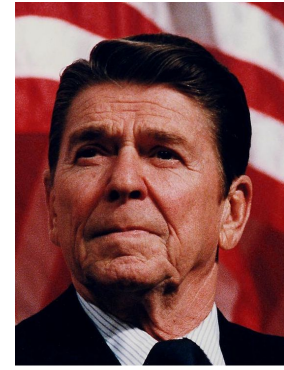


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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, March 14, 2024
Regular Calendar

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB1204, relative to government agent entries into secured premises. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill enforces the constitutional provision against search and seizure without warrant. Part 1, Article 19. "Every subject hath a right to be secure from all unreasonable searches and seizures of his person, his houses, his papers, and all his possessions."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1276, relative to repealing the prohibition on the possession or sale of blackjacks, slung shots, and metallic knuckles except by or to minors. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: The bill removes the prohibition to possess or sell antique tools (used for game management) and self-defense items. The punishment is misdemeanor, however there is no victim by just possession. NH Const. Art. 18 "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense...."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1336, relative to employees' firearms in locked vehicles. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: The bill allows all employees to have a firearm(s) in their car provided the car is locked. NH Constitution Art. 2-a "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Education

HB1108, relative to establishing a committee to study the role of colleges and universities in contributing to the student loan crisis. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-6**

HRA Analysis: People are concerned about college debt and expenses. This bill creates a committee of 5 Reps and 1 Senator to study college costs including advertising, administrative positions, career expectations and salaries and report by November 1st. Should be left to the private sector. Platform issue: Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience - HRA takes no position on committees or commissions

HB1162, relative to teaching discrimination in public schools and discrimination in public workplaces. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This sweeping bill repeals anti-discrimination statutes for education that were added 3 years ago to combat CRT and "divisive concepts" But it goes further and repeals them for public workplaces also. Contrary to the majority report, there is nothing in law to prohibit teachers from teaching about historical events or issues in history. Pt 1 Art 2: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state on account of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1265, relative to the penalty for failure to file school expenditure reports, and relative to certain adequacy grants. **OTP Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This includes technical corrections to 1). eliminate public academies from state reporting failure penalties, and 2). insert tuition bill calculations that were left out of HB2. No platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1305, relative to freedom of speech and association at public institutions of higher education. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill promotes freedom of speech on campuses. It prohibits free speech zones, and physically blocking or issuing threats of violence to block speakers. Lawful protests in outdoor areas are protected. Platform: We believe that individual liberty is guaranteed under the Constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire, that the liberty of the people must be protected above the power of the government.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

HB1311, relative to school district collection development and reconsideration policies. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: HB1311 would require districts to adopt policies for library collection development that would prohibit forbidding materials based upon an author's protected class. It would also prohibit removing materials based upon the authors' or subject's protected class. This would allow for administration rejection of any parental complaint of inappropriate materials. Platform issue: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1312, requiring parental notification of student health or well-being and certain curricula by school districts. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Current law requires advance notice to parents of instruction in sex ed and sexuality and the ability to opt their child out. The bill adds sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity. The amendment #0774h clarifies that policies are required that cannot prohibit school officials from honestly answering parental questions about their child's mental or emotional health, sexuality, or changes in services. Platform: "Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children" also "Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children"

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment 2024-0774h, Support OTP/A

HB1512, limiting education freedom account funding to budgeted amounts. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This is another attempt to limit EFAs and participation by limiting funding to budgeted amounts. There was testimony that a warrant could be drawn and approved by the Fiscal Committee for additional funding but that is not what the bill says. Platform issue: Expand education tax credits and education savings accounts (EFAs)

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1594, establishing an annual review and qualification to determine eligibility to participate in the education freedom accounts program. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This is another attempt to limit EFAs and participation by having the family income checked each year for eligibility. This would cause chaos for a student whose income fluctuated. It would also eliminate the ability for funds to roll over from year to year. And it takes effect July 1, 2023. Platform issue: Expand education tax credits and education savings accounts (EFAs)

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1671, relative to the complaint process for teaching discrimination and allowing educators and school officials a right of action for damages and costs for false accusations. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill eliminates the ability for civil action or even violations of the Educator Code of Conduct if a teacher is found to be teaching discrimination by the local or state board. Instead, an educator found to be have been falsely accused could file a civil action. Platform: Promote personal responsibility and consequences for one's actions.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Election Law

CACR19, relating to redistricting. Providing that an independent redistricting commission shall be established to draw boundaries for state and federal offices. **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. Bill and amendment create multiple conflicts with NH Const. Part 2 Art 11 " The legislature shall form the representative districts at the regular session following every decennial federal census."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1146, relative to the removal of a voter from the checklist. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: There is currently no mechanism for a voter to remove themselves from the voter checklist. While rare, there are times when a voter would like to unenroll such as when they have moved out of state. Platform: "unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1310, relative to meetings of supervisors of the checklist. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Requires SOC to meet at least every 90 days for the purpose of periodic voter checklist maintenance. Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1348, relative to polling places at which total ballot counts exceed the total number of registered voters. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Adds a provision for a candidate to apply for a recount in a circumstance where the total count of cast ballots exceeds the number of registered voters on the day of the election. Platform applies to both bill and amendment: Prosecute violations of election law

HRA Recommendation: Support 2024-0894h, Support OTP/A

HB1364, relative to intimidation of election officers, improper influence over the electoral process, and tampering with electronic ballot counting devices. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill would make threatening or harming election workers a felony; it would make publicizing an election worker's personal information a class A misdemeanor; and it would make tampering with electronic voting systems a class B misdemeanor. There are already protections for poll workers and prohibitions against the tampering of election systems. Part 1 Art 18 "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense..."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1369, relative to the verification of voter rolls every 4 years. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Changes the interval for the verification of voter rolls from every 10 years to every 4 years. Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1370, relative to durable and tamper-proof containers for preserving ballots. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 15-4**

HRA Analysis: Replaces using the cardboard boxes that are currently used to hold ballots with dedicated, durable plastic containers that can be readily secured and easily transported. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1557, requiring the secretary of state to enter into a membership agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill would require the Secretary of State to enter into a membership agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). Serious concerns about sharing private voter information including last four digits of the social security number, date of birth, driver's license number, and other sensitive information with an outside organization which would violate Part 1 Art. 2-b of the State Constitution, an individual's right to privacy.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1569, relative to eliminating voter identification exceptions.

HRA Analysis: Removes voter identification exceptions. Platform: "to prevent voter fraud we support the requirement to produce positive identification and proof of citizenship upon registering at your city or town clerk and on voting day during same day registration. A signed affidavit is not adequate proof of domicile or citizenship."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Executive Departments and Administration

HB1252, relative to establishing a committee to study the needs of Native Americans in New Hampshire. **OTP Vote: 14-2**

HRA Analysis: It's a committee. No platform or constitutional issue.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation - HRA takes no position on commissions or committees.

Finance

SB395, relative to establishing the position of assistant commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 20-2**

HRA Analysis: The bill adds statutory authority for a new assistant commissioner position in the Dept. of Ag. (The budget provided the money, however the justification for the position is questionable) The department is less than 50 people and does not need an additional assistant commissioner. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB1231, permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 15-4**

HRA Analysis: The bill allows pre-qualified people who have medical marijuana cards to cultivate their use cannabis. Platform "Support the State's Constitutional right to determine legal restrictions on possession of controlled substances"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Legislative Administration

HR25, resolving to return to the historical intent of the express trust indenture, the New Hampshire Constitution, specifically Part 1, Article 11 and Part 2, Article 32. **Int. study Vote: 15-0**

HRA Analysis: When considering the implications of this Resolution it should be remembered that Part 1, Article 11 in the Constitutions of 1784 and 1792 consisted only of the first sentence, and remained so until 1903. The subject matter of interest to the sponsors having been transferred from what we see as Part 2, Article 31 to Part 1, Article 11 in 1976. Furthermore, keeping in mind that Part 1, The Bill of Rights, is generally considered to be understood according to the standard of strict scrutiny, while Part 2, The form of Government is generally considered to be understood according to the standard of rational scrutiny. Therefore, applying the standard of a trust indenture (which implies a financial liability) to the subject matter now in Part 1, Article 11 in light the protections included in Part 1, Article 30, which protect legislators from prosecution outside the Legislature for their political activity inside the Legislature, the implications of this Resolution need to be studied further.

