

# 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, JUNE 26 Committees of Conference

**SB 35**, relative to the master jury list.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes technical changes to the master jury list to support new technology, and maintains all established privacy rights. The Platform, Part 2, states we “protect the privacy of individuals.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**SB 48**, relative to school performance and accountability.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill changes school performance language to agree with Common Core, the latest federal education initiative. The Platform, part IV, states we “promote local control of education policy.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose.**

**SB 75**, relative to games of chance.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes technical corrections to the charitable gaming laws, generally to improve the operation of charitable games. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**SB 119-FN-A**, directing the joint legislative historical committee to study flag restoration and preservation.

**HRA Analysis:** No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**SB 135**, relative to the regulation of the practice of genetic counseling.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds yet another licensed profession, for the benefit of the professional organizations who find it easier to lobby the legislature than to educate other medical professionals. The Platform, Part I, reminds us to “minimize business regulations, permits, licenses, and paperwork.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose.**

**SB 148-FN**, relative to electric renewable portfolio standards.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill duplicates HB542, as far as portfolio standards go, and adds a limited ability for health insurers to modify their community ratings. The Platform, Part III, calls on us to “oppose the implementation of Obamacare in New Hampshire.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose.**

**SB 157-FN**, establishing a New Hampshire disaster relief fund.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill consolidates two existing dedicated funds into one and establishes a mechanism for disbursement of disaster relief. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**SB 188-FN**, relative to municipally-owned utilities.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill clarifies that municipal utilities, for purposes of who pays for relocation during and

after road work, includes corporations owned by municipalities, ie Pennichuck. The Constitution, article 28-a, forbids the state to downshift costs to municipalities.

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**SB 189-FN**, relative to the licensure of fuel gas fitters and plumbers by a mechanical licensing board within the department of safety and transferring regulation of plumbers to the mechanical licensing board.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill consolidates this regulatory structure and decreases the training required for a gas fitter's license; it also includes protection for homeowners and landlords to continue to do some plumbing without a license. The Platform, Part I, states we should "remove barriers to apprenticeships" and "minimize business regulations."

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 1-A**, making appropriations for the the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

**HRA Analysis:** It's the budget. Overall, this is as good a budget as we could realistically hope for given the composition of the House and the Governor's office. It doesn't raise any taxes, but it spends does spend every dime that will be coming in from the taxes we have now. Still, it's less than the 2009/2010 budget.

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 2-FN-A-L**, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

**HRA Analysis:** HB2 is the companion bill to the state budget, which implements related law changes. For the most part the House acceded to the Senate's position, especially in the important area of Medicaid. The final version does not expand eligibility, as the Governor and House Democrats wanted, but it does set up three study commissions related to Medicaid: one on expanded eligibility, one on the hospital bed tax (MET) and one on long-term care of the elderly. While the budget, including HB2, does not raise any tax, the Senate inadvertently left in a scheduled increase in the non-cigarette tobacco tax that the House had reduced. The higher rate (from existing law) is the one that will take effect.

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 25-FN-A**, making appropriations for capital improvements.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, borrows funds for maintenance and facility upgrades throughout the state. No constitutional or platform issues.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 124-FN**, relative to the determination of gainful occupation for a group II member receiving an accidental disability retirement allowance from the retirement system.

**HRA Analysis:** The Platform, Part II, calls for us to "ensure public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector." The current disability pension is better than most private sector offerings, providing 2/3 of pay, with cost of living increases, and not ending if the pensioner can work in a different job. Blindly allowing any amount of outside earnings after reaching minimum retirement age (45!) is even more generous.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose.**

**HB 142**, relative to teacher evaluation systems.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires school districts to establish teacher evaluations systems, but does not mandate a specific method. The Platform, Part II, reminds us to "justify expenditures against measurable benefits" and "reward employees who ... exceed their goals."

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 183**, relative to processing absentee ballots.

**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 220**, relative to the New Hampshire medal of honor.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill limits the recipients of the medal to New Hampshire residents killed in action and

otherwise appropriate for this honor. The Platform states “the utmost honor must be bestowed upon those willing to serve and sacrifice in the US military.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 224**, relative to the authority of the superintendent of a county correctional facility.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill clarifies the authority of the superintendent to release an inmate for various rehabilitative proceedings (a job, a volunteer job, home confinement). The Constitution part 1, article 18, reminds us “the true design of all punishments is to reform” and this may help.

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 242**, relative to child passenger restraint requirements.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill expands the scope of mandated child restraints to children up to eight years of age. The Platform, Part V, states we should “maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care ... of their children.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose.**

**HB 252**, consolidating the property appraisal division and the municipal services division of the department of revenue administration.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill consolidates several positions, improving efficiency and customer service as well. The Platform, Part 1, states we should “keep state government lean.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 253**, relative to limitations on sales by nano breweries for consumption on the premises.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows very small brewers more flexibility in their operations. The Platform, Part I, states we should “minimize business regulations.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 260-FN**, relative to the children in need of services (CHINS) program.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, expands the scope of various truancy programs, and limits the use of the Sununu Youth Center to dangerous children, which has the possibility of saving the state a lot of money by not keeping truants, petty criminals, and the mentally ill in this expensive juvenile jail. The Platform, Part V, states we should “maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care ... of their children;” but also, in Part I, “justify expenditures against measurable benefits.”

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 295-FN**, requiring criminal background checks for volunteers and employees at youth skill camps.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill not only requires a new \$25 fee on skill camps (over and above any costs to obtain the background checks), but also increases the fee for youth camps from \$50 to \$200, creating a new dedicated fund in the process. Camps can, and usually do, perform background checks on their staff without a state mandate. As the Platform states, we should “always limit spending and growth of government.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose.**

**HB 385**, licensure of, and the performance of electrical work by, elevator and accessibility lift mechanics.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill clarifies the requirements for an elevator mechanic and confirms that they do not need electricians' licenses. The Platform, Part I, states we should “limit business regulations, permits, licenses.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 472**, relative to residential units in rooming houses.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill gives tenancy status to occupants of rooming houses who reside there for 90 days or longer, eliminating the ability of landlords to restart the clock by moving the occupant to another unit. By conferring tenancy status, this bill increases regulations and restrictions on rooming house landlords. The Platform, Part I, says we should “minimize business regulations.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose.**

**HB 518**, specifying that training for active duty is service for purposes of the veterans' tax credit.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill expands the veterans' property tax credit to those who spent a minimum of 90 days, including training, in service during a "qualifying war." The Platform, Part III, states we should "respect New Hampshire's honored veterans by ensuring they receive the benefits they have rightfully earned."

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 524**, national guard facilities, the national guard scholarship fund, and the state active duty death benefit.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill simplifies the procedure for the Adjutant General to contract for facilities maintenance, and limits benefit extensions for state employees to those on **active** duty in the national guard, not annual training. The Platform, Part I, states we should "keep state government lean" and part II, that "public employee benefits ... do not exceed those of the private sector."

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 542**, relative to electric renewable portfolio standards.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, clarifies that VoIP service is not regulated as phone service. The Platform, Part I, states we should "minimize business regulations."

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 546**, relative to medical examinations under workers' compensation.

**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 573-FN**, relative to the use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

**HRA Analysis:** On the one hand, the Platform, Part III, states we "support the moral and ethical right of informed consent with regard to all medical treatment"; on the other, Part I states "keep government lean." This bill creates a new bureaucracy to regulate medical marijuana.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 594-FN**, relative to the general consumer credit laws of the state.

**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 595-FN**, relative to photo identification of voters.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill expands the list of allowable IDs, allows election officials to accept any they like, and eliminates the requirement to photograph people registering without an ID. The Platform, Part VI, states "we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registering and voting."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose.**

**HB 599-FN**, relative to establishing a single liquor commissioner.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill eliminates two commissioners, and requires the one to be qualified. The Senate amendment ensures a smooth, cost effective transition. The platform, Part I, states we should "keep state government lean."

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 635**, a committee to study state rest areas and the solicitation of proposals for naming rights to rest areas.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, directs the two departments involved, DOT and DRED, to come up with a plan for selling sponsorships and naming rights to rest areas. This will produce voluntary, non-tax revenue, to provide a necessary service, and the Platform, Part II, reiterates that we "strongly oppose new taxes and fees."

**HRA Recommendation: Support.**

**HB 664-FN**, relative to the New Hampshire vaccine association.

**HRA Analysis:** This bill imposes a new mandate on self-insured entities to pay into the vaccine association, with a new \$5K fine for non-compliance. "The Platform, Part I, states we should "limit business regulations."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose.**