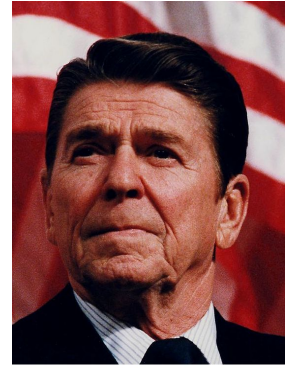


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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, May 23, 2024
Regular Calendar

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

SB558, relative to insurance coverage for infertility treatments, protection from discrimination during IVF treatments, parental leave, and adoption. **Int. study Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: This measure mandates Intrauteran Insemination protocol for 6 rounds to be covered by insurance. FLAM #2029h provides up to 6 rounds per plan per year. Platform: "Allow free market driven health care plans and "ala carte" insurance plans free from government mandates"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose FLAM 2029h, Support IS

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

SB418, (New Title) relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This measure increases penalties incrementally for drivers who refuse testing for Operating Under the Influence. Subjects can have their license suspended without a guilty verdict. NH Constitution, Part 1, Art. 18 - Penalties proportional to the crime.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

Education

SB340, relative to communication between parents and school districts regarding special education. **OTP Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: The original bill simply allowed for providing information about a child's special education program by electronic mail. FLAM 1995h adds statutes in response to the recent critical performance audit on special ed due process. The bill has support of DOE and the Office of the Spec Ed Advocate. It adds required reporting tracking of parent refusals to sign IEPs, access to DOE special ed data and tracking of local district dispute resolution processes. Platform: Promote accountability and transparency in education

HRA Recommendation: Support FLAM 1995h. Support OTPA or OTP

Election Law

CACR22, relating to the New Hampshire presidential primary. Providing that the New Hampshire presidential primary shall be the first presidential primary of a presidential election cycle. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

HRA Analysis: This measure would establish in our Constitution the First in the Nation primary for President of the United States.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Executive Departments and Administration

SB373, relative to the state building code. **OTP/A 1855h Vote: 13-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill increases housing leakage limit from 3 to 5 air exchanges per hour. Amendment 1855h establishes a committee to assess Native American affairs. No recommendation. Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork"

HRA Recommendation: Amendment 1855h - No Recommendation. Support OTP

SB440, relative to the board of optometry and the regulation of optometry. **Maj. OTP/A 1815h; Min. Int. study Vote: 14-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill extends the scope of practice for optometrists, to include minor surgical procedures. The committee amendment describes what training and experience is necessary to safely perform each procedure. Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork". FLAM 2030h - modifies the bill to limit the scope to 4 new laser procedures

HRA Recommendation: Support FLAM 2030h. Support OTPA

Finance

SB134, relative to disability pensions for public safety employees who are victims of violence. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: The bill addresses those public servants who are seriously harmed but not killed on the job. The bill creates an alternate disability pension for those who were attacked. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

SB217, establishing a rural and underserved area educator incentive program for higher education and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: The paid provides a series of stipends totaling \$12,000 over 4 years to keep teachers in underserved districts. Pays money in rural and low-income zones (large cities) to Title 1 schools or 1000 to 2000 teachers. This increases the cost between \$12 and \$24 M per year. Platform: "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

SB311, relative to property tax offset for the town of Hampstead and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP/A 1867h Vote: 24-1**

HRA Analysis: The State purchased Hampstead Hospital that was a private hospital that paid over 150k in property taxes and with the additional children in the program the town has had greater costs. This \$191k payment is to offset the change of tax liability and the need for additional resources. The reason for additional resources is because adequate containment has not been established. The issue is the Facility need infrastructure improvements to contain the kids. Conflicting platform issues Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits", Platform: "Limit the growth of state spending"

HRA Recommendation: Vote your Conscience

SB337, relative to doula and lactation service provider certification. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: Minor program to certify doulas (and get Medicaid). More gov, but could help babies.

