

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.



Thursday, April 6, 2023
Regular Calendar

Finance

HB2, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-11**

HRA Analysis: The committee amendment 2023-1247h is the bill. Bill includes a provision to move Expanded Medicaid into the budget so that actual costs are tracked and ends the program at the end of the budget cycle; but spends more than our expected revenues. Accelerates the timeline to move the I&D tax repeal from '27 to '25. Competing platform issues

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

Floor Amendments: There isn't enough time or space to provide an analysis of each amendment. The HRA co-chairs make the following recommendations based on Constitutional and platform principles.

2023-1272h	Edwards: Department of Education; Commission on New Hampshire Civics	SUPPORT
2023-1273h	Verville: Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes	NO RECOMMENDATION
2023-1276h	Hoell: Increase EFA eligibility	SUPPORT
2023-1283h	Comtois: Reduce # of DHHS attorney positions	SUPPORT
2023-1284h	Harrington: Delete office of consumer advocate	SUPPORT
2023-1285h	Ladd: Updates education funding formula	OPPOSE
2023-1288h	Prout: Eliminate Northern Border patrol	NO RECOMMENDATION
2023-1289h	Lekas: State of Emergency reform	SUPPORT
2023-1290h	Stringham: Extend the Interest and Dividends tax	OPPOSE
2023-1292h	Heath: Community college system retirement benefit package	OPPOSE
2023-1295h	Prout: Deletes unlimited Aux police force	SUPPORT
2023-1296h	Prout: Deletes unlimited Aux police force as filed	SUPPORT
2023-1297h	Ebel: Affordable housing fund	OPPOSE
2023-1299h	Murry: Deletes the northern border alliance program	NO RECOMMENDATION
2023-1301h	Heath: Reduces school building aid	OPPOSE
2023-1306h	Wallner: Alcohol abuse prevention and treatment fund	OPPOSE
2023-1307h	Muns: University System of NH	OPPOSE
2023-1309h	Telerski: DHHS Family Resource Centers	OPPOSE
2023-1310h	Heath: EFA	OPPOSE
2023-1313h	Heath: Education trust fund	OPPOSE
2023-1322h	Hoell: State of Emergency reform	SUPPORT
2023-1323h	Stringham: DHHS Targeted Medicaid Rate Increases	OPPOSE
2023-1326h	Luneau: EFA eligibility	OPPOSE
2023-1328h	Doucette: Postpones Licensed Historic Horse Racing	SUPPORT
2023-1332h	Prout: Deletes Whittemore Center Arena appropriation	SUPPORT
2023-1333h	Hoell: Includes 1247h+ 500% EFAs, (Freedom Amendment)	SUPPORT
2023-1334h	Hoell: Amends 1247h,+ 500% EFAs, (Freedom Amendment)	SUPPORT
2023-1335h	Heath/Murray School building aid	OPPOSE
2023-1336h	Osborne/Wilhem: Affordable Housing Fund; EFA funding; Adequate Education	OPPOSE
2023-1339h	Muns: University System of NH	OPPOSE

Finance

HB1, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-11**

HRA Analysis: The Committee Amendment 2023-1244 is the bill.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB46, (New Title) establishing a committee to study replacement of bail commissioners with court magistrates. **OTP/A Vote: 21-3**

HRA Analysis: Bill creates a study committee. No platform or constitutional issues

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB74, relative to an employee's unused earned time. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-11**

HRA Analysis: HB74 attempts to redefine vacation time as wages due. By forcing one model on all New Hampshire employers, it prevents them from determining what is best for their own operations. NHGOP platform "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB234, relative to renewable energy credits. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: The bill eliminates the process of Renewable Energy Credit (REC) "sweeping" by utilities. REC sweeping allows utilities to pick-up abandoned RECs and hence reduce their pass through cost of electrical power. This saves NH ratepayers about \$3M/year. Platform: "Work to reduce energy costs..."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB250, relative to the accidental death benefit payable to a group II member. **OTP/A Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: In 1967 the state retirement system set the annuity payable upon accidental death of a group II member at 50% of earnable compensation. This bill increases the amount to 100% of earnable compensation. Since the bill creates an expanded benefit with the cost being downshifted to the towns, the bill violates the NH Constitution, Part First, Art 28a.

* Possible floor amendment to correct 28-a issues

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB330, relative to the national guard recruitment incentive program and its funding and rulemaking. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: Increases bonus funds to be used for recruitment. No platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB337, relative to directing the office of professional licensure and certification to provide notice of public meetings and an opportunity for comment from the public. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: An administrative change; no platform or constitutional issues identified. No finance impact.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB364, relative to transportation for students attending career and technical education centers. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill authorizes the DOE to develop a formula for transportation reimbursement for students that drive to their CTE center as transportation has been limited by insufficient funding. Platform: Promote local control of education policy and funding in order to create the best managed school systems. NH Constitution tells us to cherish education.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB430, relative to applications for the education freedom accounts program. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: This bill would require students to attend one year of public or public charter school before applying to the education freedom account program. Platform: "Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB492, requiring the department of education to provide the house and senate standing committees responsible for education with copies of the laws and rules relative to education. **OTP Vote: 24-1**

HRA Analysis: The bill will simply require the department of education to supply education law books to House and Senate Education Committees. These are heavily relied on by members in reviewing pending legislation. No Constitution or Platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB504, relative to the adult parole board and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A Vote: 20-5**

HRA Analysis: Increases the pay rate from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for general members and from \$20,000 to \$40,000 for the vice chair. Platform: "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible, to always limit spending and growth of government, and to cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB534, relative to water assistance for natural disasters. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: This bill provides repair or replacement of water wells in the homes of the low income should they become impacted from natural disaster. NH Constitution Violation: Part 1, Article 10 - Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the whole community and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family or class of men.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB576, (New Title) relative to administration of a commercial property assessed clean energy (C-PACE) program in a clean energy efficiency and clean energy district. **OTP/A Vote: 14-5**

HRA Analysis: This is enabling legislation that allow investors and private equity lenders to make loans for commercial clean energy and energy efficiency construction projects in NH to access up to 60% Federal tax incentives. More than 30 states have adopted C-PACE enabling legislation for investment in local businesses, energy, cost savings and job creation. No platform or Constitution issues

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB626, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: A non-profit organization administers the EFA. Future legislation may be forthcoming that allows for open bidding on the contract. Platform: "We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Public Works and Highways

HB25, making appropriations for capital improvements. **OTP/A Vote: 17-1**

HRA Analysis: Capital improvements projects. No platform or constitutional issues found.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Ways and Means

HB639, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. OTP Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: The bill legalizes marijuana for those 21 and older. As amended the bill now authorizes the liquor commission to regulate and administer the cultivation, manufacture and retail sale of cannabis statewide. Competing Constitution & Platform issues: Part 1, Article 18 - Penalties to be proportional to offenses. Platform issues: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience