” HB520, Oppose ITL.

Legislative Administration

CACR6, relating to conflict of interest. Providing that no member of the general court shall sponsor, advocate for, nor vote on any legislation which would create a financial conflict of interest. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 7-4

HRA Analysis: No platform issue identified

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HCR2, supporting efforts to ensure that students from NH have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 7-4

HRA Analysis: Platform: “We believe that low taxes are the result of low spending.” This bill urges increased funding by the state.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Municipal and County Government

HB313, allowing a town to appropriate funds to create a town scholarship fund.

Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 18-2

HRA Analysis: HB313 is enabling legislation authorizing a town to create "dedicated scholarship trust funds exclusively for town residents". No town would be required to create such a trust fund. Any specifications or requirements would left up to the voters to determine. Testimony heard indicated that some towns in NH are already doing this because the RSA allows "any other public purpose that is not foreign to the town's institution or incompatible with the objects of its organization." But some read the RSA as not allowing scholarship funds. The bill would clarify the language to remove any doubt that scholarship funds are allowed - but certainly not required.

The Platform states: "we support expanded education choices". These scholarship funds would open up more choices for town residents.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB461, relative to the acceptance of grants by Carroll County. Maj OTP; Min ITL Vote: 11-9

HRA Analysis: RSA 24:14 gives county conventions the power to adopt a policy relative to the acceptance of grants. This bill, specific to Carroll County, simply adds three common sense requirements to be included in the adopted policy. Platform says to "justify expenditures against measurable benefits and prioritize programs to ensure effective spending."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB481, relative to the use of small capacity, light weight plastic bags by retailers.

Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-6

HRA Analysis: The bill would authorize municipalities to outlaw the use of certain plastic bags within their community. The pseudoscience behind this bill is inconclusive and may cause more harm than good, including increased shipping and other costs, creating higher consumer costs. Platform: "Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB376, requiring construction projects that disturb sediments of estuarine waters to analyze the characteristics of the sediments and report them to the department of environmental services. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9

HRA Analysis: The platform promotes "Minimizing business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork." Presently, projects that disturb tidal waters already require a dredge and fill permit. The DES already requires sediment sampling for many projects in estuarine waters. The bill would needlessly impact municipal and state infrastructure projects. This bill is the poster child of over burdensome regulation.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Science, Technology and Energy

HB179, relative to financing the construction of high pressure gas pipelines.

Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 13-8

HRA Analysis: The PUC has already ruled that under the current electric restructuring statute electric customers cannot be made to pay for costs associated with construction of natural gas pipelines but this could be change. This bill could sprinkle nails on all possible paths that might lead to any new gas pipelines, but it also protects electric ratepayers in statute. Natural gas will be a major source of electricity for the foreseeable future and we should resist attempts to block its expansion if we are to have any hope of lowering electricity prices. Platform: “work to reduce energy costs.”

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB352, relative to the energy efficiency fund. OTP Vote: 18-3

HRA Analysis: This bill allows Energy Efficiency Fund money to be spent on State renewable energy producing products instead of just energy savings projects. It also expands the sources of revenue to include utility rebate programs and PUC incentive payments. This expands government by authorizing new areas for spending. Platform: “Work to reduce energy costs and remove New Hampshire from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB493, relative to evaluating the public interest of gas pipeline capacity contracts. Maj.

ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-5

HRA Analysis: This bill mostly duplicates what the PUC is currently tasked to do and could limit future ways to lower the cost of electricity. Platform: work to reduce energy costs.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB535, relative to community net metering. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 13-8

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to expand net metering by adding hydroelectric and other renewables owned by municipalities and being less than 5 megawatts. The majority felt that it would be premature to expand this program while the PUC considers a docket on the pricing of net-metered power sold back to the grid. No platform issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

HB466, relative to the selection of delegates to an article V convention. ITL Vote: 17-0

HRA Analysis: No platform or clear constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HCR5, applying for a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-7

HRA Analysis: No platform or clear constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HCR7, applying to the United States Congress to convene a limited convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing amendments to the federal Constitution concerning election reform that do not abrogate or amend the First Amendment to the federal Constitution. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP

HRA Analysis: No platform or clear constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HR8, urging Congress to investigate the lawsuits against Trump University. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 9-8

HRA Analysis: Platform: We believe that government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Transportation

HB364, relative to accidents involving youth operators of motor vehicles. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-3

HRA Analysis: This bill authorizes the Director of DMV, after a hearing, to suspend the license of a youth operator for up to 12 months who was involved in an accident which involved death or serious bodily injury, when the youth operator was in violation of any prohibition or restriction on the youth operator's licence, while the accident is being investigated by the police. NH Constitution: penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB417, expanding the right-to-know law to certain motor vehicle records.

OTP/A Vote: 14-0

HRA Analysis: As amended, the bill allows a municipal agent to release specific and limited registration information for audit purposes to an auditor hired by the municipality. No Platform or constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation (if committee amendment fails Oppose OTP)

HB424, relative to documentation required for registration of certain title exempted vehicles and modifying the requirements for removal and sale of certain vehicles.

OTP Vote: 14-0

HRA Analysis: This bill codifies what is already being done in most instances: that town/city clerks keep a copy of registrations and titles, and those who are in possession of an abandoned vehicle and who can't locate the owner, must so notify the State within 30 days. No platform/constitution issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB432, relative to enforcement of parking prohibitions. OTP Vote: 10-4

HRA Analysis: This bill says that a person who has a walking disability may take a picture of a vehicle improperly parked in a handicap spot, and having submitted the picture to the police along with a written statement, the police shall fine the violator a minimum of \$250 unless the evidence is rebutted or contradicted (the accused can fight it).

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB458, relative to motorcycle headlamps. OTP Vote: 11-3

HRA Analysis: This bill allows any head light color approved by DMV for motor vehicles to be allowed for motorcycles. There are not any compelling constitutional or platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB553, relative to biennial motorcycle inspections. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-3

HRA Analysis: The Majority felt that, for safety, the yearly inspections must continue. The minority felt that a biennial inspection would be safe for motorcycles because they are driven far less during a year. The platform states that we should "reduce or eliminate unnecessary taxes and fees."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB598, relative to voluntary registration of motor vehicles. ITL Vote: 17-1

HRA Analysis: This bill attempts to make the case that NH does not have the constitutional authority to require that automobiles be registered. The General Court has put into law (RSA 261:40) that automobiles shall be registered with the state. Article 28 of the NH Constitution gives the taxing authority.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB648, relative to van parking for persons with disabilities. OTP Vote: 10-4

HRA Analysis: this bill creates a van-only parking requirement, 'Van' meaning a vehicle with a ramp or lift gate for use by a person with a walking disability. Fines and standing to bring lawsuits are part of the bill. The party platform says "minimize business regulations...prefer incentives to penalties."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

Ways and Means

HB332, relative to dedicated funds with no activity in the financial system for at least the most recent fiscal year. OTP/A Vote: 23-0

HRA Analysis: The bill removes obsolete dedicated funds. The Platform states: "Sunset programs and regulations to force periodic reevaluation."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB560, establishing keno. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 20-3

HRA Analysis: The bill allows the bingo-like game of Keno in businesses that have license to pour liquor, provided that local communities opt-in. It is not mandated anywhere. Proceeds go to the Education Trust Fund. The Platform has conflicting guidance, including "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services", "Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with businesses and increase responsiveness", and "Reject expanded casino and video lottery gambling as a means to balance the budget or increase spending". Local food and beverage establishments would gain additional revenue, and the Keno would contribute more to the ETF, reducing pressure on cities and towns. Is this bingo-like game in the same category as casino gambling? Or is it just an extension of charitable gaming? You decide.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB573, relative to the exemption from property taxation for charitable nonprofit hospitals. ITL Vote: 22-0

HRA Analysis: The bill proposes to tax non-profit medical facilities that have acquired certain additional assets. The bill as written was deemed to be unworkable. This bill extends an existing tax onto a wider group. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB574, increasing the limit on contributions to the community development finance authority for which an investment tax credit may be taken. Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 19-3

HRA Analysis: On the one hand this can be interpreted to earmark an additional \$1 million to a tax credit program assisting historic buildings. The Platform clearly states: "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending". Regardless of the merits, this funding should be debated as part of the annual budgeting process, competing with other funding requests, and not earmarked out of General Funds prior to that process. On the other hand, this bill stimulates small business opportunities, roughly 75% of the uncollected taxes are recouped via ancillary job growth, and the platform states "encourage small businesses" and "Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business".

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB576, increasing the amount of inspection sticker fees to be transferred to the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-9

HRA Analysis: This is an out-of-budget request for additional funds to DES. It is also a fee increase on vehicle inspection stickers. The Platform states: "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending" and "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees".

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB581, establishing a credit against business profits taxes for media production expenditures in New Hampshire. ITL Vote: 23-0

HRA Analysis: The Platform states: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits." Tax credits for media production appear to be a specious use of NH taxpayer money.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Consent:

CACR2, relating to natural rights of children. Providing that children have a natural right to be protected by their parents. ITL Vote: 12-0

HRA Analysis: This proposed Amendment to the Constitution makes the rights already recognized by the Supreme Court of New Hampshire as contained in Part 1, Article 2 explicit so that the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of our government will be cognizant of them. It was recommended ought to pass in 2016.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB121, relative to the maximum optional fee for transportation improvements charged by municipalities when collecting motor vehicle registration fees. OTP Vote: 19-1

HRA Analysis: This bill increases the maximum amount a municipality can add to motor vehicle registrations for infrastructure improvements. Our platform says "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees".

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB362, prohibiting certain immunization requirements for noncommunicable diseases.

OTP/A Vote: 20-1

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended would define non-communicable disease and shall prevent requirements for vaccines that target non-communicable diseases. The Floor Amendment removed Hepatitis B from the vaccine list. Hepatitis B vaccine shall not be required for children to attend daycare or school. Hepatitis B is an adult disease spread mostly through IV drug abuse and promiscuous sexual activity and has never been proven to be spread by casual contact. The platform states "Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position."

HRA Recommendation: Support Floor Amendment 721, Support OTP/A

HB 394, relative to public employees testifying before legislative committees.

ITL Vote 12-0.

HRA Analysis: The bill would close the loophole which allows public employees the ability to lobby for legislation. The bill has appropriate carve outs to protect an individual's right to free speech as well as to allow employees to testify while on the clock provided they meet a simple set of exclusions to the law. Current law prohibits: "15:5 Prohibited Activities. – I. Except as provided in paragraph II, no recipient of a grant or appropriation of state funds may use the state funds to lobby or attempt to influence legislation, participate in political activity, or contribute funds to any entity engaged in these activities." but it seems that employees time is treated differently. Platform states "Reward employees who save money and/or exceed their goals" and the inverse happens when they are allowed to testify on taxpayer salaries.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB396, relative to student assessment data privacy. ITL Vote: 19-0

HRA Analysis: Platform: "Protect the privacy of individuals" some of the requested protections are already in statute.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB419, relative to real estate leased for a public charter school. ITL Vote: 18-2

HRA Analysis: Platform says we support expanded education choices, including but not limited to: education tax credits, charter schools.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB483, prohibiting the issuance of a summons or warrant for failure to license a dog. ITL Vote: 20-0

HRA Analysis: Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" and "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB485, relative to standards for emerging contaminants in drinking water.

OTP/A Vote: 18-1

HRA Analysis: This gives additional rule making to the DES, our platform states: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork". This additional rule making runs contrary to this new rule making authority. Furthermore, the platform states "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: Vote Your Conscience.

HB615, reducing the rates of the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax

HRA Analysis: This bill is similar in some parts to SB2 which also reduces the BET/BPT. Revenues have exceeded projections over the last two years as we have started to cut these taxes. Therefore we should look to reduce the cost of doing business in NH so more companies seek to move here by implementing these tax cuts. The NHGOP platform is exceedingly clear

on this: "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:: Oppose ITL