

# 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.



## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 REGULAR CALENDAR

### COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**SB 100-FN**, relative to home improvement contracts. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 9-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill over-regulates the home repair and improvement industry to the degree that insignificant minutiae have to be included in contracts and then it criminalizes the failure of home owners or contractors to include such information. Our party platform states that NH Republicans will work “to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses.” (Party Platform, Section VI, Page 3) The work to be done here is to kill SB-100.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

### ELECTION LAW

**CACR 9**, relating to term of office. Providing that beginning with the 2012 general election, there shall be a 4-year term of office for governor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 9-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** Important to the relationship that the NH Republican Party platform seeks to promote between NH citizens and its government is that public officials should be required to come before the people on a regular and frequent basis in elections to explain their actions and seek approval to continue in office or to be replaced. Extending the time for governors to present themselves for such periodic reviews will serve no purpose except the convenience of elected officials. In doing so, however, it will limit a substantial right of NH citizens to have a state government that continues to reflect their interests.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**SB 116**, repealing the prohibition on political contributions by insurance companies. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 10-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** During committee hearings, and in the majority blurb, there is reference to a federal judicial decision holding NH’s prohibition on election contributions by corporations, including insurance companies, as being unconstitutional. If that is the case, then this legislation is not necessary. The legislation does however beg the question as to why insurance company and not all corporations are being excluded from NH’s statutory prohibition on campaign contributions. The minority report also raises issues of disclosure which are not adequately addressed in this Senate bill. Our party’s platform commits to New Hampshire that we will work “to reform our campaign finance laws to guarantee full and prompt disclosure.” (Party Platform, Section V, page 2). Allowing associations, such as unions and corporations, including insurance companies, to make contributions without disclosure does not fulfill this mandate.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**SB 145-FN**, relative to service on the retirement system board of trustees for certain board members. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** The Constitution, Part 1, Article 28-a declares that the state will not enforce any mandates on local governments without funding them. If a school system or other local employer decides that service

on the NHRS board of trustees is not important enough to grant leave and arrange for a substitute, why should we overrule them without funding?

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**SB 160-FN**, relative to benefits of dependents of a group II retirement system member who is killed or dies in the performance of duty. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 12-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** The platform has two conflicting passages: low government spending, which would support the Minority; and protection of marriage, which would support the Majority in that if the pension is cut off at remarriage, the ex-spouse might choose to live in sin instead. This was not a partisan vote.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience.

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

**SB 67-FN-A**, relative to funding certain AIDS services organizations and relative to certain operating budget reductions for fiscal year 2009. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill provides for technical adjustments of the funding for AIDS services organizations. Despite the name of one of the recipient organizations, it does not appear to be connected to the left-wing political action organization that also refers to itself as ACORN.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 17**, relative to Selective Service registration upon driver's license application or renewal. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

**HRA Analysis:** Military service on behalf of our nation is an honorable choice offered to its citizens. Those who choose it deserve the gratitude of all. Likewise patriotism for this country, the last, best hope of mankind, is a virtue that should be promoted and prized. There are undoubtedly times when, in order to preserve liberty, we must compel some to military service. This compulsion is not itself a great thing; it is an evil that should be turned to only as a matter of acute necessity. We are fortunate that so many brave women and men have presently come forward to protect this county and our liberty that compelled military service is not now a necessity. If that changes, then this state can look to how it might modify its laws to promote this national effort. At present however doing so runs counter to our party's goal of preserving New Hampshire as a "*sovereign state in a nation of states and [opposing] centralization of power,*" because without any need being served we will be making our state an agent of federal government operations. (Party Platform, Section V, Page 2)

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

**"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote."**  
Benjamin Franklin

The Current HRA Scorecard Can Be Found Here: [http://www.nhhra.org/report\\_cards.htm](http://www.nhhra.org/report_cards.htm)