HRA Recommendation: Support Interim Study

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB1326, relative to notification processes for large groundwater withdrawal applications. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 17-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill if passed as amended would support property rights by requiring transparency in govt by requiring notification of proposed large groundwater withdrawals by a simple postcard mailing to abutters. Conflicting platform issues: Unfunded mandate vs property rights.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

HB1156, relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This originally decried the influence of CDC and WHO re: state sovereignty, as it addressed the application of applying pronouncements to public policy, if not statute. We amended the measure to remove CDC, as HB1156 makes a much stronger sovereignty argument when limited to the WHO, which is run by foreigners, to include Communists. No recommendation on amendment, PLATFORM: Constitutions should limit our government, not our freedom. Oppose mandates from international organizations.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP or OTP/A

HR23, calling upon the New Hampshire congressional delegation to support a national, universal health insurance program. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This vote represented a partisan divide. The drawbacks to national health insurance were pointed out by the GOP doctor on the committee. That foreigners in countries with national health insurance come to the USA for health care speaks volumes. PLATFORM: Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector. Support the repeal of ObamaCare.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HR26, urging Congress to adopt a constitutional amendment to distinguish between corporate and individual rights. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This measure's intent is contrary to established law and legal precedent, which recognizes corporate rights. The Supreme Court has ruled that spending money to promote perspectives is protected by the First Amendment, whether such funds are personal or corporate. NH Const. Part 1st, Art.22 " Free speech and Liberty of the press are essential to the security of Freedom in a State: They ought, therefore, to be inviolably preserved."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HR27, calling for policymakers locally and nationally to fully consider all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change before pursuing courses of action that could adversely affect any economy or environment. **OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This resolution simply calls for all perspectives to be considered in the formulation of climate policies. PLATFORM: "Oppose all laws, programs & mandates ... contrary to our principles, including ... sustainable development initiatives, ... and punitive environmental controls." "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HCR9, rescinding the application to the Congress of the United States of America to call a convention pursuant to the terms of Article V of the United States Constitution. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 14-6**

HRA Analysis: The Committee has become better educated and has a better understanding of Article V matters, as evidenced by committee votes in this area over the past two years. But last session a measure sympathetic to an Article V Convention was tabled. This measure, which is hostile to an Article V Convention, should thus also be tabled, if not ITL'd. U.S. CONSTITUTION, Article V: "Congress ... on the Application of the two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing Amendments."

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Transportation

HB1244, prohibiting smoking and e-cigarettes in motor vehicles when a passenger is under 16 years of age. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: Platform: We believe that individual liberty is guaranteed under the Constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire, that the liberty of the people must be protected above the power of the government... This is akin to seat belt laws.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1329, relative to creating special number plates for fire departments. **OTP Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: No constitutional or platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB1332, relative to prohibiting electric vehicles from parking in parking garages. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

HRA Analysis: This measure seeks to prohibit electric vehicles from parking garages. No protocol exists to fight these fires. Thermal runaway creates noxious gas and temperatures in excess of 2000 degrees which spreads to other vehicles. Fire safety gear rated for 800 degrees. Garage structures melt and collapse under these circumstances and have already been refused in neighboring states. These are experimental vehicles and should be treated as such. Conflicting platform issues: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork vs. We believe, above all else, in the founding principle that all people are created equal, endowed by our Creator with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,...

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB1403, relative to temporary vehicle emission control equipment. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This measure extends the repair period for vehicles by adding 4 months to get repairs done.

Platform: Strongly oppose new taxes and fees, including an income, sales and capital gains tax

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Ways and Means

CACR15, relating to taxation. Providing that a 2/3 vote is required to pass legislation imposing new or increased taxes or license fees, or to authorize the issuance of state bonds and providing that the general court shall appropriate funds for payment of interest and installments of principle of all state bonds. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Bill requires a 2/3 majority to raise taxes or fees.

Platform: We believe that economies flourish when all people retain as much of their hard earned income as possible, to spend and invest as they see fit. Platform: Require super-majorities to raise taxes.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1054, relative to the Northern Border Alliance Program fund. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This measure looks to dissolve the dedicated non-lapsing fund. This is the first step to take away funding for the Northern Border, by removing a non-lapsing fund. Program needs to continue - to protect our Northern border. Platform: Demand enforcement of national border security and immigration laws; Define trespass to include illegal presence in New Hampshire.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1254, relative to an optional local public safety assessment on certain room occupancies. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This measure allows for extra money to be a new form of room tax, created and assessed locally by cities and towns with more tourism to help offset some of the burdens that make significant impact on the community. The state would have no say at all. This is a new, decentralized tax. Platform: "Strongly oppose new taxes"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1391, allowing new vehicles purchased in the model year or before to be inspected in the second year after purchase. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL; Min. ITL Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: A slight reduction in regulatory intrusion only for those buying or leasing a new personal vehicle. Platform "Sunset programs and regulations to force periodic reevaluation"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1536, relative to increasing the amount of the expense deduction allowed against the business profits tax. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: This measure doubles the amount of the current year deduction that a company can take for investment in new capital equipment. Platform: Economies flourish when all people retain as much of their hard earned income as possible...

Platform: Strongly oppose new taxes and fees

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP