

NH 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 and values contained within the Republican Party Platform and the NH and Federal Constitutions including the principles of fiscal restraint, personal freedom and responsibility, small government, free enterprise and strong family values.



“TRUST BUT VERIFY”

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 SPECIAL ORDER WAYS AND MEANS

HB 1445-FN-A-L, eliminating the meals and rooms tax on campsites. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 10-9.**

HRA Analysis: Republicans oppose new taxes and welcome the reduction of taxes, particularly those adopted through stealth and generally imposed on families and those who have the least ability to pay. Our constituents would welcome and deserve an elimination of the tent tax.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 1244, relative to insurance fraud. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 11-5.**

HRA Analysis: The platform support law and order, and this bill would be a step backward in preventing fraud.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 1444-FN, allowing the purchase of drugs from Canada. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 12-4.**

HRA Analysis: This is from the HRA legislative agenda. The Platform, Part XIII, states, “*We support efforts for higher quality health care and better access to health care and prescription drugs, while reducing costs of health care.*”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP.

HB 1502, relative to costs associated with cashing payroll checks. **ITL Vote 10-5.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform directs that we should avoid over-regulation of business.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 1146, eliminating requirements for additional breath tests for blood alcohol content. **OTP Vote 18-0.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform supports individual liberties, and this change would further protect the rights of our citizens.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

HB 1628, establishing guidelines for neighborhood notification upon release of sexual offenders. **OTP Vote 16-3.**

HRA Analysis: Protection of our citizens and especially our children is a basic plank in our platform.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

EDUCATION

HB 1400, requiring all colleges and universities to report crimes to the local law enforcement agency. **OTP/A Vote 19-1.**

HRA Analysis: While well intended, this bill is seriously flawed, by tilting the scales of justice in favor of local police and against college and University students. This bill further is unnecessary because Memoranda of Understanding exists between local police and colleges already and it attempts to remove the workable discretion built into those arrangements. Few colleges and local police forces – perhaps only in one instance – have any problem and we should not disrupt all other arrangements to address that unique situation.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

HB 1411, requiring notice of the decision against rehiring is provided to educational support personnel. **Reported**

Without Recommendation:

HRA Analysis: This bill would limit the flexibility of school districts by guaranteeing employment of support personnel prior to the school districts workload analysis of the coming school year. These are tax dollars and should not be earmarked to guarantee public employment in advance of the determination that public service is needed.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL; Oppose OTP.

BILLS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

(PRIOR SESSION DAY)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

CACR 29, relating to parental rights. Providing that the state shall not abridge the responsibility of parents for the health, education, and welfare of their children. **ITL. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: Our party's platform states that in order "[t]o protect marriages and families as the central core in society for enhancing morality, integrity, responsibility and concern for others, we ... [o]ppose actions that inhibit and/or supplant the role of parents in the care and upbringing of children." [Platform, Art. VIII.] CACR 29 would provide the basis to oppose the increasingly common usurpation of parents by government. Children do not belong to Hilary Clinton's "village"; they are members of families and those families need constitutional protection from the interventionist policies of governmental elites and do-gooders.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 1647-FN, relative to residency restrictions for certain sexual offenders and relative to requiring persons convicted of first or second degree homicide against a child to register for life. **ITL. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: Our party commits that Republicans will work to "[e]stablish strict laws to protect our children from sexual predators" [Platform, Art. IX.] This concern extends to protect children from child murders.

HRA Recommendation: Support Rep. Wendleboe Amendment; Support OTP/A (with Wendleboe Amendment) otherwise Oppose OTP and Support ITL.

HB 1653-FN, decriminalizing possession of one quarter of an ounce or less of marijuana. **OTP/A. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: To many Republicans, concerns as to liberty and law and order, both as articulated in our party's platform, conflict when it comes to federal laws control the use of marijuana.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

EDUCATION

HB 1412, requiring due process for educational support personnel. **ITL. Vote 20-0.**

HRA Analysis: The platform supports local control, and this bill would take away resource management flexibility from local schools.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 1422, establishing a committee to study the establishment of a department of natural resources.

OTP/A. Vote 17-0.

HRA Analysis: The Platform, Section XII, supports preservation and wise use of the state's natural resources. A department of natural resources would be expected to do so more effectively than the current arrangement, and a committee is a reasonable way to investigate the cost effectiveness of such an arrangement.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

FINANCE

HB 1569-FN, relative to the salaries of certain unclassified positions. **OTP/A. Vote 22-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill on employee classification adjusts the grades to be more in line with the prevailing salaries. This bill lowers spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

HB 1304, extending the task force on homeless teenagers and the commission to study alternate fuel vehicles. **OTP/A. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is merely extending the time for several commissions to complete their work.

HRA Recommendation: No platform issue.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 1194, prohibiting smoking on beaches at state parks. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 16-1.**

HRA Analysis: The nanny state marches forward. We do not need to study how it works in particular settings. We need to eliminate it.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Interim Study; Support ITL.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS

HB 1610-FN, establishing a New Hampshire commission on Native American affairs and recognizing the Abenaki and other American Indian residents as a minority population in the state of New Hampshire.

OTP/A. Vote 17-0.

HRA Analysis: In their effort to Balkanize America into "grievance" groups in order to cobble a voting majority out of minority groups dependent on the government (read, "Democrats") for favors, the Democrats do not mind that their efforts divide our country; they do not even mind ignoring the present and historical absence of indigenous American Indian tribes in our State. Instead, they will go so far, as they do here, to invent an aggrieved minority group, invent problems faced by that group, and then enact a process to seek governmental solutions for those problems.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support ITL.

TRANSPORTATION

HB 1465-FN-A, establishing firefighter number plates. **ITL Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates special number plates plate with additional state expense without the certainty of recouping the expense. It also requires those who purchase them to return them should they no longer be firefighters, without a refund, and creating a local burden on fire departments to report the change in status as well. This increase the job of government.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

REGULAR CALENDAR CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 1216, relative to the amount of the self-support reserve in child support cases. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 9-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill promotes equity in the divorce courts by ensuring that the obligor (the person paying child support) has enough money to support himself or herself. The amount is increased from a federal guideline (poverty) to an amount specific to New Hampshire (115% of Federal poverty guideline) based upon a study commissioned by the State.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, SUPPORT OTP.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 1180, relative to the use of clotheslines. **ITL. Vote 13-4.**

HRA Analysis: We do not need further regulation of private property rights and relationships.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 1234, relative to disclosure of property rights and responsibilities in the sale of shorefront property. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 13-3.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform, Section X, states we “Affirm that private property rights are fundamental”, but the Shoreline Protection requirements affect what one can do with one's property if it happens to have water frontage. Letting property buyers know what they are getting in for before buying seems appropriate.

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study.

HB 1252, relative to the duration of medical payments coverage under motor vehicle liability policies. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 9-7.**

HRA Analysis: Yet another insurance mandate, opposed by the Platform Section VI.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.

HB 1392-FN, requiring insurance companies to report to the insurance department the number of claims denied. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 10-6.**

HRA Analysis: Yet another insurance mandate, opposed by the Platform Section VI.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 1486, prohibiting the mandating of fire sprinkler systems in certain dwellings. **OTP/A. Vote 15-3.**

HRA Analysis: Personal liberty concerns underlying the GOP platform clearly prohibit over-regulation of people's lives. This bill prevents the fire marshal from requiring residential sprinklers, prevents towns from mandating them, and creates a study committee to look at other issues with sprinklers.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

HB 1488-FN, relative to New Hampshire HealthFirst. **OTP. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: Yet another insurance mandate, opposed by the Platform Section VI.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL.

HB 1605-FN, requiring businesses to disclose the terms and conditions of any continuing or automatic obligation as part of the sale. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 12-6.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform Section VI, states that we are “Working to prevent over-regulation of business”, and this qualifies.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 1639-FN-L, relative to the tethering of dogs. **ITL. Vote 13-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is intrusive and poorly written, having unintended consequences for owners of sled dog teams and others.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

EDUCATION

HB 1414, relative to teacher evaluations. **MAJORITY: INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 12-8.**

HRA Analysis: This is yet another attempt to subvert local control by mandating teacher evaluation standards by established outside the school district and by persons unaware of local requirement standards. It is a solution looking for a problem.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Interim Study; Support ITL.

HB 1523, revising the pupil safety and violence prevention act. **OTP/A. Vote 19-1.**

HRA Analysis: This is further expansion of the “Nanny State” philosophy of making the educational system not only responsible for what they believe to be acceptable social behavior for our children, but also for parents by requiring them to undergo annual training. Not only does it expand reporting, investigation, documentation, and responses to incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation, and cyber bullying, it now directs the Department of Education to collect this data.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support ITL.

HB 1580, relative to home schooling. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 12-7.**

HRA Analysis: It is the fundamental right of parents to determine and direct the education of their children. This bill enables home educators to educate their children without adversarial government regulation. Passage of this bill will allow home educators to focus their energy on their children’s education rather than fighting continual legislative assaults on home schooling.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, SUPPORT OTP.

HR 21, urging the department of education to conduct a survey of New Hampshire educators. **OTP. Vote 14-6.**

HRA Analysis: No platform issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

ELECTION LAW

HB 1188, relative to nominating a political organization by nomination papers. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 8-6.**

HRA Analysis: The original bill was amended to allow anyone who collects 50 signatures, down from the current 150, to have his or her name placed on the ballot. This amendment had no public hearing and was not discussed with either the department of state or the office of the attorney general. Moreover, it was introduced just prior to the actual vote being taken.

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

HB 1264, relative to the definition of "party" for election purposes. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 11-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would reduce the thresholds for recognition of a political party and to have its candidates’ names printed on the general election ballot. The Republican Party is for “increased participation in the electoral process.” [Platform, Art. II.] We should study whether his bill would increase that participation.

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study.

HB 1528, relative to observing voter check-in. **OTP. Vote 13-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill does not prevent party poll checkers from carrying out their functions. Rather it merely ensures orderly elections.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

HB 1608, relative to general election candidates for offices that elect more than one person. **ITL. Vote 13-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill runs counter to earlier legislation passed to reduce the primacy effect by random letter selection on the ballots.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 1172, relative to the labeling of genetically modified seeds. **MAJORITY: INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 13-3.**

HRA Analysis: HRA analysis: No platform issues. All implications and the potential need for this type of legislation are not known at this time.

HRA Recommendation: Support INTERIM STUDY

HB 1299, establishing a committee to study enacting a moratorium on the sale and use of fertilizers containing phosphorus. **ITL. Vote 15-1.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform, Section XII supports preservation and wise use of the state's natural resources. However, this issue is likely better handled on a local basis v. a widespread ban and we have too many costly committees.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 1388, establishing a cause of action for farmers sustaining damage from the use of genetically modified seeds or plants. **MAJORITY: INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 11-5.**

HRA Analysis: There is no scientific proof that the use of genetically modified seeds – which has been occurring at least since the aboriginal occupants of Central America transformed a trial side grass into maize – is harmful. This Luddite legislation is unnecessary and reflective of the anti-business instincts of the Democrats. It violates the Party's commitment to avoid over-regulation of business.

HRA Recommendation: Support either Interim Study or ITL.

HB 1456, establishing a committee to study the use of pesticides, herbicides and their alternatives in residential neighborhoods, school properties, playgrounds and other places children congregate.

MAJORITY: INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 14-2.

HRA Analysis: This bill ignores the fact that the state and the federal government currently regulate all pesticides used in New Hampshire. The bill is predisposed to reach conclusions by consensus for putting a moratorium on pesticide use before the commencement of the study. Consensus is not scientific fact.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

FINANCE

HB 1355-FN, relative to certain Medicaid appropriations. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 20-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill restricts moving money out of a line item in the Department of Health and Human Services budget that is to pay for Medicare Provider services. As providers already take reduced payments, this ensures that those payments will be covered. Section XII of the Platform calls for higher quality health care and better access to care. In order to achieve this goal, providers must be paid for their services.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

HB 1506-FN-A-L, establishing a state aeronautical fund. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 20-2.**

HRA Analysis: The money for this is in the budget because it is a user fee / tax that is collected and deposited in the budget. They wish to raid this money and spend it elsewhere. We should pass this bill and spend the money for the purpose that it was collected. Section VI of the Platform states that we should create a supportive business climate. The aeronautics industry paid these fees with the expectation that they would be use to further the industry. They need to be placed in a separate account so they are available for the purpose.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Interim Study and Support OTP.

HB 1586-FN, relative to mandated benefits review. **MAJORITY: OTP. Vote 20-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill reestablishes the procedure to provide for a review of mandated benefits by the insurance department. This bill also repeals the mandated coverage for autologous bone marrow transplants. This examination would help keep only necessary treatments covered, keeping premiums lower. Section XIII of the platform calls for reducing costs in health insurance.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

SB 460-FN-A, relative to the lapse of certain legislative and judicial branch appropriations, budget reductions for the department of health and human services, and voluntary furloughs for judges. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. Vote 18-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows for several actions in support of the ongoing effort to control expenses and maximize revenues in the legislative and judicial branches and allows the departments of safety and administration to maximize the use of federal funds as they are received. As this bill reduces spending we should support it.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 1555, adding an exemption from immunization for conscientious beliefs. **MAJORITY: ITL.**

MINORITY: OTP. Vote 12-7.

HRA Analysis: This bill allows parents to make the decision if certain immunizations are in the best interest of their child and would give the parent the right to opt out. Section VIII of the platform supports the role of the parents in the care and upbringing of children.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL and Support OTP.

HB 1623, requiring certain patient identification for a pharmacist to dispense a schedule II or III controlled drug. **OTP. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires that patients seeking controlled drugs show an ID. We do not require this much to vote. This would certainly disenfranchise the "poor." Additionally if they do give it to you without an ID, they are going to write it down in your "permanent record." We do not have a major problem in this area and this is a very intimidating thing to do to our citizens. One may not have the ID on them when they go to pick up their prescription or perhaps they are picking up for a family member. This is in opposition to Section II of the Platform, "In touch with its citizens without interfering in their personal, daily lives."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP and Support ITL.

HB 1692, establishing a commission on primary care workforce issues. **OTP. Vote 12-6.**

HRA Analysis: This is creating a new 5-year long commission. Additionally this new commission has only one representative on it. They are given the ability to raise money and the bill calls for the planning & budget for a New Hampshire health profession workforce data center. This sounds like an expensive proposition to benefit what appears to be a mostly non-government commission. We should reject it on the increased spending issue.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP and Support ITL.

JUDICIARY

HB 1179, relative to municipal access to the enhanced 911 data base. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 15-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill was submitted by the town of New London. It requests that access to the 911 data base. A better bill, HB 213, has passed the House and makes this bill unnecessary. Section II of the Platform promotes limited government...without interfering in their personal lives. This bill gives out personal information on our citizens.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 1256, restricting medical injury claims subject to pretrial screening panel review to claims exceeding \$250,000. **ITL. Vote 10-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would allow medical malpractice claims under \$250,000.00 to by-pass the medical screening process. The majority believes that this bill would defeat the screening process and is untimely. Section XIII of the platform calls for reducing costs of health care, health insurance and medical malpractice insurance coverage and this bill if passed would most likely increase all of these.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 1336, relative to health care liability claims. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: Interim study provides an opportunity for medical providers and attorneys to work and evaluate matters such as tort reform, health care provider liability, statute of limitations modification for claims, and medical care and defensive medicine costs. Section XIII of the Platform supports efforts to keep quality high and reduce costs in healthcare.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; support Interim Study.

HB 1443, relative to Medicaid, statutory and other liens or subrogation claims for public assistance or medical expenses. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 11-4.**

HRA Analysis: When a government or private lien or a subrogation claim is asserted against an injured person's lawsuit recovery against a third party, it is appropriate that the expenses and costs of obtaining that recovery be shared among all those sharing in the recovery.

HRA Recommendation: No Platform Issue.

HB 1500, relative to excuse from jury service. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 12-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill was brought based on a citizen's experience relating to her request to be excused from jury service because she had minor children at home under her constant care. No platform issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

HB 1556, restricting courts from ordering counseling not covered by the parties' health insurance. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 10-8.**

HRA Analysis: No platform or constitutional issue was identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

HB 1564, relative to the regulation of attorneys by the supreme court and eliminating the requirement that the county attorney be a member of the New Hampshire bar. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to remove the requirements that county attorneys be members of the state bar association for election or appointment. Section X of the Platform calls for an independent and impartial judiciary. Forced membership for all attorneys in the state to the Bar reduces this.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL and Support OTP.

HB 1655-FN, relative to persons with mental illness and the corrections system. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 11-5.**

HRA Analysis: The purpose of the bill is to expedite the evaluation and reporting of mental illness of persons incarcerated or charged with a crime. While the intent of the sponsors is good the reduced time frame for evaluation and report to the court are likely to be unworkable. In addition, it may result in prisoners having charges dismissed and released from prison due to the time limits not being met. Section IX of the Platform calls for enforcing penalties against those who commit crimes. This bill would allow some to escape consequences for their actions. Additionally the department estimates increased costs if passed this bill is passed.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP and support ITL or interim study.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 1315-FN, relative to the employer's lien on damages and benefits recovered from third persons by employees who have received workers' compensation. **MAJORITY: OTP. MINORITY: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 8-3.**

HRA Analysis: When an employer's lien on damages and benefits is asserted against an injured person's lawsuit recovery against a third party, it is appropriate that the expenses and costs of obtaining that recovery be shared among all those sharing in the recovery.

HRA Recommendation: No Platform Issue.

HB 1370, requiring independent medical examination practitioners to file a report with the insurance department. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 8-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows the department of labor to collect data on independent medical examiners.

HRA Recommendation: No Platform Issue.

HB 1371, allowing recording of an examination by health care providers performing independent medical examinations. **OTP/A. Vote 10-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows a claimant to record the examination or have a witness present at Worker Comp. required examinations. This ensures that the examination and the reports match. Section X of the Platform states, "to serve the people's needs by expediting justice and ensuring fairness." This bill ensures that the claimant receives fairness.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

LOCAL AND REGULATED REVENUES

HB 1138, relative to the authority to expand municipal transportation improvement funds. **OTP. Vote 17-1.**

HRA Analysis: No Platform or constitutional issues.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

HB 1147, excluding value attributed to unexercised approvals in determining the market value of land for property tax purposes. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform Section VII, states seeks to avoid property assessments based on subjective factors; however, this bill would reduce local control.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

HB 1272, relative to expanding the community revitalization tax relief program to provide incentives for rehabilitating historic structures. **OTP/A. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform, Section VII, is "Supporting local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services". This bill allows, but does not require, a town to authorize tax relief for rehabilitating historic structures.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

HB 1345, relative to information for property tax assessments of commercial and industrial properties. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 12-3.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform Section VII, states, "Assessed value for the purpose of property taxation shall eliminate the subjective elements of value, such as view, and be determined on the basis of objective standards to determine the assessed land and building values". This bill actually requires submittal of income and expense data and creates a burden on the business.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Interim Study; support ITL.

HB 1380-FN, relative to assessing fees by zoning boards of adjustment. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 13-4.**

HRA Analysis: Per the Platform Section VII, "Republicans realize that low taxes are the result of low spending". This bill would grant ZBAs nearly unlimited fee assessment power.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.

HB 1583, relative to the property tax exemption for organizations with charitable activities. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform Section VII, states that we “Support initiatives that lower property taxes for those in need”. This bill narrows the definition of “charitable” organizations that receive property tax exemptions and so raise taxes on everyone else.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; support OTP.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1126, relative to the Hooksett police commission. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 11-6.**

HRA Analysis: Republicans believe in local control. Government is best when it operates at a local level where individual voters can more easily control it. Hooksett voters, and not the State, should decide the ideal size of the Hooksett police commission.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB 1212, relative to municipal charter statutes. **ITL. Vote 13-2.**

HRA Analysis: “The New Hampshire Constitution affirms that our government is founded upon the people’s consent ...” [Platform, Art. V.] Increasing the number of signatures to put an amendment on the ballot would unduly restrict the ability of the people to grant or withhold their consent.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB 1461, relative to the municipal regulation of the sale of martial arts weapons. **OTP/A. Vote 17-0.**

HRA Analysis: Our party recognizes that freedom and the resulting prosperity are founded on avoiding “over-regulation of business, particularly small business.” [Platform, Art. VI.] We also know that “self-control and personal responsibility [are] the primary means to reduce crime. [Platform, Art. IX]. Laws exists that control the sale of weapons to children. We do not need individual municipalities enacting a patchwork system of laws to protect children from making these purchases.

HRA Recommendation: Support Rep. Cunningham Amendment; Oppose OTP/A.

HB 1485, granting zoning and planning powers to Hampton Beach village district. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 14-4.**

HRA Analysis: Long ago zoning regulations departed from their original purposes of separating noxious uses of land from other uses. Rather, they have come to be a means to over-regulated and unnecessarily restrict land development and business competition. They are anti-liberty. Government should regulate only to increase competition and not to limit it. Granting subsets of municipalities this regulatory authority would be leading us in the wrong direction.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 1186, prohibiting smoking within certain areas of New Hampshire state parks and historic sites.

MAJORITY: INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 11-6.

HRA Analysis: The nanny state is out of control. We do not need to study how the nanny state works in particular settings. We need to eliminate it.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Interim Study; Support ITL.

HB 1421-FN, establishing regional advisory councils in the state park system. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP/A. Vote 15-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would add another layer of bureaucracy even in the context of no public demand and no demonstrated need. Republicans believe in limited government. [Platform, Art. I.] HB 1421 is premised on an approach that assumes the more government we have, the better.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1218, requiring a report of payments to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 10-6.**

HRA Analysis: Perhaps the most corrupt organization on the national scene aside from crime syndicates is ACORN, although some others are giving it a run of its (or our) money. "We believe in the citizens' right to access to government information ..." [Platform, Art. V.] We, as legislators and citizens, should know how funds taken from us by government are being used to support ACORN.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP.

HB 1343, establishing a joint committee on the constitutionality of acts, orders, laws, statutes, regulations, and rules of the government of the United States of America in order to protect state sovereignty. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: Republicans recognize and strongly support our federal system. We know that our central government however is not a national government, but rather a federal government vested only with limited powers and denied any implied powers. The powers not delegated "by the [federal] Constitution, nor prohibited to it by the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." [Platform, Art. V, quoting the Tenth Amendment to federal constitution.] The current politics of the majority party have departed from this basic understanding. We should study how far we have departed from this American ideal and what it takes to come back.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP.

HCR 23, calling on Congress to audit the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) funding. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP.**

Vote 9-6.

HRA Analysis: As expressed in the analysis of HB 1343, we need to know more as to how ACORN has corrupted our politics and governance. Congress should protect the system from the corruption of ACORN and the first step would be to investigate and document how ACORN is using state and federal funds to carry out its illegal actions.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP.

HCR 25, articulating the rights of the state of New Hampshire and of the several states of the United States. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP Vote 10-6.**

HRA Analysis: Republicans realize the dangers of an unrestrained national government using its taxing and borrowing power to raise unprecedented funds that are being used to destroy the federalism that was intended by the founders to be a check on infringement on individual liberties. We "[o]ppose[] the enactment of federal programs that contradict the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution." [Platform, Art. V.] We need to inform Congress that New Hampshire knows of, and protests, the violations of our sovereignty.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP.

TRANSPORTATION

HB 1143, establishing an exemption from driver restrictions on persons 16 to 18 traveling to and from school-sponsored events. **OTP/A. Vote 8-6.**

HRA Analysis: No platform or constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

HB 1192, relative to obstructions on motor vehicle windows. **OTP. Vote 10-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill promotes responsive and responsible government and allows personal property rights to be upheld.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

HB 1620-FN-A, establishing state park number plates. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 10-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would allow voluntary contributions to support our park system. Republicans are the original conservationists. We should support voluntary efforts to maintain our state parks.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP.

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 1607-FN-A, relative to the reasonable compensation deduction under the business profits tax.

MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 11-8.

HRA Analysis: “[L]ow taxes are the result of low spending. [Republicans] believe that controlled spending and minimalizing taxes are the best way to protect the economic and civic well being of New Hampshire residents.” [Platform, Art. VII.] Democrats in New Hampshire appear to know only taxing, borrowing and spending; they cannot make the connection between telling people they are earning too much and those people not starting businesses and hiring new workers. Business investment is portable: it will ultimately favor the most favorable tax and regulatory environments. Already it is avoiding New Hampshire because we have become one of the least business-friendly states. This bill will ensure the availability of more nails in the coffin of small business in New Hampshire.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support ITL.

HB 1661-FN-A, making distributions from limited liability companies, partnerships, and associations subject to the interest and dividends tax only if they have transferable shares. **MAJORITY: INTERIM STUDY. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill presents the opportunity to blunt some of the current majority’s attacks on the New Hampshire Advantage and, specifically, New Hampshire’s small businesses. The 50+ new and increased taxes and fees this majority has imposed on our state have violated our party’s goal of avoiding high taxes and excessive spending, which we know are disincentive for economic growth. [Platform, Art. VII.]

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Interim Study; Support OTP.

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

- Lord Acton (1919)