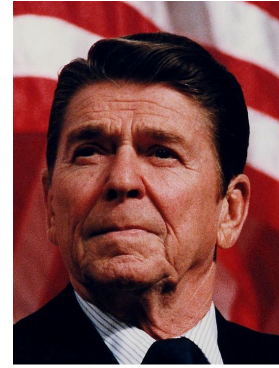


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"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.

Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Regular Calendar - Part One

Children and Family Law

HB775, directing the department of health and human services to issue a request for proposals for supervised visitation centers. **OTP Vote: 16-0**

HRA Analysis: Requires DHHS to contract with one or more qualified organizations to establish and operate a supervised visitation center in each county. The initial cost is estimated to be greater than \$5mil, with an operating cost each year after of \$1.5-\$2m.

Principle: Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" & "Limit the growth of state spending to not more than rate of inflation plus population growth"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB467, defining "social districts" and enabling municipalities to create social districts. **Maj. OTP/A 1084h; Min. ITL Vote: 14-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill will allow limited social drinking to be legal in designated public places beyond licensed business property boundaries. Social districts would first require approval from the respective municipal government to allow the social district. The board of selectmen, town council, city council, or board of alderman would be responsible for establishing management and maintenance plans for the social district.

Principle: No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB198, relative to legalizing certain quantities of cannabis and establishing penalties for the smoking or vaping of cannabis in public. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill legalizes the possession, consumption, and transferring of a limited amount of cannabis if the individual is at least 21 years of age or older. In order to assuage certain concerns, the bill also institutes new penalties to ensure responsible consumption of cannabis, penalizing public smoking or vaping of cannabis.

Principle: Platform: "Support the State's Constitutional right to determine legal restrictions on possession of controlled substances" & NH Constitution - Part 1, Article 18: "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense. "

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB226, relative to the use of drug checking equipment. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0624h Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to remove drug testing equipment that a drug user might use for safety purposes from the definition of drug paraphernalia.

Principle: No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB466, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill increases the loss of license penalty from 180 days to 1 yr if a person under arrest for any violation or misdemeanor under RSA 265 or RSA 215-A refuses upon the request of a law enforcement officer, authorized agent, or peace officer to submit to physical tests or to a test of blood, urine, or breath.

Principle: No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Education Funding

HB137, relative to allocating excess statewide education property tax funds for local school and municipal purposes. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-3**

HRA Analysis: If a town has excess SWEPT, they can keep it for educational purposes. Redistributing wealth from some towns to others.

Principle: NH Constitution Part 1, 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" & NH Constitution Part 2, Art 5: "levy proportional and reasonable assessments, rates, and taxes, upon all the inhabitants" & Platform: "Oppose all wealth redistribution plans".

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Education Policy and Administration

HB90, relative to the definition of part-time teachers. **Maj. OTP/A 0912h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes requirements for part time teachers (works less than 20 hrs/wk). These include being a full time or adjunct faculty member in the NH college system or having significant, relevant professional experience.

Principle: Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork." & "Reform the teacher certification process to include participation by individuals outside the standard education paradigm..."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Election Law

CACR2, relating to the drawing of district boundaries. Providing that no district boundaries shall be drawn in a way that favors or disfavors any political party or candidate. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: While redistricting is inherently political, this amendment would force those drawing maps to ignore the largest and most natural communities of interest—political ones. While we regret that the process is political, attempts to make it something it is not would only shift power away from elected representatives and into the hands of unelected judges, who would then impose their own hidden ideology under the guise of fairness. The only officials directly accountable to voters are those elected by them, and redistricting should remain as close to the people as possible. For that reason, the legislature—not the courts—should handle this responsibility.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB154, enabling voters to request to have their ballots hand-counted. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 13-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill simply makes it clear that the legislature allows individual voters to choose to have their ballot be hand counted in municipalities that use ballot counting machines. This removes the perception of a loss of a right.

Principle: Platform: "hold the government accountable and that it is through the integrity of the ballot box that we do so."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB175, relative to defined coordinated expenditures. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0461h Vote: 11-7**

HRA Analysis: The majority of the committee believes that PACs who collect money from everyday citizens of New Hampshire along with large and small businesses enable the voices of the state to be heard on a larger scale. This process is comparable to buyers groups and co-ops that use a group of businesses to increase buyer power to compete against box stores and large multinational corporations with endless resources that an individual would never be able to compete against. This bill expands the limitations of communications with candidates to include the party, which could be interpreted that if a PAC promotes a party's platform, this would be a violation. However at the same time it would appear that in no way does this limit unions in the same manner. This sets forth an unfair playing field and creates a monopoly of thought and power.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB408, moving the date of the state primary to the fourth Tuesday in August. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Moving the State's primary to August does not solve the current problem the state faces with an incumbent protection program. Furthermore, many parents are still out on vacation with their children at this point and while they could request an absentee ballot the majority does not feel it prudent to deny them the opportunity to vote in person.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB481, relative to moving the state primary date. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 13-5**

