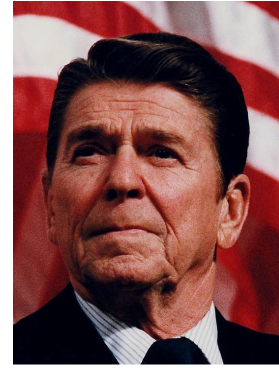


# House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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 6, 2025 Regular Calendar

### Ways and Means

**HB503**, amending how revenues from taxes are allocated to the education trust fund. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill increases the rates of the business profits tax, business enterprise tax, and meals and rooms tax, and reestablishes the interest and dividends tax. The bill provides for deposit of the additional revenue in the education trust fund.

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

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB591**, expanding hours for keno gaming on weekends. **OTP Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** Expanding keno hours from 11am-1am, to 8-1am on weekends.

**Principle:** Platform: Reject expanded casino and video lottery gambling as a means to balance the budget or increase spending. & Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB596**, relative to reporting requirements for entities that collect meals and rooms taxes. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 50396 Vote: 16-4**

**HRA Analysis:** creates unnecessary burden on towns and the Dept of Revenue by way of reporting requirements.

**Principle:** Platform: Oppose "downshifting" of costs and regulatory enforcement from state to local government.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

## Regular Calendar

### Children and Family Law

**HB187**, relative to restraining orders sought by a parent on behalf of a minor child. **OTP Vote: 14-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will allow for parents/guardians that are seeking a restraining order on behalf of the minor to do so.

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

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

## **Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

**HB143**, relative to the issuance of no trespass orders on municipal or school district property. **Maj. OTP/A 0408h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-5**

**HRA Analysis:** Requires due process before a no trespass order is issued for public property. Bill was put in as a result of a school district overzealously banning parents from attending sports because of a disagreement over their right to exercise the first amendment.

**Principle:** US 1st Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. & NH Constitution [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. Every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favorable to himself; to meet the witnesses against him face to face, and to be fully heard in his defense, by himself, and counsel.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB245**, establishing the speed enforcement and awareness fund and providing for grants to municipal law enforcement for speed enforcement and speed awareness traffic equipment. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-5**

**HRA Analysis:**

**Principle:** Platform: always limit spending and growth of government, and to cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB640**, relative to the transparency of federal agency operations within New Hampshire. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill is a triumph of hope over reason. It spends \$230,000 per year, adding three new staff positions, in the hope that the Attorney General will be able to obtain requested information from the Federal Government.

**Principle:** Platform: always limit spending and growth of government; Justify expenditures against measurable benefits

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## **Education Funding**

**HB484**, relative to reallocation or repurposing of career and technical education classroom space by local school districts. **Maj. OTP/A 0358h; Min. ITL Vote: 16-2**

**HRA Analysis:** When construction funds are given to a school district for a career tech building and the building is later used for something else, the funds must be paid back. This bill allows such buildings to be repurposed without repayment if they have been used for at least 20 years.

**Principle:** Platform: government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible & Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB515**, repealing the chartered public school eligibility for state school building aid. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Minor bill that disallows use of school building aid for charter schools. Such aid is often suspended anyways, but this is contrary to the principle that charter schools are public schools.

**Principle:** Platform: we support expanded education choices, including but not limited to: education tax credits, charter schools.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB583**, relative to state participation in the Medicaid direct certification program for free and reduced price school meals. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0314h Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Takes data from Medicaid and automatically enrolls qualified students in the Free and Reduced lunch program. Nominally to "feed hungry kids", this could balloon adequate ed payments. Families are given ample opportunities to sign up for these meal programs if they want them. This is both a privacy issue, and a simple principle of not forcing people into government programs they don't want.

**Principle:** Platform: Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies. & We believe that low taxes are the result of low spending; that the government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible, to always limit spending and growth of government, and to cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB770**, relative to establishing a program to earn tuition credits for state of New Hampshire higher education institutions through community service. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Would give high school students class credit at public colleges for community service. Bureaucratic nightmare vetting the service and keeping track of the credits, not to mention the dubious academic value of this work.

**Principle:** Platform: Emphasize knowledge attainment and academic achievement; Justify expenditures against measurable benefits; always limit spending and growth of government

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB771**, relative to funding for open enrollment schools. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** Minor bill that clarifies the procedure for transferring funds from the sending district to the receiving district when a student chooses an open enrollment school. However, there is only one open enrollment school now and the number is unlikely to change because the law doesn't take into account special ed funding (should probably be handled like charter schools).

**Principle:** No platform or constitutional issues identified

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## Education Policy and Administration

**HB208**, relative to certification requirements for school nurses. **Maj. OTP/A 0338h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill removes the requirement that the Department of Education certified school nurses and states that a license from the New Hampshire Board of Nursing would be the requirement.

**Principle:** Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

## Fish and Game and Marine Resources

**HB589**, defining and prohibiting wanton animal waste and prohibiting certain wildlife hunting contests. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-3**

**HRA Analysis:** If this should pass, a broad definition of "wanton waste" could lead to reduction of legal hunting. Also, the ban on hunting contests could make traditional local competitions such as "who got the biggest buck" illegal. Testimony from F&G was that they know of no "hunting contests" such as the killing of the most coyotes taking place in the state, directly contradicting the bill's sponsor.

**Principle:** Platform: Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies... We believe, above all else, in the founding principle that all people are created equal, endowed by our Creator with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

## Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

**HB54**, allowing alternative treatment centers to operate for-profit. **OTP Vote: 18-0**

**HRA Analysis:** The ATCs find it very difficult to get financing, so their prices are much higher than in surrounding states. The combination of "highly regulated" PLUS "for profit" is concerning, but there are enough guardrails in place to prevent bad things from happening.

**Principle:** No platform or constitutional issues identified

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation.

**HB94**, relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill requires medicaid coverage for circumcision only be provided when the procedure is medical necessary.

**Principle:** Platform: Support the prevention and elimination of payment for all unnecessary medical procedures covered by or proposed to be covered by Medicaid.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB223**, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate within 15 miles of a critical access hospital. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This removes anti-competitive barriers.

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

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB524**, repealing the New Hampshire vaccine association. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** NHVA lacks transparency and accountability. However, insurance companies have indicated that premiums would likely increase as a result of passing this bill.

**Principle:** Platform: Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds & government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible

**HRA Recommendation:** Vote your conscience

**HB634**, relative to the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders. **Maj. OTP/A 0344h; Min. OTP Vote: 10-7**

**HRA Analysis:** The council has not met since 2019. Parents of children with autism say the council is ineffective, and assert that the DD Quality Council serves the same purpose. The AMENDED bill repeals the council.

**Principle:** Platform: that the government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible, to always limit spending and growth of government.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB704**, relative to caregiver respite and senior volunteer programs and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP Vote: 16-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This is the continuation of a grant program that helps families take care of people with alzheimer's. Although it is a government spending program, it is exactly the kind of program that R's should support, if they support such programs at all. Reason: It provides VERY high value for \$\$\$, and it does NOT create an entrenched workforce or bureaucracy.

**Principle:** Platform: Provide for the special needs of seniors, including opportunities for personalized home health care.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

**HB724**, relative to lead paint poisoning prevention and remediation. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-7**

**HRA Analysis:** Burdensome to landlords, with the potential to drive up housing costs and/or eliminate some opportunities for housing.

**Principle:** Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB751**, relative to certification of alcohol and other substance misuse treatment facilities. **Maj. OTP/A 0220h; Min. ITL Vote: 12-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This would bring a large number of facilities under DHHS control/regulation.

**Principle:** Platform: Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB756**, relative to establishing a blood lead level testing requirement for children entering daycare and public schools. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires that children be tested for lead prior to being accepted into a school or childcare facility. New Hampshire law already requires that children must be tested for lead at age 1, and again at age 2. This merely adds a reporting requirement, and it would impose additional administrative burdens on childcare facilities and schools, which would be required to send notifications to educate parents who do not provide a lead testing report on the need for lead testing.

**Principle:** Platform: Decisions regarding 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 ITL

## Judiciary

**HB114**, removing fees and charges for governmental records under the right-to-know law and reinstating potential liability for disclosure of information exempt from disclosure. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill removes the ability for a public entity to suggest a reasonable modification to a RTKR so the records sought can be produced more efficiently and affordably. Removes immunity from a body for accidental disclosure of non public info if acting in good faith. Currently 250 email communications can be obtained for free from any one public body in a 30 day period, and each after that, the body may create a policy to charge up to \$1/per email communication, unless the party is indigent. This repeals that. Even those who do not live in, nor own property in, nor pay taxes in a particular town, can still make lengthy requests in that town, and the taxpayers would be left solely with that cost burden.

**Principle:** 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 Part First, Art. 8 "... the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted...."

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

## Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

**HB378**, relative to an employee's unused earned time. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0333h Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would created requirements for record keeping when an employer offers paid vacation. It would further convert unused vacation time to wages upon termination of employment.

**Principle:** Platform: Minimize business regulations.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB542**, relative to weekly benefit amounts for unemployment compensation. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0252h Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** Passage of this bill would increase weekly unemployment benefits for individuals whose earning exceeded \$41,500 per year. While the bill doesn't raise taxes directly, its cost would eventually be covered with higher taxes on employers. For municipalities and counties, particularly those who directly reimburse the unemployment trust fund, will see increased costs if the rate of claims rise.

**Principle:** NH Constitution, P1 Art. 28-a: The state shall not necessitate additional local expenditures by the political subdivision.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL; Support Table if proposed

**HB744**, relative to workers' compensation indemnity benefits percentage. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0419h Vote: 11-9**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill proposes a 10% increase in the rate at which a worker is compensated for permanent job-related injury. NH's system has proven to be effective at helping workers while controlling costs. An increase in such payments will increase NH insurance rates, harming our businesses ability to stay competitive. For municipal and county employers, this would increase insurance rates for the local taxpayer.

**Principle:** Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits. & NH Constitution, P1 Art. 28-a: The state shall not necessitate additional local expenditures by the political subdivision.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL; Support Table if proposed

## **Municipal and County Government**

**HB425**, allowing tax-exempt entities to keep their tax-exempt status while renting facilities or property to entities that share their mission. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow tax exempt status for religious organizations who rent out their real estate in part or whole to another similar organization. Any rental income would be required to be used for specific expenses of the religious organization. The introduction of revenue and expenses into the assessment/taxing process might prove burdensome on the entities involved. Keeping property off the tax rolls by renting, that otherwise might be sold, redistributes the tax burden.

**Principle:** No solid platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

**HB617**, relative to the homestead right. **Maj. OTP/A 0437h; Min. ITL Vote: 11-7**

**HRA Analysis:** Increases the homestead amount shielded from creditors from \$120k to \$1m.

**Principle:** No solid platform or constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation:** No recommendation

## **Public Works and Highways**

**HB578**, erecting a sound barrier along the F.E. Everett Turnpike. **ITL Vote: 16-2**

**HRA Analysis:**

**Principle:** Platform: the government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible, to always limit spending.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB713**, relative to mile markers along Route 112. **OTP Vote: 18-0**

**HRA Analysis:** \$287k expenditure for mile markers.

**Principle:** Platform: government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible & Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## **Resources, Recreation and Development**

**HB607**, relative to funding the Hampton Beach area commission and making appropriations therefor. **OTP Vote: 15-1**

**HRA Analysis:** Appropriating \$10k for Hampton commission with no measurable benefit.

**Principle:** Platform: government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible & Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

**HB624**, establishing a local river management advisory committee grant program and making an appropriation therefor.

**OTP/A 0368h Vote: 16-0**

**HRA Analysis:** Appropriating \$100k for the biennium with no specificity on what the funds exactly will be used for or the benefit.

**Principle:** Platform: government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible & Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation:** Oppose OTP

## **Science, Technology and Energy**

**HB224**, relative to rebates to ratepayers from the renewable energy fund. **Maj. OTP/A 0288h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill rebates the Renewable Energy Fund (\$2.5 to 7.3M annually), funded by Alternative Compliance Payments made by utilities, to ratepayers, except for administrative costs and funding of the DoE Office of Energy Innovation.

**Principle:** Platform: Work to reduce energy costs....

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

**HB654**, relative to allowing small customer-generators the ability to participate in group-net metering. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-5**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill creates a "small customer generators" group (creating a new class of government) eligible for group net metering. As constructed it could permit double dipping with two net metering payouts: the group and the owner of the installation.

**Principle:** Platform: ... [A]lways limit spending and the growth of government, and cut spending and the cost of government at every possible turn. & work to reduce energy costs

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB681**, establishing a statewide online energy data platform. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-4**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill would expand the power of the Governing Council Of the Statewide Online Energy Data Platform, removing oversight by the PUC and DOE. The Platform is recommended for repeal in HB723.

**Principle:** Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits. Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB723**, repealing the multi-use energy data platform. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill repeals building a multi-use energy data platform for \$4.5 to 7M. Utilities already have created local energy data platforms for their customers. Other states and organizations are creating multi-use platforms. NH could eventually acquire one if the costs and benefits support it.

**Principle:** Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits. Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

## State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

**HCR1**, calling for policymakers locally and nationally to fully consider all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change before pursuing courses of action that could adversely affect any economy or environment. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7**

**HRA Analysis:** This concurrent resolution simply calls for all voices to be heard as climate policies and laws are developed. There are deep concerns that climate extremists are driving agendas and statutes, resulting in more regulation, more subsidies, and calls for carbon taxes and the like.

**Principle:** Platform: Minimize regulations on businesses. No new taxes.

**HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP

## Transportation

**HB305**, relative to speed and red-light cameras for traffic enforcement. **ITL Vote: 13-3**

**HRA Analysis:** A municipality may install traffic enforcement cameras for use by any law enforcement agency in public locations it deems prudent. Issuing citations to a car owner based on a traffic camera photo creates a guilty until proven innocent scenario.

**Principle:** NH Constitution [Art.] 15: 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. Every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favorable to himself; to meet the witnesses against him face to face, and to be fully heard in his defense, by himself, and counsel. & US Constitution Fifth Amendment: ...nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law...

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB419**, requiring vehicle headlights to be on when windshield wipers are also on. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-6**

**HRA Analysis:** Burdensome and unnecessary. As written, the bill would require that headlights be turned on to clean your windshield.

**Principle:** Platform: We believe in free people...

**HRA Recommendation:** Support ITL

**HB649**, removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund. **without recommendation Vote: 10-10**

**HRA Analysis:** FLAM exempts new vehicles for the first three years after purchase from vehicle inspections. It then changes annual motor vehicle inspections to every other year for private passenger vehicles and motorcycles. It further provides that a lit or inoperable check engine light shall not be grounds for motor vehicle inspection failure.

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

**HRA Recommendation:** Support FLAM - 2025-0783h; Support OTP/A