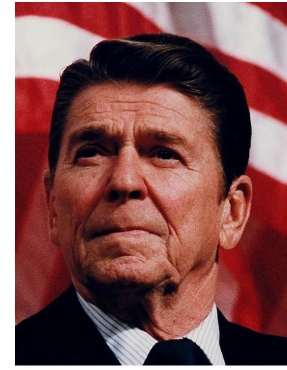


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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, June 13, 2024 Regular Calendar

SB266, (New Title) relative to administration of school assessment and accountability programs by the department of education.

HRA Analysis: The bill expands student testing and publication of the performance data. The amendment ensures that a student's privacy rights are not violated. Constitution: "Art. 2-b. An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent"

HRA Recommendation: Support

SB340, (New Title) relative to communication between parents and school districts regarding special education, special education reporting requirements, and the office of the advocate for special education.

HRA Analysis: The original bill simply allowed for providing information about a child's special education program by electronic mail. Adds statutes in response to the recent critical performance audit on special ed due process. Requires 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

SB407, (New Title) establishing a ground ambulance cost reporting program and a study by an independent actuarial and accounting expert of the cost of providing ground ambulance services in the state.

HRA Analysis: Platform: "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible" but it is just a study so no recommendation.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

SB417, relative to out-of-home placements for children.

HRA Analysis: The majority of this deals with out of home placements permitting them to be in-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 the bill introduces criteria regarding whether a non-offending parent in an abuse and neglect situation may be found a fit parent. The CoC amendment makes major improvements to the law that a parent not charged with neglect or abuse would be presumed fit and that the state would need to request a hearing if the state felt otherwise. The amendment was not able to change the evidentiary standard that was in the House amendment. The amended bill adds a dozen new positions and appropriates \$1.6 million. Platform: "We believe that the children's best interest is to have a substantial relationship with each parent" Platform: "Limit the growth of state spending" NH Const. [Art.] 15. [Right of Accused.] No subject shall be held to answer for any crime, or offense, until the same is fully and plainly, substantially and formally, described to him; or be compelled to accuse or furnish evidence against himself...

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

SB480, (New Title) relative to the regulation of real estate practice.

HRA Analysis: Minor tweaks to regulations, Senate agreed to House position. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB499, relative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Summer EBT program and making appropriations therefor and relative to providing disaster relief funding to municipalities after a natural disaster.

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. The CoC changed the \$100k to \$25K on the disaster relief program. Platform: "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose

SB555, relative to receipt of pharmaceutical rebates by insurers and pharmacy benefits managers.

HRA Analysis: The conferees were not able to reach agreement on any real substance, so they agreed to merely repeal the upcoming sunset of the program.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

SB574, (New Title) relative to the appointment of a temporary agent for a minor child or incapacitated person and relative to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities based on shared parenting.

HRA Analysis: Bill creates a process for a parent to assign a temporary guardian (< 60 days), No platform or constitutional issues

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Regular Calendar

HB318, (Third New Title) relative to bail commissioners, the standards applicable to and the administration of bail, and making an appropriation.

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. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB458, (New Title) reestablishing the commission to study the assessing of power generation.

HRA Analysis: A non-germane amendment vacated the original bill and established a commission on assessing of Power Generators; re establishes the commission to recommend a uniform approach to the taxation by state and municipal authorities of the 59 power generation facilities in the state. Study Commission

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB518, (New Title) relative to the administration of occupations by the office of professional licensure and certification.

HRA Analysis: Many minor tweaks to regulations. Adds clarification that boards must define which military occupations are relevant to their professions. Platform: "Respect New Hampshire's honored veterans by ensuring that they receive the benefits they have rightfully earned and deserve"

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1018, (New Title) relative to on-premise and off-premise liquor licenses and relative to land in current use.

HRA Analysis: The bill reduces the restrictions relative to the laws on-premise and off-premise liquor licenses and modifies the current use statutes relative to posting land. Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork"

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1079, (Second New Title) relative to critical incident stress management team members and establishing a rural and underserved area educator incentive program for higher education and making an appropriation therefor.

HRA Analysis: No platform or constitutional issues in original bill. Senate amendment adds retention bonuses for teachers in rural and underserved areas. Funding is \$1 for 2025, open for next budget. Platform: "Limit the growth of state spending" "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose

HB1091, relative to the financing of political campaigns.

