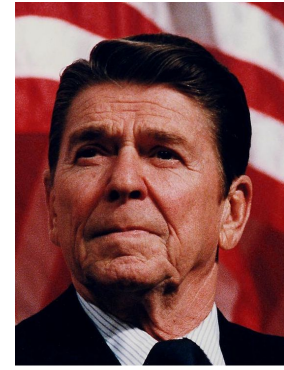


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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 21, 2024
Regular Calendar

Children and Family Law

HB1192, relative to contempt actions in domestic relations matters. **OTP/A Vote: 9-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill gives the family court powers of contempt for the purpose of enforcing their orders. Amendment improves the bill making the contempt the judgement of the court rather than placing the burden on the plaintiff to prove and broadens the punishment to general reimbursement of the plaintiff, rather limiting it to legal costs and fees. Part 1, Article 8, power being derived from the People.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1659, relative to interference with child custody and shared parenting. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 8-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill gives the aggrieved parties in a divorce the power to enforce a parenting plan which is currently lacking. The amendment improves the bill by appointing a state authority to investigate the allegation and limiting the fine to \$500. rather than \$500/day. Platform: Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care and upbringing and discipline of their children. We believe that the children's best interest is to have a substantial relationship with each parent.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB1528, relative to reporting by the northern border alliance program. **OTP/A Vote: 19-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill aligns required reporting statute with state police protocol and ensures the governor and legislature receive adequate reporting from the program. Platform: Demand the enforcement of national border security and immigration laws.

HRA Recommendation: OTP/A

Education

HB1205, relative to women's school sports. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Prevents biological males from competing in women's sports in grades 5-12. Amendment restricts to 5th to 12th grade sports and establishes cause of action. No platform or constitutional issues identified. Although this is not in the platform, this is supported by natural law.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1650, relative to the approval of alternative programs for granting credit leading to graduation. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Requires alternative learning programs like Learn Everywhere, to comply with state and federal anti-discrimination laws and state Board of Education to monitor their compliance instead of Human Rights Commission. Platform: Encourage education freedom, support market forces to provide and improve education.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

HB1654, relative to review of education freedom account service providers. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Requires EFA service providers to develop and implement policies that are required of school districts and charter schools. State Board of Education would annually review EFA providers for compliance with all state and federal anti-discrimination laws. This would overburden the DOE and Board of education requiring new positions. Platform: Limit spending and growth of government.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

HR30, urging a robust climate education in schools including current environmental and economic information. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Recommends leaning into students' "climate anxiety" by encouraging the promotion of a robust climate change curriculum to affirm children's fears about man made climate change. Amendment claims that that human activities have caused the climate change crisis. Platform: emphasize knowledge attainment and academic achievement.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Amendment 0936h Oppose OTP/A or OTP, Support ITL

Election Law

HB1074, relative to campaign contributions by limited liability companies. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Requires that a political contribution by a limited liability company be allocated to members for purposes of determining whether a member has exceeded the contribution limits. PLATFORM: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

HB1098, relative to ballots delivered to elder care facilities. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill enables ballot clerks, assistant clerks, or clerks pro tem to deliver ballots to elder care facilities. Part 1, Art 11: The general court shall provide by law for voting by qualified voters who by reason of physical disability are unable to vote in person. PLATFORM: Ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1099, relative to partisan school district elections. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill enables school districts to adopt partisan elections. No constitutional or platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1119, relative to absentee ballots. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 19-1**

HRA Analysis: Absentee voting for reasons beyond physical disability and absence from town, as per Part 1 Article. 11, exceeds the authority of the Constitution, and is therefore unconstitutional.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL

HB1147, relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations and labor unions. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires business organizations and labor unions to make political contributions through segregated funds. PLATFORM: Support legislation to allow workers to decide the allocation of the portion of their union dues used for political purposes.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL

HB1149, relative to domicile residency, voter registration, investigation of voter verification letters, and relative to the terms "resident," "inhabitant," "residence," and "residency." **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Attempts to revert New Hampshire's elections back to the "honor system" of voting, where IDs are not required to register to vote nor to vote. PLATFORM: Ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only; to prevent voter fraud we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registering and voting

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

HB1264, relative to the definition of accessible voting systems. **OTP/A Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: Accessible Voting Systems are currently in place only for state elections with a federal office on the ballot, and are generally not made available at polling locations for local elections. As a result, with very few exceptions, individuals with disabilities are not universally afforded equal opportunities to vote privately and independently as individuals without disabilities in local elections. Part 1, Art 11: "polling places shall be easily accessible to all persons including disabled and elderly persons who are otherwise qualified"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1523, revising the moderator's worksheet for counting votes in elections. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Revises the pre-election certificate to account for an inventory of ballots, including those that have been sent for absentee voting. No constitutional or platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Environment and Agriculture

HB1351, prohibiting the sale and use of adhesive-based rodent traps. **Maj. Int. study; Min. ITL Vote: 15-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to ban the sale and production of rodent glue traps in NH (as well as insect glue strips) on the basis of them being a cruel way to kill rats and mice. Platform: We believe in free people, free markets, free enterprise.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Executive Departments and Administration

HB1335, removing Columbus Day as a holiday. **ITL Vote: 14-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill removes Columbus Day as an observed holiday. Platform: We believe that the history of the Republican Party is a story of strength, courage and patriotism

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1411, relative to requiring agencies and their contractors to accept cash payments. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-3**

HRA Analysis: No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB1347, relative to administration of the New Hampshire refugee resettlement program. **Maj. Int. study; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This measure seeks to prioritize HHS services for US Citizens and legal immigrants before illegal immigrants. Platform: ... enforcement of national border security and immigration laws.

HRA Recommendation: Support IS

HB1683, relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-6**

HRA Analysis: The bill is relative to medicaid coverage to circumcision. The bill would require medical necessity before this procedure is covered. Amendment allows for insurance coverage when medically necessary. Platform: Allow free market driven health care plans and "a la carte" insurance plans free from government mandates.

HRA Recommendation: Amendment 0573h. Support OTP/A

Judiciary

HB1002, relative to fees for records under the right-to-know law. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This amendment allows for 250 email communications for free from any one public body in a 30 day period, and each after that at \$1/per email communication. It further also requires a fee waiver for those of limited means (indigent) or when obtaining a large amount of these records is in the public interest. The FLAM was carefully crafted based on many hours of research, and careful consideration and agreement by many but NOT all stakeholders including RTK-NH, ACLU, and NH Press Assn. PLATFORM: "We believe that low taxes are the result of low spending; that government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible..". NH Constitution provides in Part First, Art. 8 "All power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them. 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...."

HRA Recommendation: Support FLAM 2024-1173h. Vote Your Conscience

HB1082, relative to professional limited liability company (PLLC) assistant manager status. **OTP/A Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill amends the law to permit a single-member professional limited liability company to designate an assistant manager, who is not a qualified person, to manage the PLLC in the case of the death, incapacity, or disqualification of the manager for certain purposes. PLATFORM: "Minimize business regulations"

HRA Recommendation: Amendment 1060h Support OTP/A

HB1115, relative to the termination of tenancy at the expiration of the tenancy or lease term. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: Expiration of rental term of lease over 6-months is grounds for eviction. Currently a lease is forever for a landlord, and for as long as the tenant wants, for the tenant. Constitution Art 12. But no part of a man's property shall be taken from him.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL/ Support OTP

HB1283, relative to end of life options. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: Allowing for medical aid in dying, in those with less than 6 months to live. PLATFORM: "We believe that life is sacred, from conception to natural death and that we cannot diminish the value of one category of human life without diminishing the value of all human life."

HRA Recommendation: Support Amendment 0808h Oppose OTP/A / Support ITL

HB1353, relative to authorizing the commissioner of the department of education to issue subpoenas. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Authorizing the hearing officer of Dept of Education to issue subpoenas in certified educator in cases of allegations of serious code of misconduct violations. PLATFORM: Classroom "Promote personal responsibility and consequences for one's actions."

HRA Recommendation: Support Amendment 0978h. Support OTP/A

HB1664, relative to legal remedies for individuals who receive medical detransitioning. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: The bill allows those seeking to undo transition puberty blockers, hormones or surgery a chance to seek medical damages if the treatment caused greater harm: FLAM changes the bill for only minors and young adults and constrains the timeframe to 3 years. Platform "Support the moral and ethical right of informed consent with regard to all medical treatment and intervention -

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL. Support FLAM 2024-1273h. Support OTP/A

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB1246, relative to allowing for payment of wages in gold or silver. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: If passed, the bill would allow employers and employees (if both agree) to settle wages in gold and silver. Such transactions would be voluntary for all concerned. Platform: "free people, free markets and free enterprise."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1648, relative to electronic payments to employees debit cards. **ITL Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: This proposal would complicate the already-extensive regulations on how employees are paid by their employers. In some cases, it could force people to exchange payment in the form of payroll debit cards. The bill seems primarily to benefit the large, payroll companies who prefer payroll cards. Platform: "Minimize business regulations."