HRA Analysis: Moving New Hampshire's state primary to the second Tuesday in June would make elections more competitive by addressing the unfair timeline that currently benefits incumbents. Under the current system, absentee ballots for the general election are sent out just a week after the September primary, leaving challengers with almost no time to introduce themselves to voters before ballots are already being cast. By shifting the primary to June, voters would have more time to fairly evaluate all candidates before making their decisions, ensuring that elections are based on ideas and qualifications rather than a schedule that protects those already in office.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB514, allowing private persons to sue for violations of election laws. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes a clear and efficient process for individuals to seek judicial redress if they are harmed by violations of election law procedures, including the denial of their right to vote. Under current judicial precedent, individuals are prohibited from suing under RSA 659, leaving voters and election participants with no direct recourse when election laws are violated. This bill corrects that by creating a formal complaint process with the Department of Justice (DOJ) while ensuring that the DOJ does not have the final say on election law violations. Individuals have the inherent right to seek redress from the judicial system, and this legislation guarantees that claimants can pursue injunctive relief in superior court when necessary. By providing a structured mechanism to address election law violations, this bill strengthens election integrity while maintaining accountability. Ensuring that election laws are properly followed is essential to public confidence in the process, and this bill upholds that principle by preserving access to the courts for those seeking justice.

Principle: Platform: "hold the government accountable and that it is through the integrity of the ballot box that we do so."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB600, enabling ranked-choice voting for municipal elections. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Ranked choice voting is not the right fit for New Hampshire because it adds unnecessary complexity to a voting system that has served the state well for centuries. While some argue that it allows winners to have broader voter support, in practice, it can be confusing to voters, leading to higher rates of ballot errors and potential disenfranchisement. New Hampshire has a strong tradition of straightforward, transparent elections, and introducing a ranked-choice system would create unnecessary administrative burdens on local officials who are already tasked with ensuring fair and efficient elections. Additionally, while proponents claim it saves money, in many cases, ranked choice voting has led to increased costs due to the need for new voting equipment, voter education efforts, and complicated ballot tabulation processes. Furthermore, this system can lead to unpredictable outcomes, where a candidate who was not the top choice of most voters ultimately wins due to vote redistribution, undermining the clarity and decisiveness of traditional elections. New Hampshire's election system has long been a model of local control and voter confidence, and ranked choice voting would only serve to complicate a process that does not need fixing.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Environment and Agriculture

HB152, prohibiting the sale and use of adhesive-based rodent traps. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 9-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to prohibit the sale of glue traps by NH stores and prohibits the use by people and businesses. It does not stop sales over the internet. Glue traps/glue boards are an effective non chemical (non poisonous) means to control rodents in places where food is stored and prepared, and in facilities where there are children and senior citizens. They are an important part of an integrated pest management plan.

Principle: 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"

Platform: "We believe in free people, free markets, and free enterprise."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Executive Departments and Administration

HB96, requiring New Hampshire builders to use the 2021 Energy Building codes or a similar code that achieves equivalent or greater energy savings. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill updates the state energy code from 2018 to 2021, which increases the cost of construction in order to use less energy over the building's life. This position was rejected by the building code review board and the House last year. Since builders and owners can choose to use the 2021 code, mandating it forces everyone to make that choice, whether or not they might prefer a lower initial cost. Homeowners should not be mandated to incur a higher initial cost in order to (maybe) save on energy costs.

Principle: Platform: "acquiring, possessing and protecting property is a natural, essential and inherent right"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB145, relative to background checks for licensed dietitians and adopting the dietitian licensure compact. **Maj. OTP/A 0564h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill signs us up for a new interstate compact to allow NH dietitians more easily work in other states, including telehealth. The compact can assess what fees it wants, and its as yet unwritten rules have the force and effect of law.

Principle: Constitution: art 12 "nor are the inhabitants of this state controllable by any other laws than those which they, or their representative body, have given their consent."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL

HB252, creating a state holiday to honor Daniel Webster's birthday. **ITL Vote: 12-4**

HRA Analysis: Creates a new state holiday

Principle: No platform or constitutional issue identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB428, prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code. **Maj. OTP/A 0328h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-6**

HRA Analysis: This bill prevents municipalities from making technical amendments to the state building code. Having different codes in different towns increases the cost of building, and has been used to mandate aspirational codes (Durham has declared itself in climate zone 6, requiring more insulation than their actual zone 5, for example.)

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

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB606, relative to a patient's right to medically appropriate care for reproductive disorders. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 15-3**

HRA Analysis: Doctors routinely deny certain treatments to women with endometriosis and other painful issues, based solely on their judgment that the patient MIGHT want to have children later, and might regret receiving treatment that sterilizes them. Numerous women testified that the pain can be debilitating, yet it was impossible to find a doctor who would treat them. This bill prohibits doctors from denying such treatment based on a narrow set of criteria. It allows for doctors to require a waiver of liability & dramatically reduces the likelihood of lawsuits against the doctor for providing such treatment. *** This bill allows for disciplinary action if a physician refuses to perform the procedure. *** (Please oppose any FLAM from the bill's prime sponsor, as any such amendment is likely to expand the scope to include so-called "gender transition" surgery.)

