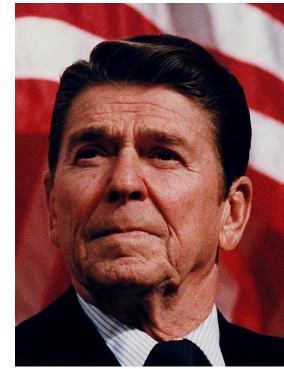


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet

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.



"Trust but Verify"

Thursday, February 22, 2024
Reconsideration

Municipal and County Government

HB154, (New Title) relative to electronic ballot counting devices.

HRA Analysis: Bill changes the election laws relative to use of voting machines. Bill was a complete rewrite and this was not well explained on the floor

HRA Recommendation: Support reconsider motion; Oppose Concur, Support CoC

Regular Calendar

Children and Family Law

HB1111, relative to the penalty for false reports of suspected abuse and neglect made to the division for children, youth, and families. **OTP/A Vote: 8-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill effectively eliminates anonymous reporting, and makes knowingly making a false report a misdemeanor. This is analogous to the perjury penalty for making a false police report. Constitution: The natural rights of parents and children inherent in Part 1, Art 2. Platform: Family 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/A

HB1282, relative to the duration of child support. **OTP/A Vote: 13-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill extends child support beyond age 18 for special education students. As such students would likely not be living independently it is a reasonable measure. Constitution: The natural rights of parents and children inherent in Part 1, Art 2.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1425, relative to prohibiting the suspension of drivers' licenses in child support enforcement matters. **ITL Vote: 14-0**

HRA Analysis: Removes the ability to revoke a driver's license due to non payment of child support. Might or might not violate 42 U.S.C. § 666(a)(16), potentially resulting in loss of \$20 million in federal Title IV-D funding. Platform: Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care and upbringing of their children. NH Const. Part first, Art 18, "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense...."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB1564, relative to the child support guidelines. **OTP Vote: 13-0**

HRA Analysis: Special Committee on the Family Court heard much testimony from parents struggling to support their children during their parenting time, particularly when parenting time was approximately equal and no deviation from the support amount was allowed to offset the costs. 1. Increases the self-support reserve from 115% to 130% of the federal poverty guideline. 2. Allows for expenses associated with childcare, health care and extracurricular activities to be split between the parties. 3. Allows for rebuttable presumptions of deviations to the child support calculator, based upon shared parenting time. Platform: Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1573, relative to oversight of and criteria for residential placement of children. **OTP/A Vote: 15-0**

HRA Analysis: Presuming that the State has lawfully taken control and responsibility for the residential care of a minor it becomes incumbent on the State to ensure the safety of that minor. This bill is an improvement upon current statute in that regard. Constitution: Part 1, Article 12 Every member of the community has a right to be protected by it, in the enjoyment of his life, liberty, and property. This includes children. Normally this falls to the parents, but when the State takes control, it assumes the responsibility.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1595, relative to adjustment of the child support guidelines based on parenting time, medical support, and child care expenses. **OTP Vote: 7-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes a formula for child support payments. It reduces litigation and deviation in the shared parenting process. 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

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB1633, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. Int. study Vote: 17-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill would expand the availability, sale, and widespread use of recreational marijuana and cannabis products. The bill as amended, moves us towards but not completely to a free market model. The amended bill opens up new markets. However, it also imposes new taxes and fees. Currently, NH has six available locations to procure marijuana products under relatively easy to obtain Rx cards for medical use. Platform issues: increased taxes, growth in govt, more government regulation, protection of health, supporting a productive society and supporting the free market economy.

HRA Recommendation: Support Amendment 0680h; No recommendation

HB1649, relative to prohibiting certain products with intentionally added PFAS. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill imposes a ban on certain products with "intentionally added" PFAS for sale in the State. Many products on the resulting amended and limited list have already been removed from the market, such as Scotchguard, and similar stain and waterproofing chemicals. The bill, as amended, introduces a prohibition, effective from July 1, 2028, against the sale, use, or promotional distribution of consumer products containing PFAS, specifically targeting carpets or rugs, cosmetics, fabric treatments, feminine hygiene products, fluorine-treated containers, food packaging and containers, juvenile products, personal protective equipment, dental floss, mattresses, and upholstered furniture such as sofas, among other products within the state. The issue with this limited ban is to prevent increased PFAS chemicals from entering waste streams/landfills and then into the public air and water environments. Platform issues: We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise. Platform: Improve access to information necessary to make informed health care decisions...

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB1674, relative to establishing the New Hampshire legal tender act and establishing a state bullion depository. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP/A Vote: 14-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill would have established or directed the State to establish a bullion depository within NH. The majority feels the idea has incredible merit but needs further study at this time. Platform issues: protect the free economy

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB1050, relative to establishing a voluntary waiver of the right to purchase a firearm. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill would establish a program to allow one to add themselves to FBI instant background check list of prohibited persons if they have suicidal ideations. Additionally, there are privacy concerns around these records. Violates Part First, Art 2b. "An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP Support ITL

HB1186, relative to firearm purchaser's privacy. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended would prohibit a merchant category code from being used that would identify firearm or accessory purchases. Calls for enforcement by the states attorney general and a civil penalty. Amendment 2024-0604h replaces the bill. NH Constitution: Part 1, Article 2a & 2b - Right to Bear Arms and Right to Privacy

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1330, relative to establishing an emergency medical services disciplinary review panel, and relative to procedures for removal of records of discipline. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill will create a review board to handle discipline of licensed EMT's in New Hampshire.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1339, relative to department of safety firearm background checks. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill is pro-2A. It improves and in some types of cases, creates a fair process to get firearms returned to their rightful owners following confiscation by law enforcement or court proceedings. Currently, state police often require a court order before they are willing to return guns. As amended, a standard background check can be ordered at the discretion of the court in order to proceed within 10 days. This bill is supported by state police and NRA and is a major improvement to the ambiguities and delays in firearms returns in the current law. 2024-0605h replaces the bill in its entirety. Constitution and Platform: support the right to keep and bear arms.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Education

HB1128, relative to the definition of a scholarship organization for purposes of the education tax credit. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Changes the definition of scholarship organization so that only charitable organization incorporated in NH may qualify as a scholarship organization or administer the EFA program. The bill is intended to prevent the current scholarship provider from operating in the state. Platform: expand educational opportunities

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

HB1288, relative to establishing certain due process rights for students, student organizations, and faculty members facing disciplinary actions by state institutions of higher learning. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Establishes minimum floor for due process to be administered by Community System of NH and University System of NH. Constitution Pt 1 Art. 15 - Every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favorable to himself, ...

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1517, relative to the statewide education property tax and excess revenue from games of chance. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Annually reduces the SWEPT by the amount of revenue paid to the state by games of chance in excess of the amount paid in the 2023 fiscal year.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1583, relative to the per pupil cost of an opportunity for an adequate education. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: Accounts for increased spending on the cost of an adequate education due to the recent court decision which requires that the state continues to cherish education. Constitution: Part 2, Art 83 "Cherish" meant something different when the constitution was written. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A and Support ITL

HB1656, relative to increasing the adequacy grant for pupils receiving special education services. **OTP/A Vote: 19-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill provides for 3 tiers of special education funding with three weighted categories of differentiated aid. Platform: every child is filled with potential and is unique in his own right. Bill is likely to cost in excess of \$80 million to fund this new aid. Constitution: Part 2, Art 83 "Cherish" meant something different when the constitution was written. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB1675, relative to adjusting education adequacy grants based on pupil proficiency. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: Phases out education grants for students not proficient in Math, or English Language Arts.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1686, relative to requiring excess revenues raised through the statewide education property tax to be remitted to the education trust fund and prohibiting the department of revenue administration from setting negative local and county tax rates on real property. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Requires that all of the proceeds of the SWEPT be spent by municipalities on the funding of an adequate education or be remitted to the state for deposit in the education trust fund even when more is raised than required by law. Municipalities will be prohibited from setting a negative tax rate and will be required to raise property tax in excess of revenue to fund their portion of SWEPT. Part 2, Art 83. Platform: "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services"

