

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.



FEBRUARY 1, 2006 REGULAR CALENDAR Special Order

EDUCATION

HB 39, relative to sex education in public schools. MAJ: OTP W/Amendment. **Vote 12-8**

This bill is a step in the right direction to affirm parental rights over their child's education. The NH GOP Platform in several sections states that we support a parent's ability to guide the education of their child. This bill advances that principle with regards to sexual education.

Recommendation: Support OTPW/Amendment

HB 76, revising the process of charter school approval by the state board of education. MAJ: OTP W/Amendment. MIN.: ITL. **Vote 17-1** The NH Supreme Court has ruled that public money can be given to private religious institutions as long as the purposes for which the funds are being given serve a secular purpose. Rep Ingbretson's amendment deletes the religious exempt language. We support the amendment. If it fails, the bill still addresses a fundamental problem with charter school operation and funding.

Recommendation: Support the Ingbretson Amendment. Support OTP

HB 278, relative to the alternative budget procedure in school administrative units. MAJ: OTP. MIN.: ITL.

Vote 15-1 This bill will change local town meeting form of government to SB2 and force the will of the majority of towns in the SAU district upon the minority who choose to maintain their town meeting form of government.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP then Support ITL

HB 650-FN-LOCAL, revising education funding and distribution and establishing needs-based matching grants. MAJ: ITL. MIN.: OTP. **Vote 14-5** This is a spending bill. Under current law, there is transitional money to be given to the receiver towns to soften the blow of less state funding for the next few years. This bill wishes to take that money and forever keep it in education funding despite the fact that every year the state will increase spending for education. Where will the money come from? The taxpayer of course. Additionally, we believe that NH towns need time for the dust to settle from the new formula.

Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 664-FN-LOCAL, mandating open enrollment in all school districts. MAJ.: OTP W/Amendment. MIN.: ITL. **Vote 14-6.** This bill enhances school choice. The NH GOP Platform states that "Only parents can be entrusted to control the education of their children and choose schools that best suit their children's needs. Laws should be implemented to encourage school choice and competition and allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children." This bill is consistent with that principle.

Recommendation: Support OTP W /Amendment

ELECTION LAW

HB 345, requiring photo identification to obtain a ballot. MAJ: OTP W/Amendment. MIN.: ITL. **Vote 10-4**

This bill is a step forward of making sure that the integrity of our Constitutional Republic stays strong. It further protects the integrity of our voting rights, and safeguards our voting system. The NH GOP platform states "Promoting voter registration to all eligible citizens and increased participation in the electoral process." This bill ensures that all who vote are eligible citizens.

Recommendation: Support OTPW/Amendment

HB 347, requiring proof of identity for voter registration. MAJ.: OTP W/Amendment. MIN: ITL. **Vote 10-5**

The NH GOP platform states "Promoting voter registration to all eligible citizens and increased participation in the electoral process." This bill ensures that all who vote are eligible citizens.

Recommendation: Support OTP W/Amendment.

HB 391, relative to voter registration forms for students. OTP W/Amendment **Vote 12-6**

The NH GOP platform states "Promoting voter registration to all eligible citizens and increased participation in the electoral process." This bill ensures that all who vote are eligible citizens.

Recommendation: Support OTP

HB 621-FN, **No Recommendation**

HB 639-FN, relative to voter registration. MAJ: OTP W/Amendment. MIN: ITL. **Vote 9-5.** This bill allows for greater ability to enforce our election laws, and further protects voting integrity. The NH GOP platform states "Promoting voter registration to all eligible citizens and increased participation in the electoral process." This bill ensures that all who vote are eligible citizens.

Recommendation: Support OTP W/Amendment

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 722, **No Recommendation**

JUDICIARY

HB 541, relative to repealing the incorporation of the New Hampshire Bar Association. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP **Vote 13-7** The NH GOP platform states that "The Republican Party believes that the New Hampshire Advantage is, in part, secured and promoted by a legal system that upholds the safety, values and freedoms of law-abiding citizens." The Minority blurb says that "the administrative controls that have been woven into the fabric of our state government by this private fraternal organization strike at the very heart of a free, open and representative government." We agree

