

March 25, 26, 27, 2014

# 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”**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Committee Vote</b>	<b>HRA recommends</b>
HB 366	Criminal Justice	OTP/A 9-6	Oppose OTP/A
HB 492	Ways & Means	ITL 14-5	No Recommendation
HB 650	Finance	OTP/A 25-0	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1114	Finance	ITL 24-0	No Recommendation
HB 1122	Criminal Justice	OTP/A 15-0	Support OTP/A
HB 1135	Criminal Justice	OTP/A 16-0	No Recommendation
HB 1139	Muni & County	OTP 16-1	No Recommendation
HB 1142	Ways & Means	Interim Study 16-2	No Recommendation
HB 1161	Ways & Means	ITL 14-3	No Recommendation
HB 1167	Science	OTP 11-3	Oppose OTP
HB 1181	Science	ITL 11-3	Oppose ITL
HB 1198	Labor	Interim Study 13-4	Support Interim Study
HB 1228	Labor	ITL 15-2	Support ITL
HB 1239	Education	ITL 13-6	Oppose ITL
HB 1262	Education	Interim Study 14-5	No Recommendation
HB 1265	Science	Interim Study	No Recommendation
HB 1314	Science	OTP/A 10-1	No Recommendation
HB 1315	Judiciary	ITL 13-0	Support ITL
HB 1372	Finance	OTP/A 15-10	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1379	Judiciary	ITL 13-1	Support ITL
HB 1385	Science	OTP/A 11-4	Support OTP/A
HB 1397	Education	ITL 14-5	No Recommendation
HB 1432	Education	Interim Study 8-7	Oppose Interim Study
HB 1492	Muni & County	ITL 17-2	Support ITL
HB 1496	Education	Interim Study 15-3	Oppose ITL
HB 1499	Labor	OTP/A 17-0	No Recommendation
HB 1504	Judiciary	ITL 14-3	Oppose ITL
HB 1508	Education	ITL 13-6	Oppose ITL
HB 1581	Finance	OTP/A 20-3	Oppose OTP/A

March 25, 26, 27, 2014

HB 1591	Judiciary	OTP/A 98-	No Recommendation
HB 1600	Science	OTP/A 14-2	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1602	Science	OTP/A 11-1	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1610	Muni & County	ITL 16-1	No Recommendation
HB 1615	HHS	OTP/A 17-1	No Recommendation
HB 2014	Public Works	OTP/A	No Recommendation
SB 413	Finance	OTP 15-10	Oppose OTP

## REGULAR CALENDAR PART I

### FINANCE

**HB 1372**, an appropriation for ongoing training of pediatric sexual assault examiners. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 15-10.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, uses \$20K to provide a grant to Dartmouth-Hitchcock to provide specialized training – a one-week course – to an unknown number of these examiners. Advanced and specialized training in nursing is normally considered the professional's responsibility, not the state's. The Platform, Part II, says we should “prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.” Is this really the top priority for new spending?

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.**

**HB 1581-FN-A**, relative to bonding costs for certain bridge capital projects. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 20-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended by the majority, allows the DOT to bond “emergency” repairs to closed or red-listed bridges. Since many red listed bridges are structurally sound and remain in use, repairs to them are normal operating expenses. The minority amendment at least limits borrowing to closed bridges. On one hand, the limits on borrowing authority in this bill are reasonable and prudent; on the other hand, they have never been reached, let alone exceeded, by DOT while they had no statutory limits. The Platform, Part II, says we should “prioritize programs to ensure effective spending,” and while highway bridges are an important element of the state's infrastructure, borrowing for operating expenses is fiscally insane.

**HRA Recommendation: Support the committee and minority amendments, oppose OTP/A.**

**SB 413-FN-A**, relative to access to health insurance coverage. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 15-10.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill expands Medicaid in New Hampshire, relying on the promise of federal funding to create a new entitlement program. The Platform, Part III, says we should “increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs,” and this program is a giant step away from the market and towards government control.

**HRA Recommendation: Support floor amendments, support HRA procedural amendments, oppose OTP.**

### HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

**HB 1615**, relative to emergency prescriptions. **MAJ:OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 17-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, requires an insurer to pay for a limited supply of a drug that the pharmacist decides is an “emergency,” regardless of cost or whether the individual receiving the drug has coverage for it. The Platform, Part I, says we should “minimize business regulations,” but the regulation is already in place for 48 hours, and this gives a little more time.

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

### JUDICIARY

**HB 1504**, providing that life begins at conception. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 14-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** The Platform: “We believe that life is sacred, from conception to natural death,” and this bill supports that position.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.**

**HB 1591-FN**, establishing the right-to-know grievance commission. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 9-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, requires the notice of a public meeting to first, include the agenda, and secondly, be made 72 hours in advance of the meeting. This change concerns many smaller organizations (school boards and select boards) that have regular meetings, but the agenda is not finalized until shortly before the meeting. While knowing what the meeting is planning to cover is highly desirable, not all organizations would be able to comply without putting everything under “other business.” The Constitution, Part I, Art. 8: “Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable, and responsive.” You decide if this change would accomplish that.

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

March 25, 26, 27, 2014

## **LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

**HB 1228**, establishing a commission on public employee collective bargaining. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 15-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill seeks to establish a commission to investigate the procedure for public employee collective bargaining, with a hint (via the minority blurb) that binding arbitration is the ultimate goal. Binding arbitration circumvents the voice of the voters and diminishes the integrity of the ballot box, a violation of that tenet of our platform.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 1499-FN**, making changes in the maximum weekly benefit amount of unemployment compensation. **OTP/A. Vote 17-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** During economic depressions, employers traditionally provide (via a partnership with government) gradual increases in the taxable base unemployment tax, as well as two 0.5% emergency surcharges, while employees participate by giving up the first week of payable benefits. With the unemployment trust fund now at a healthy level, both emergency surcharges on businesses have been removed and soon two additional tax reduction triggers will be hit, saving the business community a total of \$106 million dollars annually in unemployment tax. This bill provides a modest increase in weekly unemployment benefits for many unemployed workers, the first such increase in 12 years. The proposed benefit increases will not impact the trust fund performance or the planned reduction in business taxation. No platform or constitutional issues.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY**

**HB 1167**, relative to exemptions from boiler inspection requirements. **OTP. Vote 11-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill changes the inspection exemption from “private residences” to “buildings used exclusively as private residences.” This would seem to require *more* boiler inspections, as home offices or shops under residences (common in older cities) would now not qualify for the exemption. The Platform, Part I, calls for us to “minimize business regulations.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.**

**HB 1181**, relative to the provision of services to electricity suppliers by an electric utility. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 11-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill restores to market negotiation, rather than PUC mandate, the cost of billing and collections for alternative suppliers of electricity. As the Platform states, “we believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.**

**HB 1265**, coordinating & funding broadband infrastructure information by the 911 system. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 13-2.**

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

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1314**, approval of a telecommunication utility merger, consolidation, reorganization, or sale by the PUC. **OTP/A. Vote 10-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, creates a study committee. No Platform or Constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1385**, relative to changes and additions to energy facilities. **OTP/A. Vote 11-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, defines the dollar cost of a “sizable addition” to an energy facility, instead of leaving the term entirely undefined. It additionally sets a limit to cost-overruns on additions and improvements that can be charged back to ratepayers. The Platform, Part II, urges us to “work to reduce energy costs.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

**HB 1600**, relative to reporting of energy production for net metering. **OTP/A. Vote 14-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, is all about helping individuals or businesses who have invested in solar panels to qualify for “renewable energy credits,” yet another government subsidy to encourage over-investment in solar energy. On the one hand, the Platform, Part II, urges us to “work to reduce energy costs,” and these subsidies reduce costs for the owners of the panels and raise them for everyone else; on the other hand, “we believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise” and these subsidies distort the market for energy.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.**

**HB 1602**, relative to the divestiture of PSNH assets. **OTP/A. Vote 11-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, grants to the Public Utilities Commission the authority to order PSNH to divest some or all of its generating facilities, if it finds that to be in the economic benefit of the retail customers. Since PSNH is in the business of selling energy in a competitive market, one would suppose that they would be more effective in that determination than the PUC. As the Platform states, “we believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.**

March 25, 26, 27, 2014  
**REGULAR CALENDAR PART II**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**HB 366-FN**, relative to showing a ballot. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 9-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, makes it a crime to photograph a marked ballot. At least the committee amendment makes it a violation, rather than a misdemeanor. The Federal First Amendment says it simply: "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech."

**HRA Recommendation: Support the committee amendment, oppose OTP/A.**

**HB 1122-FN**, relative to the filing of a fraudulent document purporting to create a lien against real property. **OTP/A. Vote 15-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, establishes a way for clearly fraudulent liens to be identified by the registrars of deeds and enforced by the county attorney or attorney general. State and county government should ensure that the registry of deeds is not used to harass or oppress individuals. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 2, includes among the essential rights that of "acquiring, possessing, and protecting property," and maintaining the integrity of the deed is basic to that.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

**HB 1135-FN**, relative to penalties for driving without a license. **OTP. Vote 16-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill sets limits on the fines for driving without a license and distinguishes driving with a recently expired license from driving with no license or a long-expired one. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 18 : "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense", but is a misdemeanor appropriate for driving without a license?

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

**EDUCATION**

**HB 1239-FN-L**, relative to the implementation of new educational standards. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is about open and transparent government. It addresses the ongoing conversations about the cost of common core by requiring the BOE, DOE and local district to analyze the costs for implementation. It also requires that for any NEW standards the BOE and DOE to do a fiscal analysis of costs and an evaluation of proposed standards. In addition, public hearings will be required in each executive council district. We believe that it is better to have these discussions prior to standard adoption rather than later, since the Constitution, Article 28-a, forbids unfunded mandates.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.**

**HB 1262**, relative to student assessment data privacy. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 14-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill protects students' personal data from the common core mandated tracking. HB 1587 has already passed and duplicates the main points of this bill.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation on Interim Study, oppose ITL.**

**HB 1397**, a committee on whether the DOE is operating within its statutory authority. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 14-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a study committee. No Platform or Constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1432**, delaying implementation of certain statewide assessments and studying the effects of delaying implementation of certain curriculum changes in the public schools. **MAJ: INTERIM STUDY. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 8-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** Interim Study only serves to further delay the bureaucracy in providing data and recommendations to the legislative oversight committee regarding smarter balanced assessment and the statewide assessment program. There is an undefined cost to the state wide assessment, including broad band infrastructure, and the Constitution, Article 28-a, forbids unfunded mandates.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose Interim Study, support the floor amendment, support OTP/A.**

**HB 1496**, relative to the objectivity and validity of student assessment materials. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 15-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is similar to HB1262 in protecting student's' privacy rights, and also requires parent's permission before using an unvalidated assessment such as smarter balanced. HB 1587 has already passed and duplicates the main points of this bill.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation on Interim Study, oppose ITL.**

**HB 1508-FN**, terminating state participation in the common core educational standards. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** New Hampshire should strive for the highest standards and do better than common core. Common core is the result of the merging of big business and big technology. It has been adopted, including in New Hampshire, only because it is linked to the carrot of federal funds. These standards are the opposite of local control: standards are copyrighted, can only be changed by 15%,

March 25, 26, 27, 2014

and they are directly linked to the mandated state-wide assessments. The Platform, Part IV, insists on local control of education policy and “the nation's highest competency and accountability standards” which are **not** common core.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.**

## **LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

**HB 1189**, relative to temporary worker rights. **MAJ: INTERIM STUDY. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 13-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a new set of “rights” for the newly defined temporary workers, and institutes a new \$500/day administrative fine to enforce those rights. The majority blurb indicates a floor amendment may be offered; it should be rejected as it can't improve this new set of regulations enough to merit passage. The Platform, Part I, urges us to “prefer incentives to penalties and issue warnings before fines.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study, oppose OTP/A.**

## **PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS**

**HB 2014**, relative to the state 10-year transportation improvement program. **OTP/A. Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, allocates existing funding among the competing priorities of road and bridge building, repairing, and replacing. It includes additional borrowing to ensure the top priority construction items are completed and allocates the possible increase in the gas tax to the next tier of projects. No Platform or Constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

## **WAYS AND MEANS**

**HB 492-FN-L**, relative to the legalization and regulation of marijuana. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/ A. Vote 14-5.**

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

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1142-FN-A**, relative to the road toll for alternative fuels. **MAJ: INTERIM STUDY. MIN: OTP. Vote 16-2.**

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

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1161**, relative to slot machines and the duties of game operators and employers. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 14-3.**

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

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

## **REMOVED FROM CONSENT 3/19**

### **FINANCE**

**HB 650-FN-A**, making an appropriation to start a bus service between Claremont and Lebanon. **OTP/A. Vote 25-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill authorizes Community Alliance Transportation Services (CATS) in Newport to seek federal grants to start up bus service between Claremont and Lebanon. CATS currently offers bus service within Claremont and two other communities. The committee amendment requires all matching funds be raised by CATS, so no state funds are required yet. The Platform, Part II, calls for us to “privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector,” and bus service is certainly one of them!

**HRA Recommendation: Support the committee amendment, oppose OTP/A.**

**HB 1114-FN**, relative to limits on state expenditures for school building aid. **ITL. Vote 24-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill changes the current cap on school building aid to a floor of \$50 million per year. On one hand, the Platform reminds us that “low taxes are the result of low spending;” on the other, the Constitution, Article 28-a, forbids unfunded mandates to towns or school districts.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

### **JUDICIARY**

**HB 1315**, relative to confidentiality of police personnel files. **ITL. Vote 13-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This is an attempt to kill the 'Laurie' list of officers with credibility issues. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 8, states: “All power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

March 25, 26, 27, 2014

**HB 1379**, excluding firearms records from public records subject to disclosure under the right-to-know law. **ITL. Vote 13-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill weakens the existing protections from disclosure by making firearms records available to more government agencies, with fewer restrictions. The Platform, Part II, requires us to “protect the privacy of individuals from government snooping.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

## **MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**HB 1139**, repealing authority for granting of property tax abatements for watering troughs and shade trees. **OTP. Vote 16-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill repeals an obsolete law. No Platform or Constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 1492-FN-L**, relative to the issuance of fines for unlicensed dogs. **ITL. Vote 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows towns to charge whatever their costs are to deliver notices to persons with late dog licenses, deleting the limit of \$5 (soon to be \$10 after HB1261 passes the Senate.) The Platform reiterates that “low taxes are the result of low spending” and we don't want to encourage our towns to be extravagant in these small ways.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**HB 1610-FN**, relative to the excavation tax. **ITL. Vote 16-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes a technical amendment to the excavation tax calculations by changing the definition of “natural repose.” On one hand it's a (small) tax cut; on the other, this seems not the right subject for legislation. You decide.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

### **Bills laid on table/HRA Position**

**HB 110**, requiring persons who record cruelty to livestock to report such cruelty and submit such recordings to a law enforcement agency. (Pending question: adoption of the Majority committee amendment) **Oppose OTP/A.**

**HB 525-FN**, raising the age of minority for juvenile delinquency proceedings from 17 to 18 years of age.

(Pending question: Ought to Pass) **Leave on table, content in HB1624.**

**HB 566**, regulating guaranteed price plans and prepaid contracts for heating oil, kerosene, or liquefied petroleum gas. (Pending question: Inexpedient to Legislate) **Support ITL.**

**HB 585**, relative to insurance parity for optometrists. (Pending question: adoption of the Majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment) **Oppose OTP/A.**

**HB 1264**, relative to carrying of firearms by nonresidents. (Pending question: adoption of committee amendment 0659h) **Leave on table, resume previous debate if pulled, oppose committee amendment and OTP/A.**

**HB 1399-FN**, relative to the application for a vested deferred retirement allowance in the retirement system.

(Pending question: Ought to Pass) **Support OTP.**

**HB 1436**, relative to unlawful possession of alcoholic beverages. (Pending question: Recommit) **no recommendation.**

**HB 1475**, relative to expanding the research and development tax credit against the business profits tax to be a reinvestment tax credit. (No pending question) **Oppose ITL.**

**HB 1565-FN**, establishing the crime of filing a false lien or encumbrance against a public servant. (Pending question: adoption of committee amendment 0241h) **Leave on table, content in HB1122.**

**HCR 10**, applying to the Congress of the United States to call for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution. (Pending question: Inexpedient To Legislate) **Support ITL.**

**SB 180**, (2nd New Title) establishing a recovery fund for victims of the Financial Resources Mortgage (FRM) fraud and continually appropriating a special fund. (Pending question: Ought to Pass) **Oppose OTP.**

**SB 190**, relative to admission fees for certain persons at state parks and historical sites. (Pending question: adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass) **No recommendation.**