Principle: Platform: "We believe in free people, free markets, and free enterprise." & "Minimize business regulations" & US Constitution Amendment XIII, Section 1: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, Support ITL

Judiciary

HB132, repealing liability for familial support under chapter 165, aid to assisted persons. **OTP/A 0927h Vote: 13-5**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill eliminates the legal requirement for a relative with means to be imprisoned for 60-90 days for refusing to provide aid to an indigent relative. It still permits towns and cities to seek reimbursement for aid provided from legally liable relatives with sufficient means. This long-standing practice is both reasonable and cost-saving for local taxpayers. It requires that aid shall not be withheld due to the failure of a legally liable relative to respond. Conflicting platform that towns will be liable for an unfunded mandate, while removing the unjust punishment of imprisonment.

Principle: NH Constitution, Part 1, Art 18: "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense." & NH Constitution Part 1, Art. 28-a. "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

HB195, relative to the expectation of privacy in the collection and use of personal information. **Maj. OTP/A 0890h; Min. ITL Vote: 11-6**

HRA Analysis: The bill provides that individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy from third party providers in "personal information" (i.e., name, address, date of birth, social security number, telephone numbers, Internet addresses, location information, biographic identifiers, DNA/RNA data, and other unique personal identifiers) and it prohibits covered companies from disclosing such information to anyone except in limited circumstances.

Principle: Platform: "Minimize business regulations" & "Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL

HB400, requiring a public body's collective bargaining negotiations to be deemed public meetings and requiring that arguments made and information generated during the meetings be made available to the public under the right-to-know law. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires public body's collective bargaining negotiations happen in public.

Principle: Platform: "Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds" & "return educational funding and policy to the people at the local level"

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB509, relative to the contents of the attorney general's annual report detailing state forfeiture information for the preceding fiscal year. **OTP Vote: 11-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires a detailed annual report on asset forfeitures from the Attorney General.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB520, relative to authorizing hearing officers of the department of education to issue subpoenas. **Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A 0842h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill grants authority to Department of Education hearing officers to issue subpoenas at the request of the commissioner or commissioner's designee relative to educator code of conduct violations for certified educators.

Principle: Platform: "Promote personal responsibility and consequences for one's actions."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP, Oppose amendments

HB587, allowing admission of one-party audio and video recordings in certain circumstances. **Maj. OTP/A 0843h; Min. ITL Vote: 13-5**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, allows one-party consent recording only in cases where the recording is reasonably believed to contain evidence of a crime and is intended for law enforcement or court use — not public disclosure. Under current law, a victim who records their abuser without consent could face criminal charges.

Principle: Platform: "...right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB614, relative to litigation alleging constitutional rights violations. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 14-4**

HRA Analysis: Unlike the US Constitution, our state constitution provides no means for Granite Staters to seek justice when their rights have been violated. Our state courts have consistently held that it provides no remedies — of any kind — for any constitutional rights violations that occurred in the past — whether to your free speech, your religious liberty, your right to bear arms, or any other constitutional right. Instead, New Hampshire citizens are forced to turn to the federal courts.

Principle: 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."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP

HB641, establishing a private right of action for civil rights violations. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 1022h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill would allow a private individual the ability to sue for a violation of their civil rights. The NH AG's office testified that they have sufficient staff to investigate violations of civil rights and they have investigated and brought actions against a number of individuals in the past year. This bill also adds two new positions to the Attorney General's office in the amount of \$222,000 per year

Principle: Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB487, relative to providing employees with advance notice of the work schedule. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0459h Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: The bill would require, with some exceptions, that employers schedule their employees' shifts at least 7 days in advance. This would impose a one-size-fits-all State solution. It would override the ability of employers and employees to best balance the requirements of their situation.

Principle: Platform: "Minimize business regulations"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Legislative Administration

HB142, relative to the Honor and Remember Flag. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 9-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill would designate the Honor and Remember Flag as the state symbol of remembrance for those who died in the line of duty or as the result of service and require the flag to fly over the State House for no more than five designated days of the year including Gold Star Mother's Day. During the hearing, a NH representative of the State Veterans Advisory Committee testified in opposition to the bill stating the American flag is what is draped over fallen soldiers' coffins and no other flag is wanted or necessary. It is noted that RSA 4:13-h proclaims Gold Star Mother's Day. "The governor shall annually issue a proclamation calling for the proper observance of the first Sunday after Easter which shall be known as Gold Star Mother's Day recognizing and honoring all mothers who have lost sons or daughters while on duty in the United States armed forces. The Governor has the discretion to order the Honor and Remember Flag to be flown on this day so the use of the flag is not precluded.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB157, establishing a study committee to examine ways to improve the usefulness of fiscal notes. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0762h Vote: 9-2**

HRA Analysis: The aim of this bill is to create a study committee to look at expanding the scope of fiscal notes on legislation.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB347, relative to protection of employment for members of the general court. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0473h Vote: 8-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires New Hampshire companies to provide time off from work for members of the General Court.

Principle: Platform: "Minimize business regulations"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB456, relative to testimony of agency employees in general court hearings. **Maj. OTP/A 0908h; Min. ITL Vote: 7-4**

HRA Analysis: Non germane amendment 0908h prohibits tax payer dollars from being used for lobbying. Current law (15:5) says if a municipality wants to use professional lobbyists you need to pay them with non-state funds and physically segregate state funds from other funds. That requires TWO CHECKING ACCOUNTS. This bill will prohibit local taxpayers money from also being used for that purpose. To complete the protection of taxpayers and how their money is to be spent, an annual specific vote acknowledging the purchase of the lobbying services will be required. This bill does NOT limit speech. It makes crystal clear that anyone can still come testify at the statehouse.

Principle: Platform: "Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds." & "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services"

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Municipal and County Government

HB138, relative to tax impact notation on warrant articles with multi-year tax impacts. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: If a municipality has voted to have estimated tax impact included with warrant articles, this bill requires that warrant articles with multi-year appropriations include the estimated tax impact for the first five years.

Principle: Platform: "Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB147, relative to clarifying tax exemptions for properties used by religious, educational, and charitable organizations. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill clarifies that entire lots and buildings used for religious, educational, and charitable purposes are exempt from property taxes. These non-profits all have missions to serve our communities, and these clarifications are important to avoid inconsistent application.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB582, relative to safety requirements for operation of personal water crafts. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: Requiring use of flotation devices.

Principle: Platform: "Promote personal responsibility and consequences for one's actions."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Science, Technology and Energy

HB674, relative to non-wire alternatives, time-of-use tariffs, and multi-year rate settings. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires offering time-of-use rates and meters to all customers. It requires rate setting every five years rather than every 6 months. It requires the utility grid investment intended to defer or remove the need for grid upgrades. The PUC currently has dockets regarding advanced metering and time-of-use rates. The cost of these changes are substantial.

Principle: Platform: "Work to reduce energy costs..."; "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits".

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB692, relative to utility companies adopting advanced meters. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires utilities to develop a plan to make advanced metering (time-of-use) available to all customers. Priority is to be given to customer generators. The PUC currently has dockets regarding advanced metering. The costs of these changes would be in the tens of millions.

Principle: Platform: "Work to reduce energy costs..."; "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits".

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB755, relative to the state's electric utility market. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill proposes major changes to the way utilities are governed, including new load reduction and load settlement procedures facilitated by advanced metering technology. The PUC and DOE continue to study these concepts. The costs are significant and would be borne by all ratepayers; the benefits fall to a few entities.

Principle: Platform: "Work to reduce energy costs..."; "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits".

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB759, relative to community energy generators. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a new type of customer-generator called a community-generator, and raises their size limit from 1MW to 5 MW, with attendant cost shifting. It would quickly drive growth in distributed energy resources by 325-350 MW. Such growth will degrade grid reliability, contrary to ratepayers preference for dependable service.

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

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB760, relative to utility default service. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill prevents a non-bypassable charge on all utility customers for under collection caused by PUC's requirement for utilities to purchase a portion of their power on the spot and day-ahead markets. The issue is currently under review at the PUC.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB761, relative to customer energy storage. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires the DOE adopt rules and the PUC adopt tariffs regarding battery storage of electrical energy. It requires battery discharge be eligible for net metering without requiring battery charging be from solar or wind generation. More net metering means more cost shifting.

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

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

HCR3, applying for a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7**

HRA Analysis: This measure seeks to invoke the founders' Article V provision from the federal constitution to convene a states convention to propose constitutional amendments for state consideration to address critical issues such as the national debt that congress itself seems incapable of addressing.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HCR5, rescinding House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 passed by the 2012 New Hampshire General Court asking that Congress call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-7**

HRA Analysis: This measure seeks to negate an earlier legislative resolution supporting N.H.'s participation in a States Convention. HRA doesn't take positions on resolution.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HCR10, calling for the repeal of the Jones Act. **Maj. OTP/A 0318h; Min. ITL Vote: 11-6**

HRA Analysis: This concurrent resolution seeks to recommend repeal of the protectionist 2021 Jones Act which increases costs, hampers interstate trade, discourages competition, and degrades our ship-building capabilities. HRA doesn't take positions on resolutions.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HJR1, affirming the natural right of persons and affirming that the state and federal government are established for the purpose of upholding, protecting, and securing these rights. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7**

HRA Analysis: This joint resolution seeks to reaffirm our commitment to honoring traditional "natural" rights. HRA doesn't take positions on resolutions.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Transportation

HB249, allowing bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs and stop lights as stop signs. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: A person operating a bicycle, human-powered vehicle, or an electric bicycle approaching a stop sign shall slow down and, if required for safety, stop or yield as required for safety or may cautiously make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping if it can be done safely. They may go through red lights after stopping and yielding. Right hand turns can be made after yielding as necessary. Left turns can be made after stopping and yielding as necessary.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB461, relative to department of safety and department of motor vehicle training and testing materials. **Maj. OTP/A 0471h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: No person may take any portion of a driver's license examination with the assistance of: (1) An in-person translator. (2) A mobile translation application on a personal electronic device. (3) A translation computer program or translation software application on a desktop computer, laptop computer, or tablet. (4) Any other device distributed to a non-English or non-American Sign Language speaker to assist that person with the translation of English or American Sign Language.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB489, allowing volunteer emergency workers to use a rear facing blue light on their private vehicles when involved in emergency service. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-6**

HRA Analysis: The intent of this bill would be to allow emergency response volunteers to install a blue light within the rear window of their personal vehicle while actively engaging in their response work. The uses and expectations of blue lights should be reserved for law enforcement. There is no ambiguity when it comes to motorists identifying a police cruiser, a fire truck, or an ambulance when happening upon a response.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Regular Calendar - Part Two

Children and Family Law

HB553, relative to the definition of abuse and neglect and conditions triggering a rebuttable presumption of harm in abuse and neglect cases. **Maj. OTP/A 1079h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-4**

HRA Analysis: The bill expands the definition of abuse to include vague terms like "emotional, or psychological" abuse. Since these terms are somewhat subjective, the net result will be more children taken from their parents, including because DCYF disagreed with a parent's parenting style or philosophical outlook on things such as transgenderism. The bill also adds new definitions which will result in more issues for homeschool families.

Principle: Platform: "the liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, healthcare, education, and wellbeing of their children is a fundamental right"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Support ITL

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB316, relative to reimbursement for ground ambulance services. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 15-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill makes changes to the regulatory environment for ground ambulance services and commercial health insurance reimbursement for these services by establishing a uniform, default rate schedule, prohibiting ground ambulance providers from balance billing, providing for continued updating of the rate schedule, and establishing a commission on an all-payer model program for ground ambulance services

Principle: Platform: "Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs" & "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB191, providing criminal and civil penalties for the recruitment, harboring, or transporting of a pregnant, unemancipated minor in order to obtain an abortion without parental permission. **Maj. OTP/A 0756h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended makes it unlawful for any adult to transport a minor for any surgical procedure without the written consent of the parent or guardian.

Principle: 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 AM 0756h and Support AM 1131h, Support OTP/A, Support OTP if AMs fail

HB380, relative to penalties for criminal violations of the therapeutic use of cannabis. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0130h Vote: 9-6**

HRA Analysis: The bill mandates that any qualifying patient or designated caregiver who sells cannabis to another person who is not a qualifying patient or designated caregiver under this chapter shall be subject to the criminal penalties specified in RSA 318-B:26[IX-a,] and shall have his or her registry identification card revoked.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB638, allowing an older prisoner serving a sentence of life without parole to be eligible for parole upon meeting certain criteria. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill would negate the concept of a life without parole sentence. The people of New Hampshire, through their elected representatives, recently abolished the death penalty. They did so with the knowledge and comfort of knowing that the murderers who otherwise would be sentenced to death, will spend the rest of their natural lives in jail. Now, less than a decade later some would like to weaken that, and use this bill to nullify that sentence.

Principle: NH Constitution Part 1, [Art.] 18. All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Education Funding

HB549, relative to the use of education freedom account funds in religious schools and institutions of higher education. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Prohibiting use of EFA funds for religious schools.

Principle: Platform: "Expand education tax credits and support universal education freedom accounts."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Education Policy and Administration

HB50, relative to teaching discrimination in public schools and discrimination in public workplaces. **Maj. OTP/A 1029h; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: The amended bill replaces the original which eliminated our anti-CRT provisions. It now enhances those provisions and supports the AG's defense of them in federal court.

Principle: Platform: "Teach that no one race or sex is inherently superior or inferior to another. Teach that America is NOT a racist country."

HRA Recommendation: Support AM 1029h, Support 1315h, Support OTP/A, Oppose OTP

HB292, establishing a commission to study school administrative unit consolidation. **Maj. OTP/A 1030h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Study the consolidation of SAUs for efficiency and cost savings.

Principle: Platform: "cut spending and the growth of government at every possible turn."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB324, relative to prohibiting obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8**

HRA Analysis: This is the same bill as last year to protect minors from age inappropriate and harmful materials in schools by providing a minimum process for parental complaints. It removes K-12 education from the criminal obscenity laws and establishes a civil right of action.

Principle: Platform: "Promote legislation for age appropriate materials that are not harmful to minors in school and public libraries."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP, Oppose Amendments

HB361, prohibiting mandatory mask policies in schools. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8**

HRA Analysis: Prohibits school districts from establishing a policy that requires students or members of the public from wearing facial masks while on school property for any purpose. There is an exemption for children on IEPs or 504s who medically require one.

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 OTP

HB431, establishing a commission to review draft rules related to minimum standards for public school approval and state academic standards developed by the department of education. **Maj. OTP/A 0724h; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: The amended bill replaces the original bill for a commission on minimum standards for a commission on special education to study increasing identification of children and costs.

Principle: Platform: "Promote accountability and transparency in education. Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB446, relative to parental notice for non-academic surveys in public schools. **Maj. OTP/A 0042h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Currently all non-academic surveys require parental opt-in for their children to take the survey except for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) which is opt-out. This amended bill changes YRBS to opt-in also. Many survey questions are questionable such as gender and the weight of young girls. In addition we heard many do not take it seriously. Organizations object to the change because they use responses to obtain grant money.

Principle: Platform: "Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB557, relative to the information that appears on the school budget ballot. **Maj. OTP/A 1031h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: The amended bill requires school budget ballots to include the district average cost per pupil and the proficiency rates for English, Math and Science

Principle: Platform: "Promote accountability and transparency in education."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB699, relative to special education definitions. **Maj. OTP/A 0606h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8**

HRA Analysis: The bill updates definitions of special ed terms in RSAs as suggested by an LBA audit. There was confusion and misinformation initially from advocacy groups so the bill was amended for clarification.

Principle: Platform: "Promote accountability and transparency in education. "

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB741, allowing parents to send their children to any school district they choose. **Maj. OTP/A 0336h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This expands our current open enrollment law to allow any child to go to any public school they choose. Eliminates zip code discrimination. Parents in this country have gone to jail for using a different address to get their child into a better school. This is another step in making NH THE state in the nation for education freedom and ensuring that every child gets the education they need to succeed.

Principle: Platform: "Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children." & "Promote local control of education policy and funding in order to create the best-managed school systems"

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

HB749, requiring high schools to include instruction on the nature and history of communism. **OTP/A 1028h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill simply requires one hour of instruction on communism in high school.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB768, allowing public schools to contract with any approved private school. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This is a technical correction to the RSAs. It strikes "non-sectarian" from a remaining statute related to town tuitioning which allows districts that do not have schools for all grade levels to send children to other public or private schools for those grades. It has been removed from other areas of statute but this was missed. This clarifies that children can be sent to religious schools.

Principle: Platform: "Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Election Law

HB141, relative to campaign disclosures for limited liability companies. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill could disproportionately affect small businesses, particularly those, as many in New Hampshire are, structured as Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), participating in the politics of supporting or defeating the candidates of their choosing by increasing the administrative burden with the reporting requirements of tracking and disclosing ownership stakes for each contribution. Unlike large corporations with legal teams, small business owners might face compliance difficulties and additional costs to ensure proper attribution.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB217, relative to absentee ballots. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill helps to clarify and align voting requirements when using absentee ballots. The bill helps to clarify the US citizenship requirement for voting in New Hampshire elections and clarifies the required supporting documentation needed. With the number of undocumented immigrants allowed into the country over the last few years, there is a need to verify US citizenship and the identity of the registrant or voter. US citizenship and identity should also be verified for absentee ballots.

Principle: Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB274, relative to the verification of voter rolls annually. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill proposes changing the interval for the verification of voter rolls from every ten (10) years to annually. This verification looks to remove voters who have not voted in a number of elections or have moved but did not inform the state or have died. This more frequent interval may inadvertently remove a less frequent voter so this extends the look back period from 4 to 5 years to address this concern.

Principle: Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB311, relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations and labor unions. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-7**

HRA Analysis: Participating in a labor union is not a voluntary act in New Hampshire. As such, the majority feels strongly that allowing labor unions to make direct political contributions without the use of a segregated fund violates the 1st Amendment by, in effect, being forced speech. Should membership be voluntary, like with corporations, non-profits, and other associations, then the majority is open to reconsidering their current position.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB356, enabling school districts to adopt partisan school district elections. **Maj. OTP/A 0619h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill enables the establishment of a partisan ballot system for school district elections as a means of increasing voter engagement. This enabling legislation does not mandate partisan elections.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB363, establishing redistricting criteria. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0682h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: We support fairness and compliance with federal and state law but this bill would force those drawing maps to disregard the largest and most natural communities of interest—political ones. By attempting to strip politics from a process that is, by nature, political, this bill would result in unelected judges imposing their own interpretations of fairness, overriding the decisions of elected representatives.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB367, changing the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill makes consistent the method for adopting and rescinding partisan elections in town election. Due to an oversight, and some other confusion, this bill is reported out incorrectly. An amendment was approved 17-0 but didn't get in the bill report. This will be brought out as a FLAM.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB385, reestablishing voter identification exceptions. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0656h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to reverse a bill that was signed into law in 2024, HB 1569. The new law put in place reasonable requirements for identity and proof of US citizenship during registration and voting. It is common sense to have the identity of the voter proven and the voter qualifications established in a meaningful and verifiable way. New Hampshire has an obligation to know who is voting to ensure that elections are safe and secure.

Principle: Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB357, relative to the department of health and human services' rulemaking authority regarding immunization requirements. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill eliminates DHHS rulemaking authority with respect to vaccine mandates for children. It leaves existing mandates in statute and sunsets the existing mandates in rules, which will expire in June of 2026.

Principle: Platform: "Require informed consent, free from coercion, with regard to all medical treatment and intervention"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB358, relative to exemption from immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Several years ago, we passed a bill to eliminate the requirement that parents get their vaccine religious exemption notarized. However, the use of the word "form" in that bill prompted DHHS to create a standard form, which some regard as a scaremongering tactic, and which many schools assert is required. This bill clarifies that no such DHHS form is required.

Principle: Platform: "The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, healthcare, education, and wellbeing of their children is a fundamental right.... unimpeded by intrusive government regulation and control."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB377, relative to health care professionals administering hormone treatments and puberty blockers. **Maj. OTP/A 1083h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Prohibits puberty blockers for children under 18

Principle: Platform: "Require a person to attain the age of majority before gender reassignment..."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB548, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate on a membership-based business model. **Maj. OTP/A 0964h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Expands free-market healthcare options by exempting certain facilities from accepting all forms of payment (including Medicare/Medicaid, for example).

Principle: Platform: "Allow free market driven health care plans and "ala carte" insurance plans free from government mandates", and "Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB559, relative to staffing requirements in emergency medical transport vehicles. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Allows ambulances to use a qualified non-EMT as a driver, alleviating staffing shortages and making it easier for EMS to respond effectively to emergency calls.

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

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB679, relative to immunization requirements. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: The bill stipulates that any vaccines mandated by the state under RSA 141-C:20-a must have undergone clinical trials that prove its efficacy in preventing the transmission of a disease.

Principle: Platform: "Require informed consent, free from coercion, with regard to all medical treatment and intervention"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB712, limiting breast surgeries for minors. **Maj. OTP/A 1138h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: prohibits breast surgeries for minors, except for medical need.

Principle: Platform: "Require a person to attain the age of majority before gender reassignment surgery"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Judiciary

HB584, relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty. **Maj. OTP/A 0990h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill simply states that the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum shall have no jurisdiction in New Hampshire. The bill also removes a reference to medical schools recognized by the World Health Organization and replaces it with a reference to the World Directory of Medical Schools. The amendment specifically exempts the reference to the World Health Organization's world directory of foreign pharmacy schools from the bill so it can still be used.

Principle: Platform: "Oppose all laws, programs, and mandates from local, national, and international organizations and governments contrary to our principles: including, but not limited to, educational standards, United Nations programs..."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB620, relative to the exercise of the freedom of religion. **without recommendation Vote: 9-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill implements religious freedom, which is unnecessary and due to some language issues, may cause complications in already settled law in New Hampshire. In the US Supreme Court Flores case, it was decided that religious entities aren't exempt from local zoning regulations under the federal law, but if this state law was enacted they would be. It would open the door for anyone to open an online sham church, for the purposes of avoiding complying with zoning regulations.

Principle: NH 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: Vote your conscience

HB666, relative to adding restitution payment for violations of the confidentiality of the library use records and adding library cards and membership status to the list of confidential matters. **Maj. OTP/A 0332h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: Keeps public library cards and library membership status private. Adds a civil penalty and the requirement for an apology from anyone who knowingly or recklessly discloses records. FLAM exempts providing parent's their minor child's library records from penalty.

Principle: Platform: "Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position."

HRA Recommendation: Support FLAM- 1307h, Support OTP/A

HB687, relative to class action settlements and consent decrees. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill provides that no portion of a class action settlement or judgment shall be paid to anyone other than members of the class or for the payment of attorneys' fees.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Municipal and County Government

HB200, relative to the procedure for overriding a local tax cap. **Maj. OTP/A 0573h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended simply aligns the override requirement for local tax caps with the 3/5 majority override used with city tax caps and the school district budget cap. Local tax caps are adopted by a 3/5 majority, so it is logical and proper that overriding that same tax cap should also be by 3/5 majority vote.

Principle: Platform: "Require supermajority to raise taxes" and "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB284, requiring tax impact statements on municipal warrant articles. **Maj. OTP/A 0571h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended requires full transparency from the governing body to include the estimated tax impact for each warrant article, and use the notation "estimated tax impact of \$X.XX per \$1,000 of property evaluation" and include this information for up to 5 years for multi-year warrant articles. The bill also requires the warrant and ballot (if SB2) to state the total tax impact if all warrant articles with appropriations are approved.

Principle: Platform: "Expand openness and transparency to employment, expenditures and all recipients of taxpayers' funds."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB372, relative to lease agreements of equipment for building or facility improvements.

HRA Analysis: This bill closes a wasteful loophole under RSA 33:7-e where fixtured (installed) equipment and facility improvements (including renovations) are financed with expensive leases with an escape clause in order to qualify for simple majority voter approval (instead of 3/5 majority). Such leases cannot be practically escaped, but taxpayers pay a premium interest rate for the escape clause, unnecessarily increasing costs. This bill does not prohibit leases or energy performance contracts, but requires them to be approved by a 3/5 majority, just like bonds. By putting such leases and bonds at the same 3/5 majority approval level, the least expensive financing will be selected.

