

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.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009

REGULAR CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 77, relative to continuing education requirements for licensed architects.

HRA Review: This bill would introduce into New Hampshire a requirement of documenting formal continuing education for licensed architects. The testimony indicated that the reasoning was to be compatible with other states, which usually have such requirements. The bill is not merely flawed as a solution looking for a problem; the proposed change is a violation of Section VI of the 2009-2010 Republican Party Platform, which commits our party to “[w]orking to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses.” Regulating business without a clear need premised on a desire to be like most other states is over-regulation of business.

HRA: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

FINANCE

HB 30-FN-A-L, requiring operating budget changes for fiscal year 2009.

HRA Review: The NH Republican Party platform promotes keeping state government lean to minimize its burden on taxpayers and business. In fact we have specifically committed ourselves to [s]upport cutting or eliminating taxes which inhibit enterprise, earnings and savings and investment...” (Section VII). This bill, however, in the most generous light, cannot be seen as a serious attempt to balance the budget or bring spending in line with reality. Our party should be – and would be – the first to support the \$50-100 million in spending cuts that will be necessary in coming weeks, but this bill simply allows us to think we are doing something when, in fact, we are not. To that extent alone, it does more harm than good. But it is further flawed.

This bill also is simply a legislative version of the old shell game of shifting funds from one account to another, so that we appear to be saving monies. For example, at a time when the highway fund is already \$8 million short for the year and projected to be \$16 million short come July, HB 30 would raid \$5 million from this fund. This transfer and most of the other seizure of monies from dedicated funds will simply result in increased fees later this session. Just wait. Proponents of this bill, when they realize the dedicated funds do not have enough monies to accomplish the tasks for which they were established, will simply tell us we have no other choice than to raise fees.

Even the reduction of \$700,000 from the legislative budget is not a serious attempt to cut spending. We are told that this will come out of an emergency account of \$5 million and that there will be no serious belt tightening in our own realm.

It appears the only real cut provide in HB 30 is the \$441,000 from the judicial branch. That will amount to real pain, but at a time our revenue shortfall is likely to exceed \$300 million for the current fiscal year, that is hardly enough. To the extent this bill deceives us into thinking we are seriously addressing a problem, it represents a most dangerous delaying tactic and is substantially out of line with the honest, transparent budgeting that is tradition of the Republican party in NH and a fundamental principle underlying our state party platform.

Our colleagues across the aisle should get down to the business of bringing their inflated budget in line with revenues. To the extent they merely seek to delay the real cuts that this will require, we cannot join them and remain true to the Republican Party platform.

HRA: Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

HB 122-FN, relative to funding sources for the commission on the status of women.

HRA Review: Gender inequality remain an issue that needs to be studied and addressed, but the continued existence of funding for a commission on the status of women, while there is no similar funding of a commission on the status of men, promotes, and does not resolve, issues of inequality. Moreover, such funding at a time of budgetary crisis certainly goes beyond meeting fundamental governmental needs. For the reasons that the funding that would be ended by this bill promotes inequality and is at variance with the responsible spending goals outlined in our party platform, Republicans should support this bill.

HRA: Oppose ITL, Support OTP.

Your Handy Guide for Thinking out of the Box

But how is ... legal plunder to be identified? Quite simply. See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime. Then abolish this law without delay, for it is not only an evil itself, but also it is a fertile source for further evils because it invites reprisals.

Frédéric Bastiat