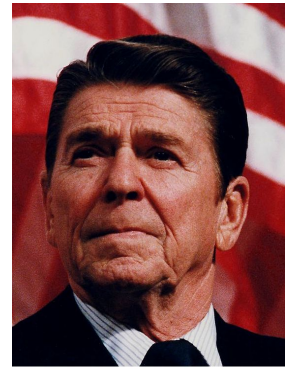


# House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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 15, 2024**  
**Regular Calendar**

## Education

**HB1212**, relative to eligibility for free school meals. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Each school would be required to provide at least one meal available to any child whose household income was 350% or less of federal poverty. Funds for the program would be taken from the Education Trust Fund thus taking money from public schools. It would require all schools (not all do currently) to participate in the National School Lunch Program and adhere to their guidelines. It is an unfunded mandate on schools to determine eligibility under the new income cap and requiring applications from all families. The estimated cost of the program is over \$75 million plus the local and state costs for program operation. Constitutional 28-a issue and a platform issues: Promote local control of education policy and funding and Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

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

**HB1419**, relative to prohibiting obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

**HRA Analysis:** The intent of this bill is to ensure that materials in schools are age appropriate and not harmful to minors. It removes K-12 education from our criminal code obscenity exemptions although unlikely of any such prosecution. It also sets out a minimum required policy for districts to hear complaints from parents on what they consider inappropriate or harmful materials. Appeals can be made up to the State Board of Education as provided for in current law. Civil action can be taken by the AG, DOE or parent if the district does not follow the complaint process or does not act in accordance with the decision reached on the complaint. Platform issue: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB1524**, relative to authorizing parents of special education children to observe in the classroom setting. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires district to establish policies allowing for classroom observations by parents. Districts could provide restrictions to allow for safety, program integrity, and maintain student confidentiality. Platform issue: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB1652**, relative to establishing a local education freedom account program. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

**HRA Analysis:** The current Education Freedom Program is funded with state funds. HB1652 is enabling legislation to allow for a school district vote (3/5 required) to allow for EFAs from local funds. The district would still receive state funding for the student. The administration and operation of the program would be similar to the current program. There is no income cap. The funds for the account would be twice the state base adequacy amount. Platform issues: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children and Encourage education freedom to allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB1677**, relative to participation in education freedom accounts based on school or school district proficiency scores. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

**HRA Analysis:** As filed this bill expands eligibility to Education Freedom accounts based upon a schools or districts low performance ie; 49% or more of the students being non-proficient, Platform issue: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children.

Amendment 2024-0389h limits eligibility to schools or districts in the bottom 25% of proficiency.

Platform issue: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose committee amendment 2024-0389h; Support OTP/A or OTP

## Finance

**HB1560**, relative to unassigned moneys in the education trust fund. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 13-12**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill moves any remaining balance in the education trust fund into the general fund. The main job of the Finance Committee is to prepare a budget that allocates available funds in a balanced, fair manner - designating funds for a specific purpose makes it very difficult for the Finance Committee to prepare the best state budget possible when funds that are needed somewhere else are locked away in an over-funded trust fund.

Platform: "...that government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible..."

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

## Judiciary

**HB1589**, establishing a veterans treatment court **OTP/A Vote: 18-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill establishes a statewide veterans treatment court for at-risk veterans; requires the creation of a veterans court in one circuit and superior court in each county; establishes the position of veterans court coordinator; establishes a grant program under the supervision of the judicial branch. No constitutional issues.

Competing Platform: We believe the government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible and to limit spending and growth... Platform: The utmost honor must be bestowed upon those who are willing to serve and sacrifice in the United States Military.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1696**, relative to electronic record requests under the right-to-know law. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This legislation will create a state repository for municipal right-to-know records and funds a local government records manager in the NH Division of Archives and Records Management. Use of repository is optional. Constitution: Part 1, Article 14 - Legal remedies to be free, complete, prompt.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## Legislative Administration

**HB1000**, relative to classifying New Hampshire legislators' service as public service for certain federal purposes. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require the legislature to classify and certify to the federal government that a select number of legislators serve as full time (30/hr/week) public servants to qualify for the federal loan forgiveness program. This bill benefits a select few legislators that is not available to others of us or our constituents. Constitution: 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

**HB1219**, relative to creating a commission to study the feasibility and structure of a legislative office to provide longitudinal cost-benefit analysis of significant proposed legislation and of budgetary revenue estimates. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 8-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This legislation would establish a commission to study the benefits of an independent commission to look at multi-year revenue estimates and longitudinal cost benefit analysis of future proposed legislation that might have significant long term financial impact. Committee recommended sponsors file legislation next term to appropriate funds and acquire RFP from subcontractors and study one or two programs such as FMLI or Offshore Wind pilot programs. Abbreviated timeline (2nd year measure) leaves not enough time. Commission - no recommendation

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB1363**, relative to allowing members of the general court to participate in the department of health and human services employee assistance program. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 9-5**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would add members of the General Court to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The legislature would be required to fund this service for members of the legislature and all in their household which might be already funded through an employer or household member. NH #211 is an additional free resource for NH residents. This measure is not needed. Platform: We believe the government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible and to limit spending and growth...

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

## **Science, Technology and Energy**

**HB1576**, relative to allowing property owners to opt out of public utilities. **ITL Vote: 20-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This legislation seeks to give property owners protection from being forced into upgrading to town services (electric/water/sewer) where they have adequately provided for themselves. The language of the bill was too broad for the desired target problem.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## **State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs**

**HCR8**, applying to congress for a limited national convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution relative to elections. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 15-5**

**HRA Analysis:** Article V of the U.S. Constitution describes a process to improve our federal constitution via discussion of amendments at a convention to address concerns about our government reflecting the will of the people---to include maintaining fair election protocols. This request is drafted very poorly and needs additional work.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support Recommit or Table or Oppose OTP

**HCR11**, condemning medically unnecessary restrictions on medication abortion. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

**HRA Analysis:** Bill would allow universal distribution of mifepristone up until week 11 for all age brackets. Platform: We believe that life is sacred, from conception to natural death.

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

**HR19**, calling for the repeal of the Jones Act. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

**HRA Analysis:** The Jones act is a 100 Federal year old act that is crippling trade between states. Platform: Remove barriers to Business Formation... and Platform: Minimize business regulations...

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP