

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION SHEET



“TRUST BUT VERIFY”

The purpose of the House Republican Alliance is to preserve and strengthen the traditional principles and values of the Republican Party through the NH House of Representatives and throughout the state of NH, including fiscal restraint, personal freedom and responsibility, small government, free enterprise and strong families. We offer the following recommendations based on those principles, the Republican Party Platform, and the NH and Federal Constitutions.

Bill Number	Committee	Committee Vote	HRA recommends
SB 141	Agriculture	OTP/A 16-1	No Recommendation
SB 204	Labor	OTP/A 17-2	Oppose OTP/A
SB 207	Labor	OTP 11-8	Oppose OTP
SB 215	Commerce	OTP 14-4	Oppose OTP
SB 245	Science & Energy	OTP/A 16-1	Oppose OTP/A
SB 296	State-Federal	OTP 13-0	No Recommendation
SB 325	Resources	OTP 12-5	Oppose OTP
SB 345	Commerce	OTP/A 10-8	Oppose OTP/A
SB 367	Public Works/Ways & Means	OTP 26-11	Oppose OTP
SB 368	HHS	OTP 10-5	No Recommendation
SB 375	Ways & Means	OTP/A 9-8	Oppose OTP/A
SB 391	Children & Family	OTP/A 16-2	No Recommendation
SB 395	ED&A	OTP 10-7	Oppose OTP
SB 396	Children & Family	OTP 16-2	No Recommendation

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23 REGULAR CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

SB 391, (New Title) relative to the juvenile justice advisory board; the policies and procedures of the youth development center; and a reduction in appropriation to the Sununu Youth Services Center. **OTP/A. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, increases the size and scope of the advisory board, and restructures the management of the Sununu Center, including specifying that the director be nominated by the advisory board and confirmed by Governor and Council. The Platform, Part I, requires we “keep state government lean,” and this bill attempts to make the center more efficient. The “reduced appropriation” is actually less of a cut in the first year and more in the second, so Finance will weigh in on the spending.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SB 396, relative to child restraint practices. **OTP. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill limits the use of restraints in schools and institutions. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SB 215-FN, authorizing benefit corporations. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 14-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a new class of corporation that, in addition to its other goals, intends to create a “public benefit.” Since there is no hard definition of such, nor any criteria for evaluating progress towards the benefit, nor any penalties for not doing

so, (only for failure to report), it's hard to see a benefit corporation as anything but a public relations scam. The Platform, Part I, requires us to “minimize business regulations.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

SB 345, repealing the repeal of the annual report on health insurance costs and trends. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, simply repeals a sunset provision for a report that was necessary during the transition to Obamacare. The Platform, Part II, requires us to “sunset programs and regulations.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

SB 141-FN, establishing the Granite State farm to plate program. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 16-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, expresses support for agriculture, in all its forms, and encourages local and state governments to cooperate and to minimize regulations that adversely affect agriculture. The bill also emphasizes maximizing federal funds that subsidize agriculture (food stamps at farmer's markets, milk subsidies). No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 395, the retirement classification of the director of the division of forests and lands. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill changes the position from pension Group I (employees/teachers) to Group II (police/fire.) Group II pensions allow earlier retirement, higher payout rates, and no Social Security offset, so it's a much better deal for the recipient. The Platform, Part II, urges us to “ensure public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector,” and Group II style pensions are a benefit impossible for private sector managers to obtain.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

SB 368-FN, increasing the maximum fine for lead remediation. **OTP. Vote 10-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill increases the maximum fine for violating the lead paint remediation rules from \$2000 to \$5000. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

JOINT PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS and WAYS MEANS

SB 367, raising the road toll according to changes in the CPI, eliminating certain ramp tolls in Merrimack, and establishing a committee to study the effectiveness and efficiency of the department of transportation. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 26-11**

HRA Analysis: This bill increases the gas tax by about four cents per gallon immediately, authorizes automatic further increases, and allocates all increased revenues to the DOT. It specifies how the money is to be used: first to pay off \$200 million in new bonds to widen I-93, then road and bridge maintenance, including the 12% share for localities. It also eliminates the Exit 12 ramp toll in Merrimack. The Platform, Part II, not only opposes taxes and fees, but also requires us to prioritize programs. While road and bridge maintenance is a high priority item, a tax increase might not be necessary if less of the highway fund was diverted away from it.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

SB 204, relative to a benefit for certain medical conditions under workers' compensation and establishing a commission to study soft tissue injuries under workers' comp and the feasibility of developing a first responder's injury fund. **OTP/A. Vote 17-2.**

HRA Analysis: The Applicability section of the amendment is unconstitutional. Part I, Article 10, states “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...” Article 23 also prohibits retrospective laws, and the effective date in the Applicability section was retroactively set at March 12, 2012 to benefit one police officer, who was wounded in the performance of his duty.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose the Applicability section of the amendment, No Recommendation on OTP

SB 207-FN, relative to paycheck equity. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is unnecessary because wage discrimination based on gender is already statutorily prohibited under the federal Equal Pay Act of 1963, as well as in RSA 275:37. Additionally, the bill prohibits the employers from making rules, signing agreements or disciplining employees for disclosing their salary, wages or benefits. Our Platform, Part I, requires us to “minimize business regulations.” This bill adds more regulation, causing further government intrusion into business management practices.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SB 325-FN-L, relative to oil spill preparedness and response. **OTP. Vote 12-5.**

HRA Analysis: RSA 146-A concerns clean-up and liability after oil spills, whether on land, surface or ground water, all funded by a one-eighth cent per gallon tax on oil imported to the state. SB 325 updates this chapter in several ways:

- It eliminates the requirement to annually train and equip the Piscataqua River Cooperative.
- Eliminates an obsolete reference to RSA 21-P:20.
- Requires oil pipeline operators to submit a spill response plan every five years.

There is only one oil pipeline in the state. It goes from Maine to Canada, and as such does not pay the spill tax. The requirement that the plan be reviewed is costly (experts needed) and unnecessary because the federal DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration already requires and reviews the same spill plan. We have better ways to spend the taxpayer's money.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP. If the question is divided oppose OTP on parts 4 & 5.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

SB 245-FN, (New Title) relative to the siting of energy facilities. **OTP/A. Vote 16-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill restructures the site evaluation committee (SEC), which approves major energy facilities. The administration of the SEC would be funded by a tax or fee to be named later, starting with a million dollar loan from the renewable energy fund. It violates every principle of sound budgeting to set up a government structure and *then* look for a way to pay for it. As the Platform reiterates, "low taxes are the result of low spending." The restructuring itself is probably sound, but the committee had insufficient time to verify that it would be an improvement in government efficiency.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 296, relative to preferences for veterans and disabled veterans in public employment. **OTP. Vote 13-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a new, more detailed preference for veterans in public employment. The Platform, Part II, urges us to "respect New Hampshire's honored veterans;" but the Constitution, Part 1, Article 10 begins: "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" prohibits preferences. If you consider veterans a "class of men", you can't support this bill.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 375, a committee to study a flood mitigation fund for private property owners. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 9-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a committee to study "the creation of a flood mitigation fund for private property owners." The majority amendment adds "and municipal" after "private." This is unnecessary because "flood mitigation fund" is another way of saying "flood insurance" and insurance is a normal function of the private sector. Insurance efficiently spreads shared costs among those at risk. Our platform wisely says we should "privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.