Principle: Platform: "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible" and "Require supermajority to raise taxes"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB373, relative to the management and regulation of town real property. **Maj. OTP/A 0836h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended clarifies ambiguity in the authority of selectboards, granted by voters, to lease unused municipal property for periods greater than one year, to generate a revenue stream to help reduce property taxes.

Principle: Platform: "government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB374, relative to clarifying references under local tax cap and budget laws. **Maj. OTP/A 0572h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended is a housekeeping bill for 2024 SB383 for local tax caps and school district budget caps. The bill language includes updates various statutory references and definitions, adds missing statutory language for adoption for one of the cases, and updates the date of the inflation indices to October 1 ahead of the budget season. Lastly, the bill permits an existing local tax cap or school district budget cap to be directly amended without having to first rescind. These updates ensure consistent and unambiguous application of the local tax caps and school district budget caps statewide.

Principle: Platform: "Government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB413, relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 11-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill extends the existing five-year grandfathering of zoning amendment and subdivision regulation changes for subdivision plats to seven years and increases the preliminary step achieving active and substantial development from two years to three years. This bill reduces risk to developers and encouraging them to take on larger housing projects with the flexibility of slightly extended timelines, and not have to unnecessarily repeat the subdivision plat approval process.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB432, relative to recovery houses. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill attempts to increase the supply of recovery house beds by more than a factor of 10, but fails to meet basic safety and ADA standards, and also entirely removes local planning board approval, but places burdens on communities. There is a need here, but this legislation misses the mark, even after a subcommittee attempted to resolve the issues.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB475, relative to the reductions from the default budget for official ballot town meetings. **Maj. OTP/A 0600h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended ensures that default budgets are a true minimum budget to maintain services by updating what is not permitted in default budgets: positions vacant for more than one-year, old salaries/benefits when position has been filled, and funds used or transferred for one-time expenses. All of these changes avoid voters having to accept a bloated default budget.

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

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB613, relative to enabling local political subdivisions to vote and set a reduced default budget option. **Maj. OTP/A 0795h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended is enabling legislation for SB2 political subdivisions, allowing voters to provide an annual option for a reduced default budget. The enabling legislation, adopted via a 3/5 vote, selects a percentage R (1% to 10%). Each year, if the proposed operating budget is not adopted, the voters have a choice to accept the default budget, or a default budget reduced by R percent. This bill provides an option for towns and school districts to address ever increasing default budgets, and helps ensure that proposed budgets are fiscally responsible to get voter approval.

Principle: Platform: "Government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB568, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: The bill proposes that local planning boards may request a water supply study for subdivision development in accordance with local regulations. Water studies would be discretionary and fall under the jurisdiction of local planning boards to prescribe minimum on-lot private well testing requirements to ensure an adequate water supply. The planning board may require an applicant to pay for notifying abutters and may assess reasonable costs for local administrative or investigative expenses. The proposed bill would allow arbitrary, excessive, and costly requirements by local planning boards, infringing on property rights.

Principle: 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."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Science, Technology and Energy

HB460, relative to utility investments in distributed energy resources. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill amends the factors used by the PUC in assessing a utility's investment and recovery in rates to include, metering, data sharing, consolidated billing, and load estimation & settlement processes concerning customer-generators and limited producers. Some of these costs are unquantifiable or unknown so implementation could lead to cost shifting.

Principle: Platform: "Minimize business regulations...".

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB537, relative to electric rates approved by the public utilities commission for residential condominium property. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0823h Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill would require utilities charge residential rates for well and sewer services to condominium owners. If not billed to a named resident, condominium bills are at the utility's commercial rate. To change billing procedures for selected business addresses (like condos) would be an expensive prospect.

Principle: Platform: "Minimize business regulations...".

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB690, directing the department of energy to investigate the state's withdrawal from ISO-New England and other strategy decisions that impact ratepayers in relation to New England's environmental policy. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill directs the DOE study the costs and benefits of remaining or separating from ISO-New England.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Ways and Means

HB402, relative to liability as taxable income of education freedom account payments. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A 0588h Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill proposes to repeal RSA 194-F:2 paragraph VI which states that funds deposited in an education freedom account (EFA) do not constitute taxable income.

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

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB483, relative to the definition of a scholarship organization for purposes of the education tax credit. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: If this bill were passed, it would effectively remove The Children's Scholarship Fund which is incorporated in the State of New York from managing the Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) of the State of New Hampshire. With this one bill, the Education Freedom Accounts would be terminated unless a new management charitable organization incorporated in New Hampshire was willing and capable of overseeing and managing the EFA program stepped forward.

Principle: Platform: "Support universal education freedom accounts" & "We support expanded education choices"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB530, increasing the amount of revenue transferred from the real estate transfer tax to the affordable housing fund. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill doubles the amount of money collected by the real Estate transfer tax to the affordable housing fund, from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000. The majority believes that if this bill were passed, it would jeopardize the Education Trust Fund's ability to meet the state's obligations to fund an adequate education and might result in reductions to other state-provided services due to a reduction in the general fund.

Principle: Platform: "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending"

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL