

House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet

“TRUST BUT VERIFY”

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



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 REGULAR CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 139, relative to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Vote 18-0.

HRA Analysis: Too many of the collectivists in our environs, our children first are the concern of the state and, secondarily, the goals of parents are to be considered: the state's interests trump those of parents. It doesn't take a village to raise a child; it takes the child's parents. Rather than legislating, as this bill attempts, to get courts explaining why they are ignoring parental decisions, it ought to deny the courts that right.

HRA Recommendation: Support INTERIM STUDY as the way to kill a bad bill.

HB 180, creating an exception from the registration requirement for certain nonviolent offenders. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Vote 17-0.

HRA Analysis: Under this bill sexual abusers of children aged 13, 14 and 15 would not have to register as sex offenders. Let's hope that the interim study is directed to learning why someone would change the law to allow such abusers to hide amongst us.

HRA Recommendation: Support INTERIM STUDY as the way to kill a bad bill.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 299, prohibiting banks from requiring blood samples, fingerprints, and DNA samples in order to complete a banking transaction. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform affirms the fundamental rights of the people of New Hampshire, and being paid is certainly one of them.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

HB 366, relative to retail vehicle dealers. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 14-4.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform says we are "*Working to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses,*" and this bill's mandated facility size easily qualifies as over-regulation.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL.

HB 431-FN, requiring certain engine coolants and antifreeze to include an aversive agent so that they are rendered unpalatable. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-1.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform says we are "*Working to prevent over-regulation of business.*" Mandating a specific aversion agent, with no protection for manufacturers if it is ineffective or has other deleterious effects, is over-regulation. Let the market decide.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

HB 478-FN, relative to remotely readable devices and relative to the illegal use of a payment card scanning device or

reencoder. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: Our platform recognizes that there should be concern as to the privacy of individuals, but that recognition exists with regard to government action. [Article V, last sentence]. It does not require business to be subjected to new and intricate regulations to ensure privacy or that privacy be achieved by criminalizing obnoxious, but avoidable, commercial behavior. Nor should we restrict government from locating and tracking criminal and criminal activities in the manner of this bill without a substantial history of abuse of privacy by government by the use of remotely readable electronic devices, and not just on the theory that it could occur.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

HB 507-FN, relative to taxes, fees, and credits under the insurance laws. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: The amendment is an improvement, but this is another tax increase!

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

HB 561-FN, relative to insurance coverage for persons having deafness and hearing loss. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 9-7.**

HRA Analysis: Yet another health insurance mandate to make private insurance more expensive!

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL.

HB 569-FN, requiring insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-3.**

HRA Analysis: Yet another health insurance mandate to make private insurance more expensive! This one is even more insidious, as the minority blurb reports, because it blurs the line between therapy and education.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL.

HB 660-FN, relative to the life settlements act. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: Somehow, life settlements have not been regulated until now...

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL.

HB 661-FN, relative to family leave insurance. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, if passed, would set up a new entitlement program in the Department of Employment Security, paid by an "optional" assessment on the employers. The Platform says we are "*Working to provide an environment favorable to increasing the creation of private sector jobs,*" and this is exactly the opposite.

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study or ITL.

SB 193, relative to the interest rate on small loans and relative to the definition of lender for purposes of regulating such loans. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 9-7.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform says we are "*Working to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses,*" and this bill would eliminate small lenders while ignoring larger, federally regulated lenders having the exact same practices.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 47-FN, establishing a board to evaluate a sexual offender's likelihood of reoffending. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 15-1.**

HRA Analysis: It hardly seems necessary to establish a permanent and costly board to discover what can be learned by sorting a database on sexual offenders. However, a reading of the bill shows it goes beyond that to new regulations on residential restrictions on sexual offenders, individual evaluation of offenders and protocols on dissemination information of sexual offenders. More bureaucracy without any clear argument of necessity or goals by which success or failure can be judged. Our platform seeks a lean government and not one filled with ill-defined agencies.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 111, exempting tier I offenders from inclusion in the department of safety's public list of registered offenders. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: As with HB 180 under Children and Family Law, let's hope that the interim study is directed to learning why someone would change the law to allow such abusers to hide amongst us.

HRA Recommendation: Support INTERIM STUDY as the way to kill a bad bill.

HB 160, relative to physical force in defense of a person. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 11-5.**

HRA Analysis: Through the proposed amendment, this bill has been so perverted from its original intent by the establishment of a heightened scrutiny of defensive actions that it represents a step backward for liberty. Our platform recognizes personal responsibility as a “*primary means to reduce crime.*” [Article IX]. The amendment penalizes personal responsibility

HRA Recommendation: Oppose the Amendment; if Amendment fails, Support OTP; if Amendment passes, Oppose OTP/A

HB 523-FN, requiring DNA testing of all persons convicted of a felony. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: “[S]*afety and security for individual citizens*” is expressly a goal that our party has established in its platform. [Article IX]. DNA testing of convicted felons will certainly promote that goal.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB 665-FN, relative to driving under the influence of drugs. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 9-7.**

HRA Analysis: While we can debate whether the state has defined too many drugs as contraband, allowing drugs, legal or illegal, to impair the operation of a motor vehicle and thereby put innocents at risk of harm or death certainly is something that representatives of any party that has law and order as a goal [Platform, Article IX] ought to oppose. This bill makes clear that any drug-impaired operation is prohibited and deserves the support of those who believe that operating a motor vehicle carries with it the responsibility to do so in a safe manner.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

SB 205-FN, making various changes to the criminal statutes. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: Essentially this bill increases the monetary threshold for certain property crimes such as criminal mischief (destruction of property), theft, bad checks, fraudulent credit card use, etc. before they become Class A Misdemeanors or Felonies. Given the inflation we have had, and will have, from the use of fiat currency, these changes seem necessary.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

EDUCATION

HB 368, relative to annual goals in a home education program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 14-6.**

HRA Analysis: The collectivists really do hate the success of home schooling. It challenges their public employee unions, elitist sense of omnipotence, and desire to control all within their view. Bills such as this are the tools by which they will bring the same mediocrity to parental education of children that the statist professionals have brought to public elementary and secondary education.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

SB 59, relative to the renovation and replacement of school buildings. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 10-5.**

HRA Analysis: More state intrusion in local education. Our platform promotes local control of education. [Article XI]. This bill does not.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

ELECTION LAW

HB 341, relative to the date selected for the presidential primary election. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: Further strengthens our first in the nation primary. “*New Hampshire's First-in-the-Nation Presidential Primary must be preserved.*” [Platform, Article III.]

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB 626-FN, requiring valid photo identification to vote in person. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 14-2.**

HRA Analysis: “*Voting in NH must be done by NH resident citizens only. To prevent voter fraud, we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registration and voting.*”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Amendment; But if Passes, Support OTP/A

SB 157, relative to the procedure for listing candidates on election ballots and establishing a citizen-funded election task force. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 12-0.**

HRA Analysis: This Bill provides for random placement of candidates and parties on ballots and appears to do so without partisan advantage.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 652-FN, relative to the impact of demolition and construction projects on the environment. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would introduce a very expensive and unnecessary increased governmental intrusion into the already stressed construction industry. The NH GOP platform informs our constituents that we will be “*Working to prevent over-regulation of business.*” We can do so here by killing this bill.

HRA Recommendation: Support INTERIM STUDY or ITL.

HB 675-FN, requiring a refundable deposit on beverage containers. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 9-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is bad for business and unnecessary. It is a poster child for overregulation of business and life in general.

HRA Recommendation: Support INTERIM STUDY, if Interim Study Fails, Support ITL

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 401-FN, relative to the membership of the retirement system board of trustees. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-6.**

HRA Analysis: This bill will improve the management of the NH Retirement System by reducing the influence of plan beneficiaries. This improvement will result in greater efficiencies with a goal of reducing government spending. Low taxes are the result of low spending and our platform supports low taxes and spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

HB 410, relative to the licensing of alcohol and drug counselors. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 17-0.**

HRA Analysis: the Platform, Section XIII, says we “*support efforts for higher quality health care and better access to health care,*” and this bill is a step in that direction.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

HB 673-FN, relative to withdrawal of political subdivisions from the New Hampshire retirement system. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-6.**

HRA Analysis: No constitutional or platform issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

FINANCE

HB 682-FN, relative to court security and court security officers. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 14-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would have cost nearly 8 million dollars over the course of two years. While there might be some benefit in having county sheriffs begin to be responsible for court security, there is also a significant downside in cost. Div I looked long and hard at the costs involved. We finally believed that the costs might even be under-stated. In addition to all the training our sheriffs already get, they will receive \$195,000 each year for additional training --- this on top of the \$8 million cost for two years

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

JUDICIARY

HB 50, repealing the law relative to screening panels for medical injury claims. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 18-1.**

HRA Analysis: Only with medical malpractice suits, is the plaintiff required to have a full evidentiary trial before a three-person panel prior to proceeding to a full jury trial. Article 14 of the Constitution mandates that legal remedies be prompt. A full evidentiary trial before a panel is costly and time consuming. This bill amended the law so as to allow for the panel hearing to be by offers-of-proof rather than full trials. Medical reports and expert opinions can be provided without the need for experts to be present. This is the same methodology utilized in other states. This slight change in the procedure will save time and money for the courts and all parties. It keeps the panel law in effect but makes the procedure less costly.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

HB 191, relative to liability of a landowner giving permission to ride bicycles on his or her property. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 13-6.**

HRA Analysis: Currently RSA 212:34 gives land owner immunity from suit for 13 recreational activities conducted on the owners land with permission. This bill adds one more category, Bicycling. The purpose of the statute is to encourage recreational activities on private property.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB 219, relative to hearings for incapacitated persons admitted to state institutions by their guardians. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-6.**

HRA Analysis: The purpose of this bill is to shorten the time between a non-voluntary State Hospital commitment of a ward under guardianship, and a commitment hearing requested by the ward. There was only one instance, under current law, where a ward requested a commitment hearing and the hearing was not promptly provided. This occurred when the ward caused his own delay as a result of firing three of his court appointed attorneys. Individual freedom is prized under our platform, but this bill is more of a feel-good effort. It does nothing more than shorten the notice times without offering any penalties for missing dates. The one positive element to the bill is that it provides for all commitment hearings to take place in Concord at the State Hospital, thus allowing for greater efficiencies.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

HB 304, relative to death with dignity for certain persons suffering from a terminal condition. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: This is a technically and philosophically flawed bill. It authorizes a physician to prescribe lethal medication to a terminally ill patient or even one who is merely depressed as a result of his/her illness. Once the medication is prescribed, the physician has no further duties or responsibilities; the patient is left to his/her own resources as to taking the fatal pills or abandoning the medication. There are no safeguards to protect the patient or for the proper disposal of fatal pills not utilized. The bill requires no physician supervision. Currently all citizens have the power and ability to choose the time, place and method of death, but when government legislates suicide it promotes the process. Life is precious. Interim study gives this bill the dignified death it does not deserve, but a deserved death nonetheless

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL; if Fails, Support Interim Study, But Oppose OTP,

HB 379, exempting certain meetings concerning collective bargaining from the right-to-know law. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill was sponsored by one community, Nashua. Nashua requested that strategy meetings relating to collective bargaining be exempt from the Right to Know Law. While secrete strategy meeting will make the process easier, it is contrary to NH Const. Part 1, Art. 8, that government should be open, accessible and responsive. The minority feels that Nashua has not shown that the current process is sufficiently restrictive to allow for government behind closed doors.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, vote ITL

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 108, establishing an employers' private right of action to enforce the payment of workers' compensation coverage. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: Our platform recognizes that frivolous lawsuits are burdensome to our legal system, a detriment to the New Hampshire economy, and an abuse of the judicial process. This bill allows employers to file civil action in court against other employers who they believe (without proof) are misclassifying employees. Enforcement of labor law is the job of the Department of Labor, not private employers.

HRA Recommendation: Support REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY or INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE (either way will kill this bill this year)

HB 133, requiring employers to report certain information regarding outsourcing to the department of labor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: Our platform calls for preventing over-regulation of business. This bill adds yet another reporting requirement on certain businesses (even if they haven't been outsourcing), without knowledge of whether the data collected will be for or against businesses in the future.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

HB 271, relative to relevant information in a workers' compensation claim. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-6.**

HRA Analysis: Our platform supports the privacy of individuals. This bill was filed for an isolated incident where personal information was mistakenly released. While the intent of the bill was noble, the end result was overly punitive to one segment of the industry, while not holding others responsible for their part of the process. In this regard, the bill is not ready for prime time.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE or REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY

HB 662-FN, relative to paid sick leave for employees. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 9-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is gross over-regulation of business, with the state telling businesses what they must offer as sick-time benefits to their employees. This is counter to our platform.

HRA Recommendation: Support INTERIM STUDY or INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE (either way will kill this bill this year)

LOCAL AND REGULATED REVENUES

HB 484, relative to the definition of charitable organizations for raffles and games of chance. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 12-6.**

HRA Analysis: No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

HB 487, allowing municipalities to adopt a property tax exemption for compliance with green building standards. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 10-8.**

HRA Analysis: Although the Platform urges us to “Encourage the use and private development of renewable energies,” having a statute that the committee admits is liable to unintended consequences will not do that efficiently nor effectively.

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study

HB 630-FN-A, relative to live racing in New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 15-2.**

HRA Analysis: No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 646-FN-L, relative to county and state obligations for costs for nursing care and services, and for court orders for children services. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-3.**

HRA Analysis: No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 218-FN, relative to the state park fund. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 15-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill rectifies the differences in how the State Park Fund operates in actuality versus what was conceived under statute. No Constitution or Platform issues here.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

HB 222, relative to fill and dredge permits in wetlands. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-9.**

HRA Analysis: The Chapter Laws of 2008 established a commission to study land development regulations and the effects of land development within upland areas that may affect wetlands and surface water of the state. The commission is made up of both regulators and stakeholders. They have spent much of a year working to develop a fair regulation concerning the affects on wetlands of development in adjoining uplands. They look to complete their effort in late 2010. Over the objections of most members of the commission, the RR&D Committee voted to impose their own regulation embodied in HB222. The Department of Environmental Services, the supposed “beneficiary” of this bill, opposed it and has called it a “lawyers dream.” It is opposed by the Department of Transportation and the New Hampshire Municipal Association. A leading proponent of the bill is the Conservation Law Foundation who many may have heard of concerning the delays to the Rte 93 construction. Whereas the GOP Platform states that we will work “to prevent over-regulation.” In addition, the platform “Recognizes that frivolous lawsuits are burdensome to our legal system, a detriment to the New Hampshire economy, and an abuse of the judicial process.” This bill is at best premature and at its worst a litigation nightmare.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OPT/A, then Support ITL

HB 558-FN, establishing procedures for leasing state parks for use by private entities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill started out as a device to prevent the leasing of Cannon Mountain Ski area and morphed into a procedure to provide enough red tape and interference to possibly prevent the leasing of any state park as the state park system struggles to make itself more efficient. For example, for every lease there would be a committee formed (with local participation) that would hold hearings and exist for the life of the lease. In addition, surrounding towns would get some of the proceeds from the lease and the attorney general could supply them a lawyer if they felt they deserved a bigger piece of the pie! The NHGOP Platform recognizes that “Our parks...are valuable assets.” To manage them other than for the benefit of ALL New Hampshire residents is clearly wrong.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL

HB 681-FN, relative to aquatic resource compensatory mitigation. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 14-6.**