HRA Analysis: This measure cleans up various changes to the laws that regulate the financing of political campaigns, that have been identified by the SoS and AG as unclear or contradictory. It simplifies the existing statutes by consolidating the definitions and types of political committees and conforms reporting dates for all political committees and candidates. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1127, (New Title) relative to the revocation and suspension of drivers' licenses and to invalidating out-of-state driver's licenses issued to undocumented immigrants.

HRA Analysis: The Senate conferees refused to consider language regarding better wording of the illegal drivers license issue, so the Senate amendment was removed leaving the underlying bill. The underlying bill ends the physical return of a suspended license allowing its use for ID and closing a loophole where a person with a surrendered suspended license could avoid a search of their driving record in NH if they move out of state. It also includes "Right to Mow" which rightfully corrects our statute to prohibit operation of a motor vehicle "on a way in the state" instead of "in the state" with a suspended license. This impacts farmers, landscapers, and individuals. It does not permit a person to take a riding mower on the road with a suspended license. NH Const. [Art.] 18. [Penalties to be Proportioned to Offenses; True Design of Punishment.] All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1195, relative to allowing school districts to approve different apportionment methods for school administrative unit costs.

HRA Analysis: The bill allows a small change to how apportionment of the budget is done. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1197, (New Title) relative to criminal background checks and relative to insurance coverage for intrauterine insemination.

HRA Analysis: The conference report removes medical necessity for the private insurance mandate to cover up to 6 rounds annually of intrauterine insemination. Platform: Allow free market driven health care plans and "ala carte" insurance plans free from government mandates

HRA Recommendation: Oppose

HB1202, (New Title) relative to the issuance of permits for the alteration of driveways exiting onto public ways and relative to the definition of disability or special needs under the child care scholarship program.

HRA Analysis: The bill directs the DOT to issue driveway permits on state roads within 60 days, the Senate amendment creates a new child-care 'scholarship' program and spends \$375K. Platform: Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending & Limit the growth of state spending to not more than the rate of inflation plus population growth.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose

HB1215, (Second New Title) relative to development approvals and appeals, and allowing the town of Hampton to discontinue a particular highway in order to lease that property.

HRA Analysis: The conference recommended concurring with the Senate, which had added a non-germane amendment allowing the town of Hampton to discontinue a 500 foot long road, and then leasing it for 99 years. Those are reasonable goals, but the proposed bill would actually delay reaching those goals. The bill would have authorized the selectmen rather than town meeting to discontinue the road. But the selectmen already have authority to call a special town meeting for that purpose. That process could have already finished - far sooner than legislation and its ensuing public hearings could conclude. The bill would have also authorized next year's town meeting to do a 99-year lease. The proponents apparently misread existing RSA as limiting any lease to only 5 years, but it merely states that any lease longer than one year requires town meeting approval. Platform: "We believe that local governments should not be allowed to infringe on individual rights and that the state should ensure protection from such local government overreach." (The bill would have created the local government overreach by authorizing the select board to bypass the rights of the Hampton voters.)

WE SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF HAMPTON'S VOTERS TO PROCEED WITH THIS PROJECT UNDER EXISTING LAW. NO ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION IS NEEDED.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose the bill as not needed under existing law.

HB1236, (Second Title) establishing a pilot recruitment and retention program within the department of health and human services and relative to the income eligibility for "in and out medical assistance" under the state Medicaid plan.

HRA Analysis: Conference report includes critical language to retain existing staff at Hampstead Hospital after its acquisition by the state, honoring existing contract terms. Hampstead Hospital now sees more challenging cases than before, and the wellbeing of our children in need of care depends upon retaining current staff. The bill requires the department to provide a report on the effectiveness of the pilot program. Additionally, the bill ties the income eligibility for "in and out medical assistance" to inflation which addresses the "cliff effect" which can disincentivize Medicaid recipients from improving their financial situation. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1241, (New Title) relative to the regulation of money transmitters and relative to license applications and renewals for certain consumer credit entities.

HRA Analysis: The conference report allows the investment advisor selected by the state treasurer and advisory committee to “strive” to place funds ordinarily held by the public deposit investment pool in bank deposits with state or federally chartered banks and removes the 30% requirement. This avoids the potential mismatch of incentives away from best return to location-dependent investing, while still encouraging local funds to stay local. The balance of the bill creates new requirements for the money transfer system.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1243, (New Title) revising the laws relative to retail installment sales of motor vehicles, and relative to the sale of a vehicle to a Massachusetts resident.

HRA Analysis: The bill is 35 pages of legalese revising the law on retail installment sales of motor vehicles as requested by the banking department. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1259, (New Title) relative to property and casualty insurance laws administered by the insurance department; and making an appropriation to the department of environmental services to fund regional drinking water infrastructure.

HRA Analysis: The CofC agreed to accept the version as amended by the House, which did not have any appropriations. No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1265, (New Title) relative to the penalty for failure to file school expenditure reports, relative to certain adequacy grants, and requiring mandatory reporting by school districts of school expenses.

HRA Analysis: Includes technical corrections and requires a mandatory report to voters on school expenses including line graphs with costs per pupil, teacher salaries and administrator salaries. Platform: Promote accountability and transparency in education.

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1292, (New Title) relative to coverage of children under the state retiree insurance plan and relative to federal immigration enforcement.

HRA Analysis: No platform issues with basic bill. Senate amendment adds language to prohibit sanctuary cities. This is a good change. The amendment also creates a very broad definition of 'immigration agency' which includes the US DOJ, DHS and other agencies. The bill also mandates that all law enforcement (including sheriffs, dept of corrections staff, local LEOs and state troopers) assist in the program. Platform: Demand the enforcement of national border security and immigration laws.

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1313, relative to access to the voter checklist by candidates.

HRA Analysis: Bill allows the check list in an electronic format. Greater transparency is key to keeping our elections. 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..." and [Art.] 11. [Elections and Elective Franchises.] "All elections are to be free, and every inhabitant of the state of 18 years of age and upwards shall have an equal right to vote in any election..."

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1358, (Second New Title) relative to tenant and contract manufacturers of beer, wine, and liquor; allowing pharmacists to administer influenza, COVID-19, and other FDA licensed vaccines without explicit approval from the general court; and, restricting the purchase of real property on or around military installations.

HRA Analysis: The title incorrectly references vaccine administration as it is not in this bill, and the anti-CCP language has become a study to evaluate this potential need. The potential for asymmetric warfare where bad actors exploit the freedom that defines us suggests that a study committee on this topic could bear good fruit.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1369, relative to the verification of voter rolls every 4 years.

HRA Analysis: Changes the interval for the verification of voter rolls from every 10 years to every 4 years and allows a 6 year look back for those that only vote every 4 years in presidential elections. Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1370, (New Title) relative to eliminating voter identification exceptions.

HRA Analysis: This bill removes any exceptions for proving voter identification and removes the voter affidavits as proof of identification. Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1380, (New Title) relative to brew pub licenses, relative to insurance cost-sharing calculations, and relative to receipt of pharmaceutical rebates by insurers and pharmacy benefits managers.

HRA Analysis: Conferees agreed to remove the Senate amendment and accept the bill as amended by the House. The bill allows a brew pub licensee to also hold an on-premises or off-premises license. Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork"

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1386, relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators.

HRA Analysis: The Conference accepted the Senate Amendment and added an amendment that tweaked some definitions. The bill is unenforceable because any individual, including minor children, could easily or unthinkingly dispose of an electronic device that contains a prohibited battery. Any person who violates any of the provisions of Chapter 149-M would be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 for each violation. NH Constitution: "Art. 18. All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose

HB1400, (Third New Title) relative to residential parking spaces, landlord-tenant law, unauthorized occupant evictions, and zoning procedures concerning residential housing.

HRA Analysis: The Conference recommended concurring with the Senate after some tweaks. The Senate had added a non-germane amendment for faster removal of unauthorized "squatters" from residential real estate. Platform: "acquiring, possessing and protecting property is a natural, essential and inherent right." The Senate had also added a FLAM that would allow a town meeting to adopt a Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive. This would delay for typically 3 to 5 years the increase in property tax for properties that are converted from office use to residential use. Platform: "Cut or eliminate taxes which inhibit enterprise, earnings and savings and investment." The issue with this change is there is disproportional taxation during those 3-5 years. The FLAM would also allow a town meeting to delegate to its select board the authority to amend zoning ordinances. Platform: "Work with municipalities to streamline planning and zoning barriers to business." Opponents argue that many town meetings are sparsely attended, allowing special interests to dominate the voting on these two provisions. The Senate FLAM would allow a property owner to propose alternative parking solutions as a substitute for on-site parking requirements. Platform: "We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise." If this would create on-street parking problems, towns are always able to restrict on-street parking.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB1573, (Third New Title) relative to out-of-home placements for children.

HRA Analysis: The bill allocates \$1M to fund better oversight of children that are sent out of state. DHHS is working on this and this will cover the extra costs to protect these kids. Platform: "Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients' funds"

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1585, (Third New Title) relative to the position of certified assisted living medication aide and relative to the state loan repayment program for qualified nursing professionals, and making an appropriation therefor.

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a new licensed position to allow people to help people take over the counter and prescribed medicines, similar to the care a friend or relative could provide in ones own home. It also forgives up to \$50k in student loans for 6 or more nurses in the state, up to \$300k, subject to certain conditions. This is government handing money to a small group of people. NH Const. Part First Art 10 "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, or class of men;..."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose

HB1596, requiring a disclosure of deceptive artificial intelligence usage in political advertising.

HRA Analysis: This bill requires the disclosure of deceptive synthetic media and deceptive and fraudulent deep fakes usage in political advertising. Protects inadvertent users from criminal prosecution. This is a new form of defamation which should be covered in current law but does not have a Constitutional or platform plank.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1600, (New Title) establishing a committee to study the aggregation of electric customers by municipalities and counties.

HRA Analysis: Just a study committee

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB1616, (New Title) relative to parental consent for student participation in Medicaid to schools program and establishing a pilot recruitment and retention program within the department of health and human services.

HRA Analysis: This bill (a parent's rights statement) requires that parental consent is required for each new service performed and billing for that service. Parents have a right to know. Pilot Recruitment & retention of nurses. Platform: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children. Constitution: Part 1, 2-b An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential and inherent vs. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience

HB1623, (New Title) relative to involuntary retirement or decommissioning of electricity generators.

HRA Analysis: The bill provides tools to protect against premature facility closures before suitable replacements are available and permits Attorney General involvement in protecting the site against Federal overreach. Platform: The government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible....

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB1633, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor.

HRA Analysis: This bill is a significant expansion of government. This creates an infrastructure of taxes and bureaucracy. Discussion about changes of federal drug schedules would make this legislation completely unnecessary. Additionally, passing this legislation would increase problems for medical marijuana prescriptions. Federal changes must come first. Platform issues: increased taxes, growth in govt, more government regulation.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose

HB1665, (New Title) relative to student eligibility for education freedom accounts and the scholarship organization's costs of administering the program, extending phase-out grants for education freedom accounts, and revising the definitions of average daily membership in attendance and average daily membership in residence.

HRA Analysis: HB1665 increases the family income cap from 350% of federal poverty to 425%. Phase-out grants for students switching from public school to EFA extended to 2029. Includes payment calculations to district for home educated and EFA participants taking classes in public school for grades 7-12. Platform issues: Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children and Expand education savings accounts.

HRA Recommendation: Support

HB2024, (Third New Title) relative to the state 10-year transportation improvement plan; relative to adding a speed limit of 45 miles per hour on rural highways; relative to disability pensions for public safety employees who are victims of violence; and making a capital appropriation to the department of corrections toward the replacement of the New Hampshire state prison for men.

HRA Analysis: Within the 10 yr Highway Plan are contained Unfunded Mandates, such as the forced transfer of the Continental Blvd section of State Highway back to the Town of Merrimack, causing a specific annual expense of \$508k and a corresponding \$.08 increase on the tax rate. Amendment removes the transfer of Continental blvd from the bill. Platform: Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services; justify expenditures against measurable benefits; prioritize programs to ensure effective spending. NH Const. Part 1, Article 28a, Mandated Programs: The state shall not mandate or assign any new, expanded or modified programs or responsibilities to any political subdivision in such a way as to necessitate additional local expenditures by the political subdivision unless such programs or responsibilities are fully funded by the state or unless such programs or responsibilities are approved for funding by a vote of the local legislative body of the political subdivision.

HRA Recommendation: Vote Your Conscience