HRA Recommendation: ITL

Legislative Administration

HB1479, relative to prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This bill regulates the use of public funds for lobbying activities and establishes certain additional enforcement mechanisms. The fact is that those organizations that offer multiple services to municipalities and schools require ALL services to be purchased. Or purchase none. The amendments make it voluntary in nature; 0982h makes it a choice by the town officers; 1160h makes it a choice by the town voters. Choice and transparency is always a good thing. Platform: Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds.

HRA Recommendation: Support Amendment 0982h. Support Amendment 1160h Support OTP or OTP/A

Municipal and County Government

HB1053, relative to permissible residential units in a commercial zone. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-2**

HRA Analysis: Creates unwise statewide mandate to allow residential use by right in commercial zones versus local case-by-case consideration. Some towns have limited commercial zones; thus, allowing residential use by right goes against GOP platform. NH GOP Platform: work with municipalities to streamline planning and zoning barriers to business.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1101, establishing a committee to study a potential state program to make loans to low-to-moderate income households for the purpose of buying a home or for the purpose of consolidating student loans. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-7**

HRA Analysis: Attempts to conflate home and student loans, and establish a committee which could lead to new state subsidized loan programs needing new funding via new taxes and fees. NH GOP Platform: oppose new taxes and fees.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.

HB1175, relative to the official ballot referendum form of town meetings. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Moves question to adopt official balloting (SB2) from a traditional meeting warrant article back onto the election day official ballot, where it has been for 24 years. Many disenfranchised voters can't attend traditional meetings. Placing the question to adopt SB2 back onto the official ballot gives disenfranchised voters a voice at the ballot box. NH GOP Platform: responsibility to hold government accountable through the ballot box, and maintain local control of taxes through voters

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP; Oppose ITL

HB1210, relative to the election of Strafford county commissioners. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Proposes reversal of 2023 HB75 which eliminated the gerrymandered Strafford County Commissioner at-large district, providing county with fair representation. NH GOP Platform: responsibility to hold government accountable through the ballot box.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

HB1281, relative to zoning restrictions on residential rental property. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-6**

HRA Analysis: Prohibits unreasonable and non-uniform ordinances that limit property owners to renting only up to 3 unrelated renters, leaving bedrooms and properties artificially under utilized. Bill enables free market forces for landlords to fully utilize property, expanding housing opportunities, and lowering rents to help solve the NH housing crisis. NH GOP Platform: protecting property rights, removing barriers for small business, and ensuring protections from local government overreach. Platform also states "...that the state should ensure protections from such local government the State should also not overreach to impose its heavy-handed will onto municipalities. Alternatively "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services".

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB1317, relative to municipal filings made by charitable organizations exempt from taxation. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 14-6**

HRA Analysis: For abatement of taxes for a charitable organization, gives 60 days (up from 30 days) to respond for additional information. The amendment defines "good cause". NH GOP Platform: maintain local control of taxes; morality and concern for others.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Support ITL

HB1345, relative to the length of terms for Coos county officers. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 16-2**

HRA Analysis: Supports Coos County delegation and voters in their desire to use 4-year terms for county officers, similar to Rockingham County. Current 2-year term causes re-election efforts and focus to start almost as soon as the county attorney, sheriff, and register of deeds get going in these key full-time positions, leading to inefficiencies. NH GOP Platform: prioritizing programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1414, relative to the Gunstock Area Commission and ski resort. **Maj. ITL Vote: 15-5**

HRA Analysis: This measure requires a forensic audit of Gunstock. Conflicting constitutional articles: Part 1 Article 28a Unfunded mandates vs Part 1, Article 8 Accountability of magistrates

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB1460, relative to the sale of county property. **Maj. Int. study; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Requires counties to appraise any county property before sale, transfer, or lease, and establish and implement specific notice requirements. While bill may support further government openness and transparency, bill needs significant work to correct technical deficiencies and ambiguities. NH GOP Platform: Expanding openness and transparency of government.

HRA Recommendation: Support IS

Special Committee on Childcare

HB1584, relative to home day care licensing requirements. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 5-4**

HRA Analysis: The opposition apparently thinks that providers and parents are incapable of deciding what is safe for kids, that the government should make all such decisions by one-size-fits-all rules. Platform: Decisions in regards to the upbringing, healthcare, education, and wellbeing of children should be the free choice of parents, acting on the children's behalf, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Ways and Means

HB1470, establishing a study committee on the feasibility and impact of a low-income housing tax credit. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: Study committee

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1611, relative to establishing a child care workforce fund. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

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