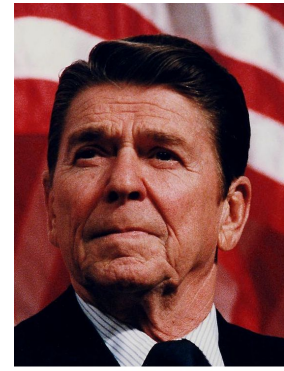


House Republican Alliance

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, April 11, 2024
Regular Calendar

Finance

HB318, (New Title) relative to bail commissioners and making appropriations to the judicial branch. **OTP/A 1404h Vote: 24-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill with amendment reforms the bail system in a number of ways:

- It increases bail commissioner pay to \$60, and makes sure they are paid.
- It spends \$1.7M for bail information system enhancements to our existing computer systems.
- It hires 10 magistrates to decide on bail for very serious crimes, and to relieve judges of some of their more minor duties.
- It requires that people bailed for certain serious crimes be monitored with ankle bracelets.
- It hires a judicial training coordinator and requires annual training for judiciary employees including judges.

Requires the state to pay for judicial training for magistrates. Part 1, Article 15 - being deprived of due process because our magistrates have not been properly trained.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1005, relative to judicial training. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 24-1**

HRA Analysis: Requires the state to pay for judicial training to people serving in a judicial capacity. Part 1, Article 15 - being deprived of due process because our magistrates have not been properly trained in family court issues. This language has also been included in HB318.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1178, relative to an employee's unused earned time. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP/A 1256h Vote: 13-11**

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 IS

HB1199, relative to services of the office of the child advocate for youth experiencing homelessness and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: HB1199 places under the supervision of the Office of Child Advocate persons under the age of 25 whose parents are unable to provide shelter, who live in a trailer park, or who share housing. This is written so as to include adults who are well employed and renting a mobile home with friends, inflating the costs. Those who are over the age of 18 are adults, and should be treated, and expected to perform as such. HB1199 is contrary to the NHGOP platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1202, relative to the issuance of permits for the alteration of driveways exiting onto public ways. **OTP/A 0971h Vote: 23-2**

HRA Analysis: This measure increases staffing by 3 engineers to reduce approval times for curb cuts on state roads. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1212, relative to eligibility for free school meals. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-11**

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 platform issues: Promote local control of education policy and funding and Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB1282, relative to the duration of child support. **OTP/A 1186h Vote: 23-0**

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. Amendment 1186h changes the effective date to 7/25. Constitution: The natural rights of parents and children inherent in Part 1, Art 2.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1288, relative to establishing certain due process rights for students, student organizations, and faculty members facing disciplinary actions by state institutions of higher learning. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 13-12**

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

HB1304, relative to vessel registration and boat fee decals. **OTP/A 0933h Vote: 24-1**

HRA Analysis: This measure separates the state from the federal registration fees bringing us into compliance with the federal coast guard rules. Amendment allows for fees to be included for a replacement sticker. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1307, providing a supplemental appropriation for members of the retirement system receiving an accidental disability retirement allowance. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

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

HB1339, (New Title) relative to background checks during motions to return firearms and ammunition. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

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. Constitution and Platform: support the right to keep and bear arms.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1355, relative to the New Hampshire National Guard recruitment and reenlistment incentive program. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: Platform: "The utmost honor must be bestowed upon those who are willing to serve and sacrifice in the United States military." With recruiting and retention at an all-time low, incentives to help maintain numbers are appropriate.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

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/A 1363h Vote: 13-12**

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

HB1394, relative to licensure and regulation of music therapists and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. OTP/A 1141h; Min. ITL Vote: 15-10**

HRA Analysis: This creates a new license for music therapists. Platform: Minimize regulations, licenses and paperwork vs. Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB1466, relative to providing disaster relief funding to municipalities after a natural disaster. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill 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. No platform or Constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1468, directing the department of transportation to develop a Conway Branch rail line master plan. **OTP Vote: 23-2**

HRA Analysis: Creates a committee to study the best public use of the so-called Conway branch. No platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1564, relative to the child support guidelines. **OTP Vote: 22-1**

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

HB1570, (New Title) requiring the department of education to conduct a facility assessment of public schools and public chartered schools. **OTP/A 1037h Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: This measure allows the DOE to request the funding needed to conduct a facility assessment. The amendment 1037h allows for use through 6/2025. No platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1573, relative to oversight of and criteria for residential placement of children. **Maj. OTP/A 1309h; Min. OTP/A 1313h Vote: 13-11**

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

HB1577, relative to digital images of ballots. **Maj. OTP/A 1347h; Min. ITL Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: Amendment 1347h is the bill. It 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

HB1583, relative to the per pupil cost of an opportunity for an adequate education. **Maj. OTP; Min. Int. study Vote: 18-7**

HRA Analysis: The bill spends an additional almost \$68M year on education after we just increased education spending by \$80M in the last budget. Issues also remains in front of NH court system. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support IS

HB1588, relative to court jurisdiction over persons receiving special education. **OTP/A 1391h Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: HB1588 extends special education services through the end of age 21 for all students. Spends \$3,000,000. No platform or Constitution issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1589, establishing a veterans treatment court **OTP/A 1396h Vote: 25-0**

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. Amendment 1396h reverses the decision for a new court but grants \$5000 reimbursement per veterans case and funds a court coordinator.

Platform: The utmost honor must be bestowed upon those who are willing to serve and sacrifice in the United States Military.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB1593, (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to support recreational activities for individuals with developmental disabilities. **OTP Vote: 23-1**

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. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1595, relative to adjustment of the child support guidelines based on parenting time, medical support, and child care expenses. **Maj. OTP/A 1178h; Min. Int. study Vote: 1311**

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/A

HB1598, relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments and veterans benefits for children in foster care. **OTP/A 1308h Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: HB1598 requires State management of State or federally mandated support of minors in the care of the State to ensure that the money fulfills its intended support of the minor. No constitutional or platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1633, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor. **Maj. OTP/A 1393h; Min. ITL Vote: 19-6**

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. NH Constitution - Part 1, Article 18 - penalties should be proportional to the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB1647, relative to the calculation of group II retirement benefits in the retirement system. **OTP/A 1134h Vote: 23-2**

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. Costs an additional \$53M in this budget cycle. No Constitution or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB1649, relative to prohibiting certain products with intentionally added PFAS. **Maj. OTP/A 1086h; Min. ITL Vote: 15-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill is overly broad in two main ways. First, its definition of PFAS includes thousands of chemicals, not just the two in Merrimack. Hundreds of them are medications, including the #1 prescription drug in America: Lipitor (atorvastatin), plus Teflon, many coatings, lubricants, etc, most of which are safe. Second, it has no concept of dosage; it treats a single molecule as just as bad as a trillion. It regulates 100's of thousands of products including carpets, all textiles, food packaging including shipping boxes, cosmetics and toys. It does not regulate some products that are known to have PFAS that go directly into the body or come directly into contact with food, such as medications, dental floss, catheters and other implanted devices, and non-stick cookware. California's Governor Newsom vetoed the feminine hygiene ban in this bill, and in his veto message he said that the other similar bans they have of food packaging, textiles and toys are proving difficult to implement. Our bill proposes only a single new DES employee who will contact manufacturers of products suspected of containing PFAS (we will do no testing), and require them to provide a signed letter stating that their products are not made with PFAS. With so many products, regulation can't help but be selective.

Platform: Oppose all laws, programs and mandates ... contrary to our principles... and punitive environmental controls.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose the committee amendment (this moves up the implementation date 18 months). Support the two McGuire floor amendments to narrow the scope of the bill. Oppose OTPA, Support ITL

HB1656, (New Title) relative to adequate education grant amounts for pupils receiving special education services. **Maj. OTP/A 1211h; Min. OTP/A 1327h Vote: 21-4**

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. Amended bill is likely to cost \$17 million to fund this new aid. Both amendments replace the entire bill. The minority amendment is higher cost \$35M. Constitution: Part 2, Art 83 "Cherish" meant something different when the constitution was written. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation: Support Amendment 1211h \$17M, Oppose Amendment 1327h \$35M Vote Your Conscience

HB1666, relative to income reporting requirements for lobbyists. **OTP Vote: 23-0**

HRA Analysis: This measure passed on consent from 1st committee. As amended it requires the establishment of an on-line electronic system in a standardized form for both the financial filings and the initial registering of lobbyists. Additionally the financial reporting shall be required 3 times annually instead of 4. No amendment in the finance committee.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB1669, relative to restricting data sharing through the state immunization registry. **OTP/A 1274h Vote: 25-0**

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

HB1678, establishing a New Hampshire farm to school local food incentive pilot program. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: This measure creates a pilot program for Dept Ag markets and food to create grants to buy local products for school lunches. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits; Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

SB252, (New Title) relative to the release of a defendant pending trial, directing the establishment of an electronic monitoring program for criminal defendants released on bail, and making an appropriation therefor. **ITL Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: This measure focuses on conditions under which bail is set. Additionally, the policies outlined in this bill were included in HB 318. No platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation