

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.

Thursday, February 8, 2024
Reconsideration

Judiciary

HB1002, relative to fees for records under the right-to-know law. **OTP Vote: 193-179**

HRA Analysis: The bill increases the cost to ask for a right to know request when the request is greater than 10 hours. Constitution Part 1st Art. 8 ".Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive. To that end, the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted..."

Floor amendments

2024-0523h reduces the fees to get certain records

2024-0522h makes the fees zero for residents within the district

HRA Recommendation: Support Reconsideration

Regular Calendar

Education

HB1048, relative to the commission on Holocaust and genocide education. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: The amended bill expands the deadline for the final report from the Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Studies for 2 years to November 1, 2026. No platform issue.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1166, adding an exception from required civics competency assessments. **ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill promotes the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and Civil Air Patrol by exempting members from the Citizen and Immigration Services exam.

Constitution Article 38: "A frequent recurrence to the fundamental principles of the constitution,... are indispensably necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty and good government;"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1206, relative to prohibiting educator indoctrination. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-3**

HRA Analysis: HB1206 is intended to prevent indoctrination in schools by preventing teachers from compelling or supporting a particular theory of ideology. The Republican majority supported the intent but found issues with the language and a problem defining indoctrination but others did not share that concern.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1553, relative to establishing a pilot program under the department of education to offer "spelling to communicate" services to students with autism or apraxia. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This is essentially an education choice bill in the area of special education. It's attempting to break the monopoly that certain types of therapies/methods have on working with autistic students. The majority of Republicans supported OTP while some were concerned about the lack of evidence supporting this approach.

Platform issue: Support innovative measures to reduce tuition. Platform: Knowledge and achievement

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB1561, relative to qualifications for student eligibility in the education freedom accounts program. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill expands EFA eligibility by adding eligibility categories with no family income cap. Categories include students who are gay or lesbian, those who have been persistently bullied, students who have been diagnosed with mental illness or an eating disorder, those in a district which exceeds PFAS drinking water standards and several others.

Platform issues: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children and Expand education savings accounts.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1634, relative to universal eligibility for the education freedom account program. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill removes the family income cap making for universal access to EFAs.

Platform issues: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children and Expand education savings accounts.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1665, relative to student eligibility for the education freedom accounts program. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: HB1665 increases the family income cap from 350% of federal poverty to 500%.

Platform issues: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children and Expand education savings accounts.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Executive Departments and Administration

HB1580, relative to the prohibition of government procurement of electric vehicles containing components created through the use of forced labor. **ITL Vote: 12-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill complicates the state and local procurement process by insisting on verification of pure components if a government entity chose to purchase an electric vehicle. This is nearly impossible as much mining (cobalt and lithium in particular) is done using unsavory methods, and the materials are not segregated by source.

Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Fish and Game and Marine Resources

HB1116, relative to certain firearms to be used for taking of game. **OTP/A Vote: 11-6**

HRA Analysis: This measure would allow rifles/carbines in pistol calibers to be used for hunting, including any straight walled pistol cartridge, so the ballistics remain unchanged from the same handgun allowed already, but it improves safety with more accuracy.

Platform: "We believe, ...endowed by our Creator with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB1662, relative to restricting simultaneous employment of certain department of health and human services staff with adoption or child placement agencies. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill prevents a person from working at both a child placement agency and for a department which removes children from their families. With the amendment, department employees can continue to serve as foster parents if they were not involved in the removal of the child.

Platform: We believe that the children's best interest is to have a substantial relationship with each parent and the government should only interfere with that relationship with just cause

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Municipal and County Government

HB1396, relative to prohibiting municipal inspections of owner-occupied units of multi-unit housing. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill prohibits municipal inspections of owner-occupied units within residential structures of 4 units or less.

NH Constitution: Part 1, [Art.] 2-b. [Right of Privacy.]- bill upholds privacy rights of property owners;

NH GOP Platform: inalienable rights unimpeded by intrusive gov't regulation & control; Gov't Structure- bill protects privacy of individuals from gov't agencies

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL; Support OTP

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB1045, relative to requiring a powerboat operator to wear an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) while operating certain powerboats traveling over headway speed. **OTP Vote: 19-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill will make it mandatory for operators of certain watercraft lacking enclosed cabins to utilize an engine cut-off switch for safety purposes when operating over headway speed. ECOS acts to disable the engine if the operator is thrown from the watercraft or falls overboard, allowing the craft to be more easily recovered or the operator to reboard and regain control. These switches are already installed for decades on every such watercraft or outboard engines on dinghys and newer boats include wireless key fob type versions. Marine Patrol, boat manufacturers, and others interested parties all support this safety measure.

Conflicting issues

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1049, relative to the prohibition on overnight mooring of houseboats. **ITL Vote: 18-2**

HRA Analysis: Current statute protects private property rights by permitting a houseboat to be tied to, or anchored reasonably adjacent to, an owner's property. The bill would permit overnight mooring or anchoring anywhere on our lakes including next to a house belonging to someone else. The current proposed bill language needs work to correct these issues, therefore no recommendation

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1429, establishing a procedure for the department of environmental services to transfer ownership of dams to municipalities or others, including making loans. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill simply provides a means by which a municipality can acquire a state-owned dam. It is enabling legislation that provides a legislative body criteria by which such a transaction can occur including: a vote by the legislative body (town meeting, council, etc), agreement to accept the transfer, agreement to accept any associated long term debt, and agreement to address any issues. This legislation may be useful to a Town that wants to accelerate improvement of its infrastructure ahead of State plans, by using resources within their means. It also establishes a loan fund with \$1 funding that could accept federal grants or be funded in a future budget.

NH GOP Platform: support local control

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Science, Technology and Energy

HB1700, prohibiting the intentional release of polluting emissions, including cloud seeding, weather modification, excessive electromagnetic radio frequency, and microwave radiation and making penalties for violation of such prohibition. **ITL Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: The bill prohibits a very wide range of emissions that if intentionally dispersed in the atmosphere would generally be illegal. Discussion focused on federal programs authorizing cloud seeding for climate and weather modification. Data was missing regarding whether the required state notification of seeding was occurring and any actual fallout measurements. Penalties/enforcement provisions proposed were not workable.

Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits; Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending vs Define trespass to include illegal presence in NH; Oppose all laws, programs and mandates from ... national and international organizations and governments contrary to our principles, including but not limited to ... punitive environmental controls.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

Transportation

HB1062, relative to the use of special cover plates. **OTP Vote: 10-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows for the simultaneous display of a special cover plate and a regular motor vehicle plate

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1138, equalizing the fines for operating an OHRV with a driver's license suspended and operating a snowmobile with a driver's license suspended. **OTP Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill raises the penalty for driving a snowmobile or an OHRV to the same level of driving a motor vehicle with a suspended drivers license.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation