

## 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.



“TRUST BUT VERIFY”

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11**

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

➤ **HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 81**, prohibiting smoking within 25 feet of playgrounds. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 12-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill comes from a fine tradition of bills that would slowly rob us of our freedom in service of a nanny-state ideology of good intentions. It seeks to criminalize what would be, at worse, discourteous behavior and is more often behavior that would affect no one else.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB 505**, waiving medical records fees for persons applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). **MAJORITY: ITL. Vote 9-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require private health care providers to give free copies of what could be voluminous medical records to private individuals, so those individuals could apply for government benefits. By requiring those providers to extend this free service, the bill would essentially impose a selective tax on those providers.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

➤ **JUDICIARY**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 171**, establishing a commission to evaluate mental health courts and establish standards for the operation of mental health courts. **MAJORITY: OTP. Vote 11-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** Both instituting a commission to study health courts and the goal of establishing health courts are unwarranted. The commission would divert scarce fiscal and state employee resources from more pressing needs at a time when, as the governor noted, the number of commissions should be reduced.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

➤ **LOCAL AND REGULATED REVENUES**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 155**, allowing municipalities to adopt a non-wartime veterans' property tax credit. **ITL Vote 16-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** We owe a sacred obligation, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, “to *care for him who shall have borne the battle for his widow and orphan.*” It is the horror of warfare and the incalculable benefits of freedom and safety that our warrior sons and daughters confer upon us in confronting armed and violent enemies in war that elevate our need to ensure their later comfort and well-being over the principle that taxes ought to be shared equally by all, so that all will control growth in government. As a community, we are grateful for others who serve us so honorably, including first responders, the police officer on the lonely midnight beat, caretakers of the infirmed, and non-wartime service personnel, but we reasonably draw a line between them and those who stood on the battlefield, as American soldiers, willing to give their lives for their country. This bill could substantially increase the burden on other taxpayers, many of whom have sacrificed for the community, as have non-wartime veterans. It would constitute an inappropriate shifting of the tax burden to them.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

## **SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 624-FN-A**, establishing a waiver option for live-racing tracks. **ITL Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow for expanded gambling, which our party platform opposes.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

### ➤ **MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**HB 321**, delaying the effective date of 2008 SB 342-FN-LOCAL, relative to workforce housing. **MAJORITY: OTPA. Vote 8-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** SB 342 from the 2008 session violated local control through its extensive and costly requirement relative to what is referred to by advocates of government-directed development as “workforce housing.” While this concept and the requirements of SB 342 should be abandoned entirely, delaying its implement until January 1, 2010 as specified in the amendment would be helpful. We should oppose the amendment (which changes the effective date in the bill from July 1, 2010 to January 1, 2010) and then oppose the bill.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose committee motion to amend; Oppose OTPA.

### ➤ **RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

## **SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 150-FN**, relative to removing invasive aquatic growth ITL. **Vote 9-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** Article 31, Part 1 of the New Hampshire Constitution states that “[t]he Legislature shall assemble for the redress of public grievances.” The bi-partisan minority believed that enough evidence was presented to raise the possibility of citizens being given the bureaucratic run-around. The minority also believed that justice would have been better served in having the committee retain the bill as a device to monitor the interactions of the citizens with the agencies involved as they try to resolve the issue. [there is no minority report; one was written with a recommendation of Retain in Committee and it was later ruled that “Retain in Committee” is not an allowable recommendation under House Rules.]

**Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support Re-refer to Committee**

**HB 300-FN-A**, requiring the construction of a fire tower on Copple Crown Mountain and creating a position to operate the fire tower. **ITL Vote 11-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issue identified, therefore, no recommendation.

**HB 498**, relative to membership on the wetlands council. **ITL Vote 13-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill expands the wetlands council bill from 8 to 9 and allows the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire to specify that 9<sup>th</sup> member. Balancing the membership of this council appears warranted, however, no platform or constitutional issue were identified, therefore, no recommendation.

➤ **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY**

**HB 352**, banning corn-based ethanol as an additive to gasoline sold in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: ITL. Vote 8-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** Isn't increasing the gas tax by 5 cents a gallon each year for the next three years enough or do we have to ensure that our gas will be truly expensive as we require a formulation especially for New Hampshire? This over-regulation of business is against our party platform.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

➤ **STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HCR 1**, urging congress to withdraw the United States from the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America. **MAJORITY: ITL. Vote 13-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This House Concurrent Resolution serves to protect our state's sovereignty.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HCR 3**, recommending a statement of principles on international trade. **ITL Vote 14-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This House Concurrent Resolution assumes an incorrect division of responsibilities in our federal system. The federal government makes foreign treaties, not states.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HCR 5**, urging Congress to enact a system of voluntary public funding for all federal elections. **ITL Vote 17-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This House Concurrent Resolution seeks public funds for elected officials. Not only is it a waste of tax dollars, it is designed to limit federal and state constitutional right of free speech through compelled speech. It states that they are looking for a "voluntary public funding," however it clearly is intended to do the opposite as seen by the its characterizing private supports of candidates as "special interests."

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

➤ **TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 357**, relative to retention of special number plates for veterans by surviving spouses. **MAJORITY: OTP Vote 8-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** Our party honors its veterans and their families who have given so much for our state and our country. Moreover, there is no practical reason to require a surviving spouse to change motor vehicle number plates.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP**

➤ **WAYS AND MEANS**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 533-FN-A**, reducing the rates of the business profits tax and the business enterprise. **ITL Vote 15-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** Article VII of our party platform commits us to, “*Support cutting or eliminating taxes which inhibit enterprise, earnings and savings and investment, such as the Interest and Dividends Tax and the Business Enterprise/Business Profits Tax.*” We welcome the opportunity that HB 533 provides for us to do so.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support OTP**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 679-FN-A**, establishing an exemption from the interest and dividends tax for individuals who are 62 years of age or older. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 16-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** Another welcomed opportunity to support the reduction of taxes.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support OTP**

➤ **CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW**

**HB 165**, relative to the number of children in a licensed foster home. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 12-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow a foster family who has six children under their care to take another child if the state determines “that the foster family is able to provide for the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child or children.” Based on that determination, this is a bill that could be of great benefit to children in New Hampshire.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support OTP**

**HB 207**, relative to modification of parental rights and responsibilities. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 12-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would merely allow parents who divorced to file with the court a parenting plan every three years in order modify their parental rights and responsibilities and, if necessary, meet with a court appointed parenting coordinator or mediator to resolve any disputes. Republicans support families and assume they know best how to raise there children, even when divorced.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support OTP**

➤ **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 127**, relative to the treatment of pregnant inmates. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill seeks to establish standards for transporting and restraining pregnant inmates and requires no restraints during labor, delivery and recovery unless written findings are made by the commissioner of the department of corrections. No platform or constitutional issues were identified, therefore no HRA recommendation. Listen to the arguments and vote your conscience.

➤ **ELECTION LAW**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 417**, relative to electoral college electors. **ITL Vote 16-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** Passage of this bill seeking a popular vote presidential election would sacrifice the sovereignty of New Hampshire to the interests of larger states. It represents an ideology that elevates the tyranny of the temporary majority over the foundational freedom of a republican form of government.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 439**, requiring that the question relative to the necessity for a convention to revise the New Hampshire constitution be presented to the voters in the November 2010 general election. **MAJORITY: OTP Vote 10-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issues were identified, therefore no HRA recommendation.

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 614**, relative to domicile of students for voting purposes. **MAJORITY: OTPA Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** Republicans believe that citizens of other states ought to vote in their state's elections and not pretend they are New Hampshire citizens for the sole purpose of voting in our elections. This bill is another of the Democrat bills that define away voter fraud so they can say there is no voter fraud. It has worked so well in the past that they are back at it again.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA, then Support ITL**

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 620**, disqualifying certain persons from performing duties as an election official. **ITL Vote 13-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** Specifically, the bill would prohibit clerks, selectmen, inspector of elections, and supervisors of the checklist whose names appear on a ballot from serving as an election official. All are presently exempted from the general rule that anyone whose name appears on a ballot cannot be an election official in that election. It seems to be a reasonable restriction, but perhaps not workable or necessary for honest elections. No platform or constitutional issues were identified, therefore no HRA recommendation.

➤ ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

**SPECIAL ORDER**

**HB 148**, relative to the sale and vaccination of animals. **OTPA Vote 15-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill as passed out of committee does not appear to substantially increase regulations there probably will be a floor amendment that increases the license fee from \$200 to \$250, and this increase will be based upon unsupported testimony of increased costs to the state.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA (with committee amendment); oppose any floor amendment with increased fee**

➤ EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**HB 121-FN**, relative to regulating residential building and remodeling contractors and subcontractors. **ITL Vote 14-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** The HRA has consistently opposed additional or expanded “professional” licensing. Such efforts to institute and expand a modern guild system are antithetical to freedom, increase consumer costs and are unnecessary to achieve skillful and competent services. Article VI of our party platform commits us to “[w]orking to prevent over-regulation of business.”

HRA Recommendation: **Support ITL**

**HB 519**, relative to supervision of state employees who are related by birth or marriage. **OTP Vote 15-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** Integrity and honest in fact, as well as in appearance, in the governance of New Hampshire are core Republican principles. By prohibiting relatives from supervising each other, this legislation promotes these principals.

HRA Recommendation: **Support OTP**

# Your Handy Guide for Thinking out of the Box

"You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, will prove the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it."

~~~~ The late Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931 to 2005 ~~~~