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

Election Law

HB1426, relative to establishing an advisory redistricting commission. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This attempts to create an "independent" redistricting commission. The legislature is tasked with this duty constitutionally and we shouldn't be allowing others to interfere with that process. Part 2 Art 9, Art 65, Art 72

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1577, relative to digital images of ballots. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Amendment 0598h - This bill enables an inexpensive means of informally auditing election results and looking for possible irregularities by determining if the vote totals agree with the machine report totals. NH Const. Part First Art. 8 "...To that end, the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted..."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Environment and Agriculture

HB1184, relative to making an appropriation to the organic certification program. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: NH organic program - 4000 farms/132 organic only 66 are certified through NH AG dept. \$350 to get organically certified, the program is unsustainable. Currently subsidized by tax payers. AG commissioner says they need to hire 2 more people \$220,000 - NH Constitution Part 1, Article 10 won't hurt farmers, they can get certified by many other certification organizations in the North East. Platform: "Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP Support ITL

HB1630, relative to extended producer responsibility. **Maj. ITL; Min. Int. study Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This measure seeks to charge producers to pay for the disposal of their products. DES says it will have to hire 8 positions. EPR grows government. Different aspects of landfill concerns are already being addressed in other pieces of legislation. Interferes with private companies by dictating packaging, product. Buyer and market has the ability to choose. Platform "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits", "Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1680, relative to prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats by retail pet shops. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-6**

HRA Analysis: Humane society initiative seeks to ban retail pets based on claim that these stores are purchasing pets from puppy mills. Humane society wants to shut down industry in NH. Platform: "Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses. Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Executive Departments and Administration

HB1307, providing a supplemental appropriation for members of the retirement system receiving an accidental disability retirement allowance. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: People on disability retirement did not get the \$500 stipend last session, as most did not have the required 20 years of service (not by choice!) this bill gives it to them. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1394, relative to licensure and regulation of music therapists and making an appropriation therefor. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This creates a new license for music therapists. Platform: minimize regulations, licenses...

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support ITL

HB1466, relative to providing disaster relief funding to municipalities after a natural disaster. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, amendment 0528h - allows towns hit by a natural disaster to ask for a grant to let them start recovery. FEMA and other relief programs are bureaucratic and slow; this money might be used as matching funds. The amendment eliminates the 15 added employees and most of the overhead costs. No platform or constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: Support Amendment 0528h. No recommendation

HB1647, relative to the calculation of group II retirement benefits in the retirement system. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill restores GII (police, fire, corrections) pensions to the multiplier established before 2011, for those not vested at the time and new hires. The committee amendment requires meeting the age and years of service for a full career before getting the increased multiplier.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1689, relative to the use of personal identifying information by state agencies. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP Vote: 14-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill would prohibit sharing any personal data from Vital Records to other state agencies. Some of this data is necessary to accomplish tasks we expect of agencies (death certificates let the retirement system stop pensions; birth certificates are needed for genealogy; marriages and divorces affect pensions, child support; and many more.) NH Constitution: Part 1, Article 2b the right to privacy is inherent. Platform: government efficiency, prioritize programs to achieve our goals. IS recommended to protect privacy while accomplishing goals we have tasked agencies with.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB1303, relative to the estate of Tekeste Berhanu. **OTP/A Vote: 19-1**

HRA Analysis: This person left a suicide note requesting that their estate go to helping refugee children. The original bill would have handed that money over to DHHS to administer. As amended, the bill distributes the money to 3 organizations deemed to be reputable by GOP members of the subcommittee. This includes one faith-based organization.

HRA Recommendation: OTP/A

HB1593, relative to funding for developmental services community integration. **OTP/A**

HRA Analysis: This bill appropriates \$500,000 for people with development disabilities for recreational activities such as bowling. Funds would be available up to \$600 per person per year. Limited government & low taxation.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB1669, relative to restricting data sharing through the state immunization registry. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

HRA Analysis: This protects individuals whose information is in the immunization registry by requiring that any entity with whom the information is shared must adhere to NH privacy requirements, including an individual's right to have their data removed from the database. NH Constitution Part 1, Article 2b -Fundamental right to privacy.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB1178, relative to an employee's unused earned time. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: The bill requires that unused vacation time be paid as wages due in certain circumstances. This would micromanage company discretion over benefits, overriding any non-compliant policy governing vacation time or Paid Time Off. Platform: Minimize business regulations.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

HB1322, relative to the state minimum hourly rate. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Proposes to more than double the minimum wage over a five year period, after which it will indexed to inflation. It also dramatically increases the way tipped wages are calculated. Economic forces already put NH in the top third for workers' pay. We should oppose government mandates and especially the notion that the regulatory rates would increase automatically during future legislative sessions. Platform: We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support ITL

HB1377, relative to granting workers free choice to join or refrain from joining labor unions. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Prohibits contracts which require non-union members to make payments to fund union activities. This law would do to private NH employers what Janus did for public employers. Passing "Right to Work" is a plank in the NH GOP platform.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1522, relative to weekly benefit amounts for unemployment compensation. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Amendment number 0651h - this bill seeks to adjust unemployment compensation payments for inflation. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP. Support ITL. Support Table

Public Works and Highways

HB1468, directing the department of transportation to develop a Conway Branch rail line master plan. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

HRA Analysis: Creates a committee to study the best public use of the so-called Conway branch.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB1423, requiring the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources to identify all old growth and mature forests on public land in the state of New Hampshire. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill would require redundant categorization of old growth NH timber, bypassing a plan enacted in 2020 and supported by State Forestry and the NH Timberland Owners. They both oppose this bill. This would be an expensive and unfunded fiscal burden. Platform issues: fiscal constraint, expansion of government

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1709, establishing a tax on land used for carbon credits. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. Int. study Vote: 18-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill would do what the title says unless amended. As amended, a needless commission is created, that doesn't even take effect until 2025. The make up of the new Commission (from the amendment) is 9 public/dept members and 4 legislators. The State Forester and the NH Timberland Owners support ITL for this bill. This bill as amended needlessly expands govt AND these same issues are being examined by HB 1697 which is coming out 20-0 from ST&E. Platform issues: Increases taxes, and expands government

HRA Recommendation: Support Amendment, Oppose OTP/A

Science, Technology and Energy

HB1465, relative to studies of nuclear energy technologies. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 17-3**

HRA Analysis: The bill expands the Dept of Energy's offshore wind office to an energy innovation office adding nuclear, hydrogen and other emerging technologies. No additional headcount or financial support was authorized. DOE is to serve as the statewide coordinating point and reporting center as technologies mature. Platform: Support the development of a robust... technology infrastructure through NH.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1472, relative to rebates of energy efficiency funds for electric vehicles. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: The bill augments a federal EV rebate program; in NH, it redirects a portion of RGGI rebates (1.5M) that would normally reduce a ratepayer's electric bill, to fund a cash rebate for NH purchasers/lessors of new/used EVs. NH Constitution Part 1, Article 10.... Platform: Work to reduce energy costs. Oppose all laws, programs, and mandates ... contrary to our principles, including ... wealth redistribution plans ...

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/OTPA Support ITL

HB1697, suspending New Hampshire's participation in emissions reduction credit programs for a period of 2 years. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: The amendment completely redrafts the bill to require the DRA to study the impact of the loss of timber tax revenue and constraints in recreational property use to carbon credit offset programs and require the Div of Forestry to establish a public record of all forest lands enrolled in a carbon offset program. Information gained will be used to guide future legislative initiatives. Platform: Support cost-efficient means to protect, develop and market... forest and high value natural resource products. Require that all energy and infrastructure projects, constructed within NH, be constructed in a manner which does not negatively affect NH's natural beauty and personal property values. Encourage landowners to keep their property open and accessible to responsible recreation.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Special Committee on Childcare

HB1611, relative to establishing a child care workforce fund. **OTP/A Vote: 8-0**

HRA Analysis: Creates a special fund overseen by DHHS to create a childcare benefit for employers. Increases the bureaucracy of DHHS. Platform: We believe in free people, free markets, and free enterprise.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL