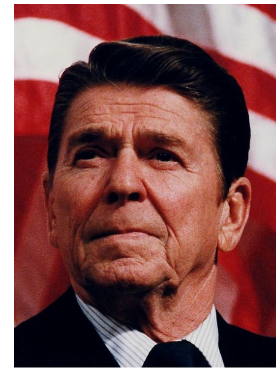


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet

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.



"Trust but Verify"

Thursday, May 8, 2025
Regular Calendar

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

CACR8, relating to sheriffs. Providing that no person shall hold the office of county sheriff after he or she has attained the age of seventy-five years. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill changes the mandatory retirement age for sheriffs to 75 from 70 that was established in 1792.

Principle: No platform or Constitutional issue

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB58, (New Title) relative to venue in criminal prosecutions of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting. **Maj. OTP/A 1722h; Min. OTP/A 1721h Vote: 10-6**

HRA Analysis: Allows the venue for criminal prosecution for distributing a controlled substance resulting in death to be in the jurisdiction where either the death occurred or the manufacturing, selling, or dispensing took place.

Principle: No platform or Constitutional issue

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB62, relative to law enforcement participation in a federal immigration program. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill provides that neither the state nor any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state shall prohibit a state, county, or local law enforcement agency from applying for entry or entering into an agreement with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Principle: Platform: "We support legal immigration and believe that enforcement of immigration laws is in New Hampshire's best interests."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

SB262, relative to the penalty for trafficking in persons under 18 years of age. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill increases the penalty for the trafficking of persons under 18 years of age from 7 years to 30 years, to 18 years to life imprisonment.

Principle: NH Constitution Part 1 [Art.] 18: "Penalties to be Proportioned to Offenses; True Design of Punishment. All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Education Funding

SB292, authorizing a warrant for the funding of state special education aid. **OTP/A 1802h Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill authorizes the governor to draw a warrant from the general fund to fund the state's obligation to distribute special education aid to school districts.

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

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

SB295, (New Title) relative to education freedom accounts. **Maj. OTP/A 1857h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill removes household income thresholds for EFAs, but caps the participation at 10k students. This about doubles the current enrollment and the student cap can increase with time.

Principle: Platform: "support universal education freedom accounts".

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment 1857h; Support OTP/A

Executive Departments and Administration

SB190, relative to the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council and the commission on the interdisciplinary primary care workforce. **Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A 1662h Vote: 11-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill adjusts the quorum requirement for these two large, multi disciplinary councils. It also allows them to meet in a hybrid fashion, beyond what 91-A allows, +with only 1/7 of the board physically present and the rest remote. The minority amendment deletes the hybrid meeting allowance.

Principle: NH Constitution Part 1 [Art.] 8: "Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive. To that end, the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted."

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment 1662h; Support OTP/A; if amendment fails - no recommendation on OTP

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

SB251, establishing a commission to study the delivery of public health services through regional public health networks and the continued development of coordinated responses to public health incidents and emergencies in New Hampshire. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-6**

HRA Analysis: Establishing an unnecessary study commission thus potentially growing government.

Principle: Platform: "to always limit spending and growth of government".

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Judiciary

SB141, extending the time to petition for a new trial in certain cases. **Maj. OTP/A 1654h; Min. OTP Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended, creates a new chapter to allow for new trial motions to be filed without time limit based upon new scientific testing of physical evidence, a new scientific understanding of evidence, or newly discovered evidence. The unamended bill is essentially the same as SB507 from last year which was vetoed because "the open-ended language of this bill could have the unintended consequence of encouraging baseless assertions". The amendment creates the necessary balance.

Principle: US Constitution 5th Amendment: "nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law". & NH Constitution Part 1 [Art.] 15: "Every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favorable to himself".

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment 1654h; then support OTP/A; but if amendment fails - oppose OTP

Municipal and County Government

SB105, enabling towns to adopt budget caps. **Maj. OTP/A 1626h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8**

HRA Analysis: The bill with the amendment is enabling legislation that allows towns to adopt an optional budget cap with a 3/5ths override provision.

Principle: Platform: "Low taxes are the result of low spending...to always limit spending and growth of government, and to cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn"; "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services"; and "Require supermajority to raise taxes".

HRA Recommendation: Support amendment 1626h; Support OTP/A.

Public Works and Highways

SB153, (New Title) relative to expedited driveway permitting of major entrances for residential use of 20 units or greater. **OTP Vote: 14-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill authorizes an optional contractor relationship between the Department of Transportation and qualified reviewers, to expedite a reduced time of 60 days for driveway permits, at a payment of \$120 a unit to the DOT for 20 units or more. This expedited process is only available for large developments.

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".

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

Reconsideration

Children and Family Law

SB23, expanding the crime of endangering the welfare of a child. **OTP Vote: 15-0**

HRA Analysis: The unintended consequences of this bill could be dangerous. This bill, as written could be interpreted to make allowing a child to participate in recreational activities such as skiing or to the trampoline park, child endangerment, a class B felony.

Principle: NH Constitution Part 1 [Art.] 18: "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense". 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: Vote No to Reconsideration.