FLAMs 2062h and 2102h remove racial diversity (no recommendation)

FLAM 2083h adds the text of HB378, relative to survivors of sexual assault (Consent Calendar bill) No Platform or Constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

SB352, establishing an early detection cancer screening pilot program for active and retired firefighters. **OTP/A 1915h Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: Early screening may reduce long term costs if disease is detected and early treatment is possible. However, some disease may require "watchful waiting" and that increases long-term screening costs where no treatment occurs. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" and Platform: "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

SB355, relative to newborn screening for cytomegalovirus. **OTP/A 1983h Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: CMV is a relatively common disease that lies dormant in most people. It is the most common cause of birth defects, and its role in hearing loss needs to be addressed immediately for best outcomes. The cmtc amendment tells the department to update rules relative to this testing, creates an opt-out provision and limits testing to those infants who fail the initial hearing screening. Conflicting platform

Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" Improve access to the information necessary to make informed health care decisions, including information about the quality and cost of services provided by physicians, hospitals and insurers."

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

SB369, directing the office of professional licensure and certification to provide notice of public meetings and an opportunity for comment, creating a new position, and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: Provides more public notice for licensing boards' actions. Constitution: the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted. FLAM 2044h adds the text of HB1291 (accessory dwelling units) to the bill (Prior bill recommendation was Vote your conscience)

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP. Vote Your Conscience on FLAM 2044h

SB393, (New Title) relative to making an appropriation to the department of environmental services to fund regional drinking water infrastructure. **OTP/A 1793h Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: Spends \$2M of general funds and \$4.5M of drinking water funds to do design on water infrastructure projects in south central NH. Committee amendment 1793h reduces the cost to something a bit reasonable. FLAM 2052h adds the text of HB1291 (accessory dwelling units) to the bill (Prior bill recommendation was Vote your conscience). Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation: Support committee amendment.

Vote your conscience on FLAM 2052h. Support OTP/A

SB396, relative to making an appropriation to the culinary arts program at the Wilbur H. Palmer Regional Career and Technical Education Center. **OTP Vote: 21-4**

HRA Analysis: This was a retroactive request, inappropriately made for a very high cost ventilation system. The request was not properly approved. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

SB403, (New Title) relative to the health care workforce. **OTP Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: This is a multi-issue bill but it expands Medicaid coverage for vaguely defined Community Health Workers. It is projected to cost millions in 2025 and more in future years. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

Platform: "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

SB404, (Second New Title) relative to expanding child care professionals' eligibility for the child care scholarship program. **OTP/A 1921h Vote: 23-1**

HRA Analysis: This measure expands childcare scholarship program. Amendment 1921h spends somewhat less money. Platform: "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending"

HRA Recommendation: Support 1921h,

Oppose OTP Support ITL

SB406, (New Title) making an appropriation to the department of health and human services to increase rates for shelter programs. **OTP/A 1866h Vote: 23-2**

HRA Analysis: This measure increases the daily rates for shelter program from the current daily cost from \$20 to \$28 per day. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" Amendment 1866h instructs the costs for this program to be covered by the ARPA funds. These will be ending in 2024 and will come out of the budget going forward. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose Amendment 1866h. Oppose OTP/A

SB409, relative to reimbursement for ambulance services under the state Medicaid plan. **OTP/A 1862h Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: Current policy does not allow for an ambulance that has been called to be paid unless they deliver the patient to the Emergency Room, This would allow for payment if minor services are delivered on spot and there is no need to take them to the hospital. Platform: "Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs"

CMTE Amendment 1862h instructs DHHS to allow funds for this.

FLAM 2026h adds the text of HB1593 the program for offering taxpayer funded recreational activities for children (Platform: "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending")

FLAM 2053h adds the text HB1291 the bill relative to ADUs (No recommendation on FLAM)

Platform: Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose FLAM 2026

Support OTP

SB417, relative to out-of-home placements for children. **Maj. OTP/A 1923h; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: This measure deals with out of home placements prioritizing them to be in-State over out of-state.

However, these criteria already exist in RSA 169-C19-a, b & c. It also permits out of home placements with next of kin.

Section 2 of Bill introduces criteria regarding whether a non-offending parent in an abuse and neglect situation may be found a fit parent. The bill as it came to the House retains the guilty until proven innocent situation for a non-offending parent.

Amendment 1923h and bill: Platform: We believe that the liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, healthcare, education, and wellbeing of their children is a fundamental right.

HRA Recommendation: Support Amendment 1923h; Support OTP/A. If amendment not adopted Support ITL

SB453, making an appropriation to the statewide voter registration system. **Maj. Int. study; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: This measure makes an appropriation for a semi on-line voter registration portal. Platform: "Ensure voting is done by New Hampshire residents only." Platform: "support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registering and voting"

HRA Recommendation: Support IS

SB455, relative to Medicaid reimbursement rates for prosthetic and orthotic devices. **OTP/A 1958h Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: This measure corrects Medicaid base rate to 90% of covered rate as of 1/1/2024. The bill resets the baseline to a more appropriate reimbursement rate. No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

SB456, (New Title) relative to the state loan repayment program for qualified nursing professionals, and making an appropriation therefor. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 15-10**

HRA Analysis: This allows nurse loan repayment, providing benefit to one specific class of people over other classes, while not addressing the underlying issue of declining interest in nursing professions. Platform: "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL

SB463, expanding access to court-appointed counsel for children in dependency proceedings. **OTP/A 1971h Vote: 25-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill authorizes the court to appoint an attorney for children in abuse and neglect cases to represent the interests of the child. The bill also authorizes the hiring of 5 additional DCYF attorneys and additional social workers. If the attorney appointed to represent the child is a DCYF employee, this is a potential conflict of interest. Amendment adopts the change over a period of time to make sure we do not overwhelm the pool of attorneys. When it comes to dealing with the courts, children deserve the same legal protections and support as adults. NH Cont: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state..."

HRA Recommendation: Support 1971h, Support OTP/A, Oppose OTP

SB476, making a capital appropriation to the department of corrections toward the replacement of the New Hampshire state prison for men. **OTP Vote: 24-1**

HRA Analysis: This measure appropriates \$40M to the New Hampshire state prison fund for the architectural, engineering and programming, design and construction documents for a replacement facility for the New Hampshire Men's state prison. This type of an appropriation would require a bond for this cost which is only the design portion. The cost of the bond is an additional \$29 M over 20 years just for the design piece alone. Lower cost alternatives were discussed but were not pursued. Off-cycle appropriation requires deficit spending. Borrowing money to fund the design phase is not a good use of tax payer money. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

SB499, relative to reduction of hunger for children, older adults, and people with disabilities. **Maj. OTP/A 1957h; Min. OTP/A 1917h Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: The bill had seven different parts, 1, it simplifies a process for seniors seeks assistance (\$37K). 2. It creates a new program to feed kids who qualify for free or reduced lunch over the summer when they do not have access in school to breakfast. (\$1.1M of state money would be used to leverage \$4M+ of federal money). The other parts of the bill were deleted. Support amendment 1957h which adds \$50k to put together a plan to do this and removed excess spending.

Oppose amendment 1917h which adds \$1.1M in new spending to fund this program.

FLAM 2125h adds the text of HB1466 (disaster relief) to this bill (No recommendation)

Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending"

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment 1957h, Oppose amendment 1917h, FLAM 2125h No recommendation. Support ITL or Support Table

SB553, requiring that funds held by the public deposit investment pool be invested in New Hampshire. **Maj. OTP/A 1910h; Min. Int. study Vote: 16-9**

HRA Analysis: This is a give-away to NH banks. They want us to force public funds to be deposited with them. The Sweeney amendment softens the requirement, so please vote for it, but the bill still seems to be pure benefit for lobbyists. Platform: We believe in free people, free markets, and free enterprise. Platform: "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Support Sweeney amendment. Oppose OTP or OTPA. Support IS.

SB567, (New Title) directing the commissioner of the department of health and human services to compile a report on the availability of mifepristone and misoprostol. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires the commissioner to put together a report about where these two drugs are available.

Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation:

SB591, modifying definitions, claims procedures, and funding relating to the youth development center settlement fund and claims administration. **Maj. OTP/A 1911h; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: This allocates \$60M for the YDC settlement fund on top of the \$100M already spent, and changes some terms to encourage settlement over litigation. It is expected that another \$600M plus interest will be needed over the next ten years. The committee amendment prevents the \$60M from being borrowed (as the \$600M effectively is, because we are paying the victims on the installment plan, with interest). Amendment and bill Platform Justify expenditures against measurable benefits

HRA Recommendation: Support the committee amendment, 1911h. Oppose OTP and OTP/A

SB596, relative to the definition of disability or special needs under the child care scholarship program. **Maj. OTP/A 1933h; Min. OTP Vote: 13-12**

HRA Analysis: This bill relates to child care services and grants for children with disabilities and required rules to be written by DHHS. However, the definition of disability is "any child who displays, or is at risk for, delayed social or emotional development" and no formal diagnosis is required. The fiscal note contains a DHHS "estimated" cost of over \$743,000. With such a wide open definition and no formal diagnosis, there are too many questions to pass this bill. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support Interim Study - Support Motion to Table

SB604, providing a death benefit for a New Hampshire hospital security officer killed in the line of duty. **OTP Vote: 22-2**

HRA Analysis: This provides \$100K for the family of Chief Haas who was tragically murdered at NH Hospital. While there is a benefit for various employees killed in the line of duty it does not include security officers, hence this bill. The FLAM 1930h adds security officers to the group that is covered changing this from a one-time specific expenditure eliminating the benefit for a single person and making this a policy change. No Platform or Constitutional issues Art. 10 for FLAM 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

HRA Recommendation: Support FLAM 1930h. No Recommendation on bill.

Fish and Game and Marine Resources

SB503, relative to requiring a criminal background check when applying for a fish and game guide license. **OTP Vote: 16-0**

HRA Analysis: The bill expands criminal background checks to all guides regardless of location of residence or location of activity. No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

SB402, (New Title) relative to allowing pharmacists to administer influenza, COVID-19, and other FDA licensed vaccines without explicit approval from the general court. **Maj. OTP/A 1810h; Min. ITL Vote: 14-6**

HRA Analysis: This measure seeks to give vaccination administration privileges to all pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and licensed advanced pharmacy technicians for all FDA licensed vaccines. There may be concern over what vaccines should be administered, but that is not the subject of this bill. Platform: "Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs"

2024-1810h - committee amendment - specifies FDA and CDC approved list of vaccinations

2024-1976h - additionally, removes the immunization requirements for child care agencies.

2024-2067h - Adds the text of HB1213 additionally, prohibits the department of health and human services from sharing data from the state immunization registry. NH Constitution - Part 1, Article 2b - Constitution: "Art. 2. All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP or Support OTP/A

SB411, (New Title) establishing a committee to study emergency mental health services for persons 21 years of age and younger in New Hampshire. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 14-6**

HRA Analysis: This measure establishes a study committee to study mental health services for persons 21 years or younger. No platform or Constitution positions identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

SB419, (New Title) relative to the annual data report on the therapeutic use of cannabis program. **Maj. OTP/A 1892h; Min. OTP/A 1532h Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This measure seeks to require the provision of additional information about the therapeutic use of cannabis. Both the majority (1892h) and minority (1532h) amendments require additional information on the annual report. Amendment 1892h also permits qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use. Platform "Require informed consent, free from coercion, with regard to all medical treatment and intervention" this applies to additional information requirement only, not cultivation. No platform issue identified regarding cultivation.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

SB461, (New Title) requiring health care providers to report certain information about abortions performed to their medical facility, and requiring those medical facilities to report the information to the department of health and human services. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 1790h Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This measure seeks to require health care providers to provide certain deidentified information about abortions performed to DHHS. Amendment 1790h adds an opt out provision. Platform - "Require informed consent, free from coercion, with regard to all medical treatment and intervention", Platform support the unity of the family and the sanctity of innocent life, and support similar efforts at the federal level

HRA Recommendation: Oppose amendment 1790h, Support OTP

SB505, relative to the prohibition on the sale of hemp products containing certain levels of THC. **OTP Vote: 15-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to repeal the sunset provision that prohibits the sale of hemp products containing greater levels than .3 percent of THC or other variants. This measure would make the prohibition permanent. No platform or Constitution issues identified. (Vote your conscience)

FLAMs 2078h moves out the date for the repeal by 3 years. (Constitution: "Art. 18. All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense")

FLAM 2133h adds the text of HB185 Shared parenting, (support FLAM 2133h)

FLAM 2143h adds the text of HB1633 (Relative to cannabis regulation) (Vote your conscience)

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment 2078h. Support amendment 2133h. No recommendation on 2143h, Bill: Vote your conscience

SB559, (New Title) relative to the New Hampshire vaccine association. **Maj. OTP/A 1831h; Min. ITL Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This measure adds the RSV vaccination to the vaccine program. Amendment 2070h - requires an additional provision to video all vaccine association meetings. platform Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds

HRA Recommendation: Support 2070h, No Recommendation on bill

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

SB330, relative to allowing the ability to work from home to count toward unemployment benefits eligibility. **Maj. OTP/A 1865h; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: Under current law, anyone who is out-of-work and otherwise eligible for unemployment will be denied payment if they are looking for remote (work-from-home) employment. The majority amendment is expected to be rules non germane and out of order. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Resources, Recreation and Development

SB431, relative to wake surfing. **Maj. OTP/A 1598h; Min. OTP Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This measure increases the permissible wake zone to 200 feet from 150 feet from shore, the amendment increases the zone to 300 feet. Platform: "Provide public access to all public lands and great ponds, subject to adequate protection for indigenous plants and animals"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A, Support Table or ITL

Special Committee on Housing

SB527, relative to student housing. **OTP/A 1752h Vote: 8-2**

HRA Analysis: Main bill creates a study committee. No recommendation. There are 3 amendments to the bill to increase housing options (Conflicting platform issues) vote your conscience

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Transportation

SB358, relative to invalidating out-of-state driver's licenses issued to undocumented immigrants. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-9**

HRA Analysis: Bill prohibits illegal aliens who have out of state license from getting a NH DMV issued drivers license
Platform Oppose any form of amnesty for illegal aliens.

FLAM 2148h adds a requirement to the DMV to provide a list of non eligible divers licenses to the SOS

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP/A

SB469, relative to allowing surveillance of a park and ride facility in certain circumstances. **OTP Vote: 16-4**

HRA Analysis: There are 9 state-owned park-n-rides that are leased to private business. While the state is not allowed to surveil areas of public access, this allows the private operator to provide surveillance. No platform or constitutional issues identified. (No platform issues identified on the bill)

FLAM 2074h adds the text of HB1291 (ADUs) to this bill (original HRA recommendation: Vote your Conscience).

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

SB501, relative to driver licenses for noncitizens residing in New Hampshire. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

HRA Analysis: The bill allows most illegal aliens to have access to get the DMV to get NH drivers licenses Platform: We support legal immigration and believe that enforcement of immigration laws is in New Hampshire's best interests.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

SB510, relative to sale of a vehicle to a Massachusetts resident. **Maj. OTP/A 1925h; Min. ITL Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: The original bill reduces paperwork for dealers selling a vehicle to a Mass resident. Amendment 1925h adds the text of HB 1391 and HB 1637 which the Senate killed. Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A