

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION SHEET



“TRUST BUT VERIFY”

The purpose of the House Republican Alliance is to preserve and strengthen the traditional principles and values of the Republican Party through the NH House of Representatives and throughout the state of NH, including fiscal restraint, personal freedom and responsibility, small government, free enterprise and strong families. We offer the following recommendations based on those principles, the Republican Party Platform, and the NH and Federal Constitutions.

Bill Number	Committee	Committee Vote	HRA recommends
SB 151	Judiciary	OTP/A 14-3	Oppose OTP/A
SB 209	Judiciary	OTP 11-6	Oppose OTP
SB 220	ED&A	OTP 14-4	No Recommendation.
SB 261	ED&A	OTP/A 13-5	Oppose OTP/A
SB 295	Labor	OTP/A 10-8	Oppose OTP/A
SB 311	Fish & Game	OTP/A 10-0	No Recommendation.
SB 349	Election	OTP 15-0	Oppose OTP
SB 390	Labor	OTP 10-8	Oppose OTP
SB 397	Public Works	OTP 19-0	No Recommendation.
SB 405	ED&A	OTP/A 11-7	Oppose OTP/A

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 REGULAR CALENDAR

ELECTION LAW

SB 349, relative to the election of delegates to state party conventions. **OTP. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill not only allocates Republican delegates by town, rather than by district, it repeals the prospective repeal of setting delegate districts in statute. The Republican party, as a private organization, should not need government approval to determine its structure; the need to know the districts prior to the election, if delegates continue to be elected, could be achieved just as easily by having county or town committees report to the Secretary of State. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 6, strongly supports the rights of citizens to organize themselves without government interference.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 220-FN, relative to the regulation of electricians by the electricians' board. **OTP. Vote 14-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a new fee for inspections requested by persons other than local officials or registered electricians (who pay for them with their license fees.) On the one hand, it's a new fee; on the other, it's only fair that the electricians not have to subsidize other operations that want an electrical inspection. The updated electrical code is likely to cost homeowners and businesses more than it would otherwise; on the other hand, this change has been thoroughly reviewed by the building code review board and incorporates the latest technology and hardware. You decide.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SB 261, (New Title) allowing the commissioner of administrative services to administer the health benefits of certain retirees of the State Employees' Association of New Hampshire. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 13-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, codifies the current practice of enrolling employees and retirees of the SEA in the state employees' health plan, at the SEA's expense. The Platform, Part II, requires us to "privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector," and providing health care for employees and retirees of a private organization (however entwined with state employees) can certainly be handled effectively by the private sector.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

SB 405, requiring registration of radon mitigation system installers. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill registers another profession, in the guise of protecting the public from incompetent tradespeople. This one is unique in that no consumers testified as to being victimized, and no installers came out to demand to be licensed. Everything was by hearsay. The Platform, Part I, requires us to “minimize business regulations, permits, licenses...”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

SB 311, authorizing fish and game to allow reciprocal snowmobile privileges with Vermont and Maine. **OTP/A. Vote 10-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, allows the director of Fish & Game to negotiate reciprocal snowmobile, OHRV, or dirt bike privileges with Vermont and/or Maine, including fees (with approval by the Fiscal Committee). No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

JUDICIARY

SB 151, relative to the payment of witness and other fees for services in criminal cases. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 14-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, clarifies the procedures for witness fees, eliminating the need for administrative rules. It also adds “or she” repeatedly in the application for council, and creates a new authorization for post conviction attorneys and witnesses, paid for by the state. As the minority report indicates, there is no constitutional requirement to pay for counsel on appeal, and of course, “low taxes are the result of low spending.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

SB 209, expanding the good Samaritan law to engineers and architects. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-6.**

HRA Analysis: It's not clear that this bill is necessary, and it seems that the intent of the good Samaritan law would apply to these professionals helping out in an emergency, freely and at no charge. If this is a valid concern, the statute should be broadened to apply to any professional who so volunteers, not just architects and engineers. This bill creates a protected class, and so excludes others who also volunteer their time and effort. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 10, prohibits laws for the benefit of “any one man, family, or class of men.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP..

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

SB 295, prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates yet another protected class that can sue for imagined discrimination in employment, violating federal law in the process. Employers must be able to use all the tools they need to ensure their employees are suited for the job. The Platform, Part I, requires us to “minimize business regulations.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

SB 390, (New Title) prohibiting discrimination against employees who are victims of domestic violence and establishing a committee to study the protection of employees from domestic violence. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-8.**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates yet another protected class that can sue for imagined discrimination in employment. Employers do not need any further restrictions on who they choose to hire, they need the best person they can find. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 10, prohibits laws for the benefit of “any one man, family, or class of men.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

SB 357, naming a scenic overlook and the visitor center on I-93 North in honor of Raymond S. Burton. **OTP. Vote 19-0.**

HRA Analysis: No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.