Recommendation: Oppose ITL then Support OTP

HB 626-FN-LOCAL, relative to the right-to-know law. OTP W/Amendment **Vote 20-0** This bill goes against Article 8 and diminishes public participation in government affairs. This bill as amended is ambiguous and appears to favor public officials over the public's right to know and access, by saying we know you communicate without allowing public participation and its OK as long as you tell them at the next meeting. Public officials are servants and not masters. Bringing forward a bill with ambiguous wording always leaves it to the court to impose their own statutory interpretation **Recommendation Oppose OTP W/Amendment then Support Subsequent Motion or ITL**

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 657-FN-LOCAL, relative to promoting community revitalization. OTP W/Amendment **Vote 15-0.**

This bill creates an unfair disadvantage to businesses that have already invested in the community and opens the door to cronyism.

Recommendation Oppose OTP Then Support ITL

SB 104-FN, **No Recommendation**

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 162, establishing boating speed limits for Lake Winnepesaukee. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. **Vote 11-10.**

This is clearly a personal responsibility issue. This bill with the majority amendment creates legislation that is completely unnecessary. Here are the facts:

- Boating registrations are up, yet boating accidents have decreased 63% since the year 2000.
- The safe boater education begun in 2000, which will have every boat operator required to be certified by 2008, is directly responsible for the decline in overall boating accidents. This decline is expected to continue.
- Existing laws such as, NH RSA 270-D:2 Safe Passage Law requiring a distance of 150 feet from any object while traveling faster than 5MPH, already address all of the existing safety issues on Lake Winnepesaukee and all NH waterways.
- **"Reasonable and Prudent"** speeds according to conditions is the tool that best suits the varied situations on all waterways of NH as stated by NH Marine Patrol Commissioner Barrett and is upheld in NH Courts. It is also the standard set by the US Coast Guard and is the effective rule of law used in 35 states.
- From 2000 to 2004 (five years of records) according to the NH Marine Patrol Official Records for Lake Winnepesaukee, there was only one (1) boating incident over 45 mph and that involved a single boat which made a quick turn and capsized.
- The very people who are given the task of keeping our lakes and waterways safe, the Marine Patrol, are against a speed limit bill.

Recommendation Support the Minority Amendment If that fails Support ITL

SB 140, **No Recommendation**

STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HR 13, **No Recommendation**

TRANSPORTATION

HB 588, No Recommendation

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 553-FN-A, relative to a state tax on large lottery winnings. MAJ.: ITL. MIN.: OTP. **Vote 11-7.**

The GOP Platform strongly supports opposition to tax increases and this is clearly an attempt to raise taxes.

Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 669-FN, setting the laboratory fee schedule for certain environmental samples. ITL. Vote 19-0. This bill would have given government more money than it needed. We support fiscal restraint. **Recommendation: Support ITL**

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COMMERCE

HB 1454-FN, relative to delivery sales of cigarettes. ITL **Vote 15-1.** This bill would force a tax on internet sales of cigarettes. The GOP platform promote limited taxes. **Recommendation Support ITL**

EDUCATION

HB 1187, requiring a school district to disclose the percentage of its total education budget used for direct support of education. ITL **Vote 11-2.** **No Recommendation**

HB 1249-FN-A-L, relative to state reimbursement for school breakfasts and making an appropriation therefor. OTP **Vote 13-0.** **No Recommendation**

HB 1362 relative to permitting audio and video recording on school buses. OTP W/Amendment. **Vote 12-1.**

This bill is the resurrected HB219 that was tabled last year due to several privacy concerns. The privacy concerns have been primarily addressed by the amendment wording. Surprisingly the largest percentage of students kicked off buses for bad behavior are in the kindergarten to fourth grade. It is hoped that this bill as amended will provide a tool that will show the whole story and bring more personal accountability for actions and behavior of those students who ride on buses. **No Recommendation vote your conscience**

ELECTION LAW

HB 1125, relative to the filing period for candidates in the presidential primary. MAJ.: OTP W/Amendment. MIN.: ITL. **Vote 15-2.** The GOP Platform states "We advocate the preservation of New Hampshire's First-in-the-Nation Presidential Primary status." **Recommendation:Support OTPW/Amendment**

HB 1222-FN, relative to unlawful voting. MAJ.: OTP. MIN.: ITL. **Vote 11-6.** This bill is another good bill to show the seriousness of taking a vote away by voting illegally. It is a personal responsibility issue. If you do the crime, you face the time. **Recommendation: Support OTP**

HB 1286-FN, authorizing the secretary of state to initiate recounts. MAJ.: ITL. MIN.: OTP. **Vote 11-5.**

The election recount policy is probably one of the best systems the state has. If a candidate feels wronged, it is their prerogative to call for a recount, and most elections have their share of recounts. This bill is unnecessary. **Recommendation: Support ITL**

FINANCE

HB 1370, transferring certain surplus moneys to the revenue stabilization reserve account. MAJ.: OTP. **Vote 13-9.** This bill appears to be a fiscally responsibility issue here. By placing the surplus in a fund with specific available uses, it would make it more difficult for free-spending bureaucrats to spend any surplus on special interest. **Recommendation: Support OTP**

HB 1678-FN-A, relative to state reimbursement of public safety expenditures made by the town of Plymouth on behalf of Plymouth state university. ITL **Vote 19-1.** The GOP platform states "Supporting local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services." This is a local control issue. **Recommendation: Support ITL**

HB 1716-FN, relative to state reimbursement for public safety expenditures made by towns on behalf of public higher education residence halls. ITL **Vote 19-1.** The GOP platform states we believe in "limited government, limited spending, limited taxes." To some there is never enough taxpayer dollars passed around. We agree with the blurb that plenty of tax dollars are spent for public safety and to isolate one expense without including all the benefits of higher education facilities is unfair and misleading. **Recommendation: Support ITL**

HB 1724-FN, relative to compensation and benefits for reserve and national guard members who are state employees. OTP W/ Amendment **Vote 16-7**. The GOP strongly supports our military. The platform states we “respect New Hampshire's honored veterans by ensuring that they receive the benefits that they have rightfully earned and deserve.”
Recommendation: Support OTP W/Amendment

JUDICIARY

HB 1647-FN, relative to lowering the legal drinking age for members of the armed forces. MAJ.: ITL. MIN.: OTP. **Vote 17-2**.
No Recommendation

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1743-FN, relative to reimbursing towns for the operating expenses of certain railroad passenger facilities. MAJ.: ITL. MIN.: OTP. **Vote 11-2**. The GOP platform states we “Encourage the private sector to provide a balanced, safe and environmentally sensitive transportation system to provide greater commuter and commercial access to and within our state.” This bill does just the opposite as it promotes the first step towards state takeover of public transportation.
Recommendation: Support ITL

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 1401, exempting certain all terrain vehicle (ATV) and trail bike trail criteria from the change in use designation of rail trails. ITL **Vote 12-7**.
No :Recommendation

Thomas Jefferson On The Freedom Of The Press

"The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them."

"The functionaries of every government have propensities to command at will the liberty and property of their constituents. There is no safe deposit for these but with the people themselves, nor can they be safe with them without information. Where the press is free, and every man able to read, all is safe."

"Our citizens may be deceived for awhile, and have been deceived; but as long as the presses can be protected, we may trust to them for light."

"No experiment can be more interesting than that we are now trying, and which we trust will end in establishing the fact, that man may be governed by reason and truth. Our first object should therefore be, to leave open to him all the avenues to truth. The most effectual hitherto found, is the freedom of the press. It is, therefore, the first shut up by those who fear the investigation of their actions."

ON HB 626 The RIGHT TO KNOW LAW

"The intent may be appropriate," Doherty said, "but it still sounds as if the municipal association wrote the law for ease of public officials, not public participation. [Rep]Thomas sites examples of how public officials already ignore the law by communicating without public oversight. These are public officials, by the way, who swore to uphold the laws of the state. Now, instead of enforcement to discourage that illegal behavior, he wants to make it legal ... as long as they post it and release what will essentially be private conversations about public business at a later date. But that's after the decisions are made and, maybe, the damage is done.

"Well, that's not my definition of meeting the spirit of the Right to Know Law," "The variety of the answers we get when we ask what these changes in the law mean," Doherty said, "is precisely why we think the law needs to be more directly defined. Otherwise, what the bill supporters are saying is that they will leave it to the courts to define the law. Rodney G. Doherty, executive editor of Foster's Daily Democrat and past president of the New Hampshire Press Association. Information from Foster's Online edition Monday January 30, 2006

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