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, June 5, 2025 Regular Calendar

Children and Family Law

SB72, establishing a parents' bill of rights in education. Maj. OTP/A 1832h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7

HRA Analysis: There are deficiencies in amendment 1832h regarding the health care portion which doesn't allow for a teen to have a rape kit (sexual assault testing and evidence collection) without parental consent. Leadership FLAM 2492h replaces the entire bill (and even the title) with a version that establishes a parental bill of rights in education. Includes the right for parents to sue for monetary damages if any provision is violated. Infringement of rights is only allowed under narrowly defined compelling state interest.

Principle: Platform: SB72 unamended: "Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children." & Amendment 1832h: Does not "Establish strict laws against sexual predators". Amendment 2492: "Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children." Constitution of New Hampshire, Bill of Rights, Article 2 "All men have certain natural, essential and inherent rights, among which are enjoying life and liberty" **HRA Recommendation:** Oppose amendment 1832h; Support amendment 2492h; Support OTP/A

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

SB87, relative to one day liquor license requirements and making salons and barber shops eligible for on-premise licenses. OTP/A 2293h Vote: 16-0

HRA Analysis: As amended this bill permits licensed barber shops, hair salons, spas, and any New Hampshire business registered with the Secretary of State and approved by the Liquor Commission to acquire a special license for \$100 to serve alcoholic beverages to clients. **Principle:** Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

SB14, relative to the penalty for certain fentanyl-related offenses. Maj. OTP/A 2372h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-7

HRA Analysis: Establishes a minimum mandatory punishment for possession of 20 grams of fentanyl and again at the 50 gram threshold. For context, 2mg is considered a lethal dose of fentanyl.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB54, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated. Maj. OTP/A 1756h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-6

HRA Analysis: Establishes stricter penalties for refusing to consent to a breathalyzer test, and incentivies for complying. Amendment 2025-2691h creates an opt-in firearm safety training to be conducted by certified trainers in public schools K-12.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB263, criminalizing and creating a private right of action for the facilitation, encouragement, offer, solicitation, or recommendation of certain acts or actions through a responsive generative communication to a child. Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 12-4

HRA Analysis: Enables the AG office to take action against providers of artificial intelligence (AI) programs that facilitate or encourage harmful behaviors, such as sexual exploitation, substance abuse, self-harm, or violence against children. (Title is incorrect, it doesn't allow a private right of action, it was previously amended to allow the AGs office to take action, only after giving an opportunity to cure first.) Criminalizes- endangering the welfare of a child, providers who knowingly engage in the facilitation of these acts. FLAM: Currently a lease greater than 6 months is forever for a landlord, and for as long as the tenant wants, for the tenant

Principle: Platform: "Establish strict laws against sexual predators"

FLAM: Constitution Art 12. "But no part of a man's property shall be taken from him, or applied to public uses, without his own consent..." 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 AM 2567h; Support OTP/A

Education Funding

SB99, relative to regional career and technical education agreements. Maj. OTP/A 1920h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8

HRA Analysis: Gives students taking career classes at a regional school a way of taking other, regular, classes at that school, with some funds coming from their home district. Should make it easier for students to organize a schedule that lets them take career classes without disrupting other classes they need for graduation.

Principle: Platform: "Encourage education freedom to allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children" & "Expand education tax credits".

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Education Policy and Administration

SB57, establishing a study committee to analyze reducing the number of school administrative units. OTP/A 1900h Vote: 15-2 HRA Analysis: Studies roles of superintendents and SAUs. As amended it considers ideas for consolidation, possibly by county. Principle: Platform: "Promote accountability and transparency in education." HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

SB69, relative to acceptance of or rejection of charitable contributions, gifts, or donations by local school boards. Maj. OTP/A 2239h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8

HRA Analysis: Gifts and donations would be accepted or rejected only after being discussed and acted on by the school board in public session. Also includes access to a voluntary early childhood readiness initiative. A FLAM would set the minimum \$ amount that would trigger a school board vote.

Principle: Platform: "Promote accountability and transparency in education." & "The government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible"

HRA Recommendation: Support OPT/A

SB96, relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents. Maj. OTP/A 2199h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8 HRA Analysis: Requires a response to parental inquiries to teachers regarding information about their child. Amendment sets response time to within 5 school days and takes out requirement to involve DCYF, instead inserting language passed in a similar bill last term. Principle: Platform: "Promote accountability and transparency in education." & "Promote education freedom and parental rights to control the education of their children". Support FLAM 2025-2699h changes response time from 5 school days to 10 business days, to match SB72. HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

SB100, relative to violations of the prohibition on teaching discrimination. Maj. OTP/A 2332h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8 HRA Analysis: Seeks to keep the prohibition law on the books by directly addressing points brought up in the court ruling. Principle: Platform: "Teach that no one race or sex is inherently superior or inferior to another." HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

SB206, requiring public schools to adopt policies to limit the use of cell phones by students. Maj. OTP/A 2249h; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8 HRA Analysis: The bill requires that schools adopt a policy. The amendment requires prohibition of use "bell to bell." Principle: Conflicting Platform issues with amendment: "Empower teachers to maintain orderly, disciplined classrooms." & "Promote local control of education policy"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP; Vote your conscience on Amendment and OTP/A

SB210, establishing a study committee to study the issue of school bullying. Maj. OTP/A 52318; Min. ITL Vote: 9-8 HRA Analysis: Original bill set up a study committee. Amendment replaces it with a bill to improve communication with parents and expand accountability to the Department. Removes part of current 'bullying' definition and expands definition of 'negligence.' Principle: Platform: "Promote personal responsibility and consequences for one's actions." HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Election Law

SB213, relative to absentee voting. Maj. OTP/A 2461h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7

HRA Analysis: With amendment 2461h, this bill adopts the House's position (from HB-340) on electioneering by public employees, expanding the definition of prohibited activities that public employees may not engage in while performing their official duties. Specifically, it prohibits actions such as conducting candidate surveys or distributing campaign-related materials. Additionally, this bill establishes a safe harbor for certain activities that, while related to political campaigning, are not inherently designed to influence a voter's decision. For example, it permits—but does not require—candidates to participate in parades or host booths at fairs without violating electioneering restrictions.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB218, relative to absentee ballot outer envelopes. Maj. OTP/A 2407h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7

HRA Analysis: With amendment 2407h, this bill clarifies that voters in New Hampshire elections must be United States citizens and aligns the requirements for absentee voter registration with those for in-person registration. The bill eliminates what some have interpreted to be ambiguity by establishing that all voters, whether registering in person or by mail, must provide the same evidence of eligibility. This promotes fairness and ensures that all voters are held to the same standards.

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

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

SB221, relative to the verification of the checklist. Maj. OTP/A 2463h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-7

HRA Analysis: Under current New Hampshire law, voter roll removals occur once every 10 years, with a lookback period of four years. With amendment 2463h, this bill adopts the previously passed House position (from HB-217) of conducting the verification annually while extending the lookback period to five years. A voter must have missed between eight and 10 elections to be removed from the rolls for non-voting. Voters subject to removal are sent a card notifying them of the action and providing the opportunity to reregister. The centralized voter database maintained by the Secretary of State's office eliminates the logistical barriers to producing the necessary lists. **Principle:** Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only"

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

SB222, relative to moving the state primary date. Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A 2406h Vote: 10-8

HRA Analysis: This bill proposes moving the state primary to the second Tuesday in June. Currently, New Hampshire holds one of the latest state primaries in the country—sometimes the very last. This late primary schedule forces candidates to focus primarily on appealing to their party's base rather than the broader electorate, which is typically five to 10 times larger. This bill will have little effect on the House Rep races but make for more competitive Federal and Statewide races. Passing this bill without amendment will move it to the Gov. (May be an interesting floor fight!) The Dem's want to delay the effective date.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB287, requiring applicants for absentee ballots to present a copy of their photo identification with their application. Maj. OTP/A 2414h; Min. ITL Vote: 10-8

HRA Analysis: With amendment 2414h, this bill aligns the process of requesting an absentee ballot more closely with the requirements for in-person voting. Under current law, voters requesting an absentee ballot are not required to provide proof of identification, whereas those voting in person must present acceptable photo identification. This bill would require voters submitting an absentee ballot application to either include a copy of acceptable photo identification or have the application notarized, which itself would require presenting identification. Importantly, New Hampshire law currently allows for electronic and remote notarization services, providing an additional, accessible option for voters to verify their identity remotely. Voters who request an absentee ballot in person may simply present their ID at the clerk's office.

Principle: Platform: "ensure voting is done by New Hampshire resident citizens only" **HRA Recommendation:** Support OTP/A

Executive Departments and Administration

SB178, relative to the department of health and human services laboratory services for testing of water supplies. OTP/A 1743h Vote: 16-0 HRA Analysis: This bill allows DHHS to set all, instead of most, of its laboratory fees in rules. The FLAM just clarifies where the money goes.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB180, designating Coos county as a distressed place-based economy. Maj. OTP/A 1748h; Min. OTP Vote: 15-1

HRA Analysis: As amended, this bill grants Coos county this special designation for 20 years. The amendment deletes special treatment by state agencies.

Principle: Amendment: Platform: "Recognize that private property owners are the most effective land stewards and have a fundamental right to freely use and enjoy their property." & "Require that all energy and infrastructure projects, constructed within NH, be constructed in a manner which does not negatively affect NH's natural beauty and personal property values."

HRA Recommendation: Underlying Bill: No recommendation

Amendment: Vote your conscience

SB198, declaring the third week in September to be New Hampshire service dog week. Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 10-6

HRA Analysis: Designates the third week in September as service dog week.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Finance

SB118, (New Title) relative to the personal needs allowance of residents of nursing homes; making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility staff; and establishing the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility capital investment fund. Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A 2345h Vote: 18-7

HRA Analysis: This bill combines four different HHS subjects. The minority amendment would remove two of the policy changes. #2345h would strip out the original subject of the bill, which would adjust, annually rather than once every five years, for inflation a "personal needs allowance" for residents of nursing homes. It also removes the text of HB 53 which, as passed by the House, allowed home cultivation of cannabis plants for holders of therapeutic cannabis cards.

Principle: No platform or constitutional issues identified

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB295, (New Title) relative to education freedom accounts. Maj. OTP/A 2271h; Min. ITL; Min. ITL Vote: 14-11

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

Housing

SB163, (New Title) repealing the temporary moratoria and limitation on building permits and the approval of subdivisions and site plans. OTP/A 1950h Vote: 17-0

HRA Analysis: As amended, the bill repeals moratoria on residential housing, and allows manufactured housing (mobile homes) by right in residential zones (as passed by the House in HB685). Testimony was that some towns were using moratoria to "just say no" even to projects that met all zoning criteria.

Principle: Conflicting Platform & Constitutional Issues: "acquiring, possessing, and protecting property is a natural, essential and inherent right." & "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." & Article 2. of the NH Constitution states, in part: "All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights among which are.... acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property..." Article 3 states, in part: "When men enter into a state of society, they surrender up some of their natural rights to that society, in order to ensure the protection of others..." Platform: "Work with municipalities to streamline planning and zoning barriers to business"

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience