

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.

REGULAR CALENDAR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SB 57, relative to regulation of title loan lenders. **MAJORITY: OTP MINORITY: ITL Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: Title loans are short-term loans on the equity value in a borrower's automobile. When the allowable interest rate on title loans was cut severely two years ago the business dried up. This bill raises the interest rate cap on title loans to a level that would make them financially viable. SB57 is supported by our platform by allowing adults to make their own financial choices (“preserve and protect individual liberty”) and by lessening regulations on the lending industry (“working to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses”).

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

SB 156-FN-L, authorizing retail vehicle dealers to act as agents of the division of motor vehicles for vehicle registrations and title applications. **MAJORITY: OTPA MINORITY: ITL Vote 14-4.**

HRA Analysis: This legislation would allow a pilot program where dealers could connect directly with the DMV for these tasks, by essentially “out stationing” DMV to the dealers’ facility. Currently, dealers can register off-road vehicles, snowmobiles and boats, so this is a logical step forward. Cities and towns will continue to get the information about buyers, just like they have through the DMV today. They will also continue to get payments for the work done by the dealers, without incurring the cost of registering and doing title application in person. This is a needed step forward into the 21st century and will make government far more user-friendly for our citizens. The NHGOP Platform says we are “working to provide an environment favorable to increasing the creation of private sector jobs including state-of-the-art technology”. Also, the pilot program put in place by the Commerce Committee's amendment does comport with the platform's suggestion that “All state programs should justify expenditures against measurable benefits. Programs that fail to produce promised benefits should be eliminated, and only efficient and successful programs should be continued.”

Some HRA members are concerned that this program requires more state government activity in terms of IT work, auditing, etc, which runs counter to the platform's statement that we favor “keeping state government lean to minimize its burden on taxpayers and businesses.” However, by switching a good chunk of the auto registration tasks to computers and private businesses, we lessen the workload on town clerks and the need for visits to town hall.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 157-FN, relative to the division of weights and measures and fees for licensing weighing devices and the definition of service technician. **OTPA Vote 11-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows the licensed service technicians to calibrate, maintain and “seal” the registered devices (similar to the process used for car inspections). This bill will also return the registration fees to their previous levels since the four recent inspectors’ positions have been defunded in the current House-passed budget, thus reducing costs to vendors and customers. This is a plus in our current inflationary economy. The committee amendment requires the department to report annually on complaints, investigations, and audits of these devices. This bill supports the Rep platform to help support small businesses, lower taxes and shrink government.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SB 91, relative to automatic fire suppression sprinklers. **MAJORITY: OTPA MINORITY: ITL Vote 12-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill prohibits ordinances, regulations, codes and administrative practices requiring fire sprinklers in one and two family homes. This is a safeguard to personal liberty by preserving an individual’s choice whether or not to purchase such a system for their home. Passage of this bill is consumer friendly for NH home buyers. Rep. Party Platform Sec II: “Protecting the fundamental rights of the people and enhancing their freedom ... without interfering in their personal, daily lives.”

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA