

March 13, 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”**

Bill Number	Committee	Committee Vote	HRA recommends
HB 263	HHS	OTP/A 12-5	Oppose OTP/A
HB 435	Finance	Interim Study 13-8	Support OTP
HB 525	Finance	OTP 20-2	No Recommendation
HB 1101	ED&A	ITL 10-9	Oppose ITL
HB 1167	Science	OTP 11-3	Oppose OTP
HB 1181	Science	ITL 11-3	Oppose ITL
HB 1213	HHS	Interim Study 16-1	Oppose Interim Study
HB 1228	Labor	ITL 15-2	Support ITL
HB 1242	Commerce	OTP/A 9-5	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1262	Education	Interim Study 14-5	No Recommendation
HB 1264	Criminal Justice	OTP/A 12-6	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1265	Science	Interim Study 13-2	No Recommendation
HB 1307	ED&A	ITL 11-8	No Recommendation
HB 1314	Science	OTP/A 10-1	No Recommendation
HB 1328	Commerce	Interim Study 11-7	Support Interim Study
HB 1343	Children & Family	OTP/A 16-0	Support OTP/A
HB 1351	ED&A	OTP/A 10-9	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1378	Commerce	ITL 11-5	Oppose ITL
HB 1385	Science	OTP/A 11-4	Support OTP/A
HB 1410	Criminal Justice	OTP 14-2	No Recommendation
HB 1411	Finance	OTP/A 13-10	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1438	Criminal Justice	ITL 14-3	Oppose ITL
HB 1480	ED&A	ITL 10-5	No Recommendation
HB 1484	HHS	Interim Study 10-8	No Recommendation
HB 1493	ED&A	ITL 12-6	No Recommendation
HB 1499	Labor	OTP/A 17-0	No Recommendation
HB 1501	HHS	ITL 17-1	No Recommendation
HB 1502	HHS	Interim Study 17-0	Oppose ITL
HB 1503	Criminal Justice	OTP/A 10-7	Oppose OTP/A

March 13, 2014

HB 1504	Judiciary	ITL 14-3	Oppose ITL
HB 1532	Commerce	OTP/A 12-1	No Recommendation
HB 1565	Criminal Justice	OTP/A 13-5	No Recommendation
HB 1568	Commerce	OTP/A 9-5	No Recommendation
HB 1586	Education	Interim Study 14-5	No Recommendation
HB 1591	Judiciary	OTP/A 9-8	No Recommendation
HB 1600	Science	OTP/A 14-2	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1602	Science	OTP/A 11-1	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1603	ED&A	Interim Study 10-7	No Recommendation
HB 1604	Commerce	OTP/A 10-7	No Recommendation
HB 1611	Criminal Justice	ITL 16-0	No Recommendation
HB 1615	HHS	OTP/A 17-1	Oppose OTP/A
HB 1624	Finance	OTP/A 25-0	Support OTP/A
HB 1635	Finance	OTP 13-7	Oppose OTP
HJR 12	Commerce	ITL	No Recommendation

## REGULAR CALENDAR PART I

### COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**HJR 12**, requesting that Anthem extend its coverage to include one hospital in every county in New Hampshire. **ITL. Vote 17-1.**

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

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**HB 1307**, barring the state and subdivisions from acquiring military vehicles or equipment. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 11-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, requires a vote of the legislative body before the state or a subdivision acquires military vehicles or equipment. Many people are concerned not only by the cost of such equipment, but also the separation between the police and the citizens that this militarization implies. No Platform or Constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

### FINANCE

**HB 1411**, relative to restoring moneys to the department of health and human services. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 13-10.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would spend \$7M (about half) of the 2012-13 surplus on HHS rather than putting it into the rainy day fund. As the platform (and Gov. Mel Thomson) says, "Low taxes are the result of low spending." The 14-15 budget was crafted just last year and agreed by the legislature and the governor. Shall we spend even more just because the people were a bit overtaxed in 12-13?

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP/A

## REGULAR CALENDAR PART II

### CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

**HB 1343**, relative to guardian ad litem fees and complaints. **OTP/A. Vote 16-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, requires guardian ad litem fees to comply with the maximum fee previously agreed to by all parties. Having a court enforce payments beyond this maximum violates the Constitution, Part I, Article 12, "But no part of a man's property shall be taken from him ...without his own consent or that of the representative body of the people."

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

### COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**HB 1242**, relative to deductibles, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket maximums. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 9-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, mandates a brand new and complex system of credits and record keeping to ensure that persons changing to the Obamacare mandated calendar year policy do not need to meet two deductibles in one year. The Platform,

March 13, 2014

Part III, recommends the use of “insurance plans free from government mandates,” and considering the rareness of this problem, and the complexity of the fix, interim study seems more appropriate.

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

**HB 1328-FN**, relative to licensure of insurance exchange navigators. **MAJ: INTERIM STUDY. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires licensing and background checks for the “navigators” who help people find their health plan through the maze of Obamacare. While the Platform is against unnecessary licensing, it is also protective of individual privacy. Since these navigators have access to some of our most personal data, and other states have found that significant numbers of navigators have troubling criminal histories, protection is needed. A study on the best means to protect this vulnerable population is appropriate.

**HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study.**

**HB 1378**, repealing sugar packet requirements. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 11-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill repeals an obsolete, unenforced section of our statutes. The Platform, Part II, requires us to “sunset ... regulations to force periodic reevaluation,” and this obsolete regulation shouldn't continue.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.**

**HB 1532**, relative to notification of radon level prior to sale or lease of property. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, changes the currently required notification for property sales about lead paint and radon to include arsenic. While the Platform opposes excess business regulations, merely changing the content of a mandated warning is not an increase in regulations.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1568-FN**, relative to service animals. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 9-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended (either amendment), enhances the penalties for impersonating a service animal, or pretending to be a person who needs a service animal, in order to bring a pet where animals aren't allowed. The minority amendment, requiring “willfully” rather than “knowingly” damaging a service animal is a fairer criterion for criminal penalties. No Platform or Constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1604**, establishing a commission to study financial fraud laws and the rights of victims. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-7.**

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

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**HB 1264**, relative to carrying of firearms by nonresidents. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as originally presented, corrected an inequity in current law where residents of Vermont (which does not require a concealed carry license) in order to get a concealed carry license in NH must get a note from their police chief and supply more information than is required for a New Hampshire resident to get a license! These additional requirements are in the rules, which are an attempt to reconcile conflicting statutes; HB1264, as written, reconciles them more elegantly. The committee amendment replaces the entire bill with the creation of a study commission on gun violence, heavily stacked to produce restrictive gun control legislation for next year. The Constitution, Part 1, Art. 2-a, states “All persons have the right to keep and bear arms.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose committee amendment, oppose OTP/A, support OTP.**

**HB 1410**, including household animals under the domestic violence protection statute. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 14-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill establishes that domestic animals, as well as people, can be protected by restraining orders or custody decisions. No Platform or Constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1438**, relative to the burden of proof for exceptions or exemptions under the firearms laws of this state. **ITL. Vote 14-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires the prosecution to prove that the regular exemptions don't apply to a person accused of violating our firearms laws. While there is no evidence of malicious prosecution, “innocent until proven guilty” is a sound principle of common law and our Constitution, so all our laws ought to reflect it.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.**

**HB 1503-FN**, including “fetus” in the definition of “another” for certain criminal offenses. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: OTP. Vote 10-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as written, includes a fetus in the criminal statutes for murder, manslaughter, negligent homicide, and abetting suicide, so that it is a crime to negligently or intentionally cause the death of a fetus (except, of course, in medical situations

March 13, 2014

with the mother's consent.) The committee amendment creates additional penalties when a pregnant woman is killed and the baby is killed as well, but there would be no possibility of prosecution if the mother lives. In addition, the crime is redefined as a homicide or negligent manslaughter "that causes a miscarriage or stillbirth" so they don't need to consider the fetus as a person. The Platform reiterates that "all life is sacred, from conception to natural death" and a baby is deserves no less protection before birth than after.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose committee amendment, oppose OTP/A, support OTP.**

**HB 1565**, establishing the crime of filing false lien against a public servant. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 13-5.**

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

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1611-FN**, adding certain products to the controlled drug act. **ITL. Vote 16-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill assigns synthetic cannabis and other designer drugs to Schedule I of the controlled drug act (drugs with no medical use.) The problem with this approach is that there is a significant demand for them, and as one chemical is banned, another similar one will go into distribution. This creates a never ending stream of modified psychoactive drugs, all with unknown potencies and side effects. No Platform or Constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

## EDUCATION

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

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires individually identifiable data be redacted from the assessment data required by the state and federal departments of education. The Platform, Part II, requires us to "protect the privacy of individuals from government snooping."

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

**HB 1586**, relative to student and teacher information protection and privacy. **MAJ: INTERIM STUDY. MIN: OTP. Vote 14-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a number of privacy protections for both students and teachers, and requires data protection and privacy policies and procedures at both state and local level. The Platform, Part II, requires us to "protect the privacy of individuals from government snooping."

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

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**HB 1101-FN**, relative to the recovery of overpayments by the retirement system and establishing a committee to study the policies and procedures of the retirement system for benefits wrongfully paid. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 10-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires the retirement system to be more aggressive about recovering overpayments to beneficiaries, especially the expensive cases where a person and his employer mistakenly think a pensioner is eligible to work while still collecting his pension. Creating a committee to look into these cases and developing a recovery plan will help prevent the newspaper stories where some retirees collected over \$200K and are repaying \$20K over 20 years. The Platform, Part II, states we should "ensure public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL.**

**HB 1351**, prohibiting tanning facilities from tanning persons under 18 years of age. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** Currently children under 14 need a doctor's prescription to use indoor tanning; those under 18 need either that or their parent's permission. The Platform, Part V, reminds us of "the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children."

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

**HB 1480**, relative to objections to proposed administrative rules by standing committees of the general court. **ITL. Vote 10-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill gives JLCAR an additional reason to object to an administrative rule, but if a dozen state representatives objected to any rule, in writing, with reasons, before the final rule was presented to JLCAR, as this bill requires, it would be taken very seriously indeed. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 12: "Nor are the inhabitants of this state controllable by any other laws than those to which they, or their representative body, have given their consent." You decide if this bill is necessary.

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

**HB 1493-FN-L**, relative to members of the retirement system working after retirement, and relative to membership of political subdivision officials appointed for fixed terms. **ITL. Vote 12-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds a penalty to the limit of 32 hrs/week for NHRS retirees to work for members of the system, which was instituted in 2011, to prevent "double dipping." The penalty imposed by HB1493 is draconian (lose one month's pension for every month they exceed the limit on hours), but some penalty seems appropriate. The Platform, Part II, states we should "ensure public

March 13, 2014

employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector.”

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

**HB 1603**, relative to renewal of emergency medical technician-intermediate licenses. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 10-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill grandfathers the existing EMT-I level practitioners for one license renewal after the federal registry stops supporting this level. New EMTs are trained and qualified as Advanced EMT; the problem is that the bureau has just started a transition program for the 1,500 or so EMT-I's in the state. No Platform or Constitutional issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**

## **FINANCE**

**HB 525-FN**, raising the age of minority for juvenile delinquency proceedings to 18 years of age. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 20-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This raises the age of majority for criminal matters to 18. Although the HRA supported this bill in the past, this bill puts 17 year-olds into the Sununu Youth Center under the jurisdiction of HHS, rather than to county jails, which are a more cost-effective alternative. Because the now-enforced federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires that prisoners under 18 be physically separated from adults, one of the purposes of the bill will occur whether it passes or not.