HRA Analysis: In order to develop land on which there may be wetlands, a developer is required to mitigate the wetland damage by purchasing other wetlands, or creating wetlands in the area, to compensate. There is now the option to deposit the money that would have gone to local mitigation into a fund that would allow for purchase of more significant acreages in the future. This is a good thing. However, this bill would increase the administrative fee to participate in the fund from 5% to 20% of the monies donated. The DES states that this surcharge is because federal funding to administer the fund is ending and this would be the amount necessary to pay for 2 people. It should be noted that the RR&D Committee defeated an amendment that would have taken the funding from the fund itself and not as a surcharge or administrative fee. The NHGOP Platform is replete with admonitions concerning excessive fees and taxation.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 213-FN, requiring the bureau of emergency communications to develop and maintain a statewide emergency notification system. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 17-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is to set up a reverse 911 notification system. The money has already been collected per federal requirement (E-911 surcharge) and can only be spent on E-911 and this system qualifies. Cell phone users can opt in if they choose. The state party platform notes that, "*The New Hampshire Advantage cannot survive without safety and security for individual citizens.*" [Article IX.] This legislation will promote safety and security.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

TRANSPORTATION

HB 571-FN, relative to limited driving privileges for certain persons whose licenses have been revoked or suspended and relative to DWI convictions. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-3.**

HRA Analysis: The effort was to allow those with a first time offense to continue to drive to and from work in order to keep them employed and off of government support programs. There are issues with the language that create a problem for police to enforce the policies intended in the bill, those issues need to be addressed.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 579-FN, establishing motor vehicle learners' permits and relative to youth operators' licenses. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 8-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires learning drivers to pay an additional fee to sit for a written exam before they are allowed to start their driving hours with a parent or guardian. The bill however fails to truly address youth driver issues. There are no accidents to date that could be cited for the committee involving learning drivers. Teenagers who are licensed do have a higher incident of accidents, but that issue is best addressed by increasing the driving time requirements, as done last session, and to ensure more hours of practice that included night driving.

This bill also creates a new administration in the DMV with new employees hired to handle this additional testing estimated to cost 1 Million Dollars in the first year with increases each year due to employee salaries and benefits. The estimated revenue from the new fee is \$600,000 per year, leaving a budget deficit each year of operation.

This creates an unfair hardship on parents by the cost of the first year of driving from \$50 for licensing to \$70 in addition to driver's education instruction.

The bill is opposed by the Driver's Educators Association. Current New Hampshire law requires youth drivers who wish to have a license at the age of 16 to complete 40 hours of driving with 10 hours at night, driver's education classes, an eye exam, a written test, and a driving test. Having 2 written exams is a waste of the taxpayer dollars that will have to cover the estimated \$400,000 short fall for the first year alone.

Due to the increase in the size of government, increase on taxation and fees to citizens the HRA opposes this bill

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA; Support ITL

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 597-FN-A-L, revising the property tax relief program in order to cap education tax payments at one percent of adjusted gross income. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform states that we "*Support initiatives that lower property taxes for those in need,*" but this bill would only offset the state education tax, which is the smallest element of the property tax. It would complicate the tax relief program while being

less effective.

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study or ITL.

HB 642-FN-A-L, establishing a flat rate education income tax and relative to the statewide enhanced education tax and certain other taxes. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 16-1.**

HRA Analysis: We oppose income taxes.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 656-FN-L, relative to collection of the education property tax and establishing a program to rebate certain excessive property tax payments of eligible taxpayers. **MAJORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, creates a new centralized bureaucracy to collect the state education tax *at the same rate it's now collected*. It looks like a way to prepare for another statewide tax ... while the Platform recommends "*Maintaining a locally controlled tax system*".

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study or ITL.

SB 44, establishing a commission to review all fees charged by the department of environmental services. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform states that we recommend "*Keeping state government lean to minimize its burden on taxpayers and businesses*". Whether or not this commission would be a better way to do so is not obvious.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

“Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.”

~ Plato