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

**HB 435-FN**, relative to funding for chartered public school pupils. **MAJ: INTERIM STUDY. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 13-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would simplify the calculations of state “adequacy aid” for charter schools by setting it at half the average total cost in other public schools. The Platform, Part IV, urges us to “encourage school choice and competition,” and increasing state funding to charter schools by almost 6% (just over \$1 million) is a reasonable way to do so.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose Interim Study, support OTP.**

**HB 1624**, modernizing the juvenile justice system to ensure rehabilitation and preservation of juvenile rights. **OTP/A. Vote 25-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This has most of the same effect of HB 525, see above. The high cost of HHS confinement of young offenders still needs to be weighed against the benefits of handling 17 year-olds as juveniles. The amendment sets up a mechanism to study how juvenile offenders can be served more efficiently. It also eliminates a report which is not necessary for the implementation of the program. The Platform, Part I, requires us to “keep state government lean.”

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

**HB 1635**, relative to community mental health programs and making appropriations therefor. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 13-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill uses over \$11M in “surplus” funds to fund the community mental health lawsuit settlement. As the minority points out, this cost is less than half of 1% of the HHS budget, which should be able to absorb this cost. When combined with HB 1411, above, the entire surplus from last term will have been spent on HHS, and then some. The Platform, Part I, requires us to “keep state government lean.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.**

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

**HB 263**, (New Title) relative to reporting a person as medically unfit to drive. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, grants criminal and civil immunity to health workers who report their patients to the Department of Safety as being unsafe to drive. It does not mention what the Department of Safety is to do with this information. A review of the law suggests that they can revoke a license without retesting. This bill is a complete violation of RSA 329:26 which ensures us that: “The confidential relations and communications between a physician ... and the patient ... are placed on the same basis as those provided by law between attorney and client, and, except as otherwise provided by law, no such physician ... shall be required to disclose such privileged communications. ...” Beyond our fourth-amendment and federal HIPAA privacy rights, the platform says that we will “Protect the privacy of individuals from government snooping.”

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

**HB 1213**, prohibiting the purchase of alcohol or tobacco with electronic benefit transfer cards. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 16-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill simply forbids use of EBT cards, or cash from EBT cards, for these products, as we already forbid EBT card usage in strip clubs, liquor stores, or gambling dens. Since there is no automatic way to control cash purchases, this essentially sets our expectations of what public assistance will be used for. Since the Platform is based on individual liberty and responsibility, it is our position that public assistance is a hand up, not a handout, and we expect the recipients to be as frugal with our money as we would be in similar circumstances.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose Interim Study, support OTP.**

**HB 1484-FN**, relative to newborn DNA sequencing. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 10-8.**

March 13, 2014

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

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

**HB 1501-FN**, requiring licensing of outpatient abortion facilities. **ITL. Vote 17-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill targets just one type of health care clinic in order to achieve a "higher moral purpose." On one hand, the Platform asserts, "We believe that life is sacred, from conception to natural death and that we cannot diminish the value of one category of human life without diminishing the value of all human life." On the other hand, the Platform, Part I, states we should "minimize business regulations, permits, licenses, and paperwork" and this bill creates more of them, for just one class of health care provider. This would let the State nudge its way in to licensure of every setting in which any form of health care is delivered.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience.

**HB 1502-FN**, relative to induced termination of pregnancy statistics. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 17-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires HHS to collect data on abortions and report annually to the legislature and the public. The committee believes the bill is confusingly written, and, based on the fiscal note, so does the department. The Platform, Part III, says we should "improve access to the information necessary to make informed health care decisions," and data on abortions is not widely available at this time.

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

**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. This invites drug abuse and scamming. The Platform, Part I, says we should "minimize business regulations."

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

## 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.

## 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.**

March 13, 2014

**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 overinvestment 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.**