



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.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008

CONSENT CALENDAR

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 1134-FN, including upkeep and improvements of the state park system within the land and community heritage investment program. **ITL. Vote 13-2.**

LCHIP is a program designed to preserve New Hampshire's treasures, be they historical, scenic or environmental. The NHGOP Platform "promote(s) preserving open space, scenic vistas and historic and cultural landscapes. Unquestionably, our state parks are among the MOST important of New Hampshire's treasures. Yet we would rather spend all of the \$12 million dollars given to LCHIP buying up development rights and fixing up old barns instead of putting a portion of those funds toward our State Parks. And this with the possibility of budget cuts that could additionally impact our Park System.

Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support OTP

SPECIAL ORDER RETAINED BILLS

JUDICIARY

HB 40, relative to living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 15-5.**
This bill removes the words "or copy" from the living will law passed last term. This new law allows someone to use a copy, fax or e-mail of a living will as authority to remove life support. Under the old law only the original document was the authoritative document that expressed the patient's wishes. This bill requires original documents be produced in order to stop life sustaining treatments and thus end the life of another. It also prevents the use of obsolete documents.

Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Then Support OTP

HB 57, relative to advance directives for durable powers of attorney and living wills. **MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 12-6.**
Has our society come to a point where we have to regulate the choices a dying person has as they live out the last moments of their lives. Requiring that the desires of a dying person comply with statutory choices is comical if it we not so tragic. It's the diner scene in the movie "Five Easy Pieces" played out in a hospital room.

Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Then Support OTP

SB 32-FN, increasing the maximum amount of debt or damages for small claims actions.

MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 14-6.

Small claims court was originally intended to handle small cases between lay litigants. As the size of the cases has grown, so has the propensity for involvement by professionals. As judgments increase, so will the mismatches between litigants increase.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Then Support ITL

TRANSPORTATION

HB 847, relative to general rules for vessels operating on water. **MAJORITY: OTP/A. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 7-6.**

Again, In the immortal words of Yogi Berra, "It's déjà vu all over again." This is a similar bill to the one last term establishing a speed limit on lakes in New Hampshire except this bill limits itself to Lake Winnepesaukee. It has all the same arguments and controversy. It also passed committee by one vote. The HRA took a position against the previous bill, citing the existence and sufficiency of the Safe Passage Laws and the Reasonable and Prudent safe operating standard. In the absence of countervailing persuasive evidence, this recommendation is unchanged.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Then Support ITL

REGULAR CALENDAR

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 1385, waiving medical records fees for persons applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). **ITL. Vote 14-4.**

The NHGOP Platform promotes the reduction of the cost of health care. This bill shifts the cost of providing health care records from those demanding them to the provider who will pass that cost onto everyone else.

Recommendation: Support ITL

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 1365-FN, relative to changes in the rates of highway tolls. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 14-1.**

The NH Constitution deems the Legislature to be the taxing authority. At some time in the past the Legislature gave the authority for setting the tolls to the Governor and Executive Council. The Legislature most closely represents the will of the people of New Hampshire. This abandonment of its constitutional mandate is poor public policy and against the public interest and, therefore, the Legislature needs to take back unto itself the authority to set toll rates. Note that there may be a move to divide the question: 1) To roll back the toll increases and 2) To have the Legislature take back the authority to increase the tolls.

Recommendation: Oppose Refer to Interim Study, then Support OTP

HB 1372-FN, relative to allowing driveway construction permit fees.
OTP/A. Vote 14-1.

A fee should only cover the cost of providing the service. While the fees in this instance do seem large, the bill dictates that they are to cover the cost of providing the oversight and permit issuing process. Without an overriding public purpose, the individual should bear the costs incurred when obtaining a benefit, rather than the taxpayers.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB 1428, naming a portion of the Franconia Notch Parkway after Corporal Bruce McKay. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 15-0.**

The committee blurb indicated that more time was needed to reach community consensus.

No Recommendation

HB 1555-FN, relative to an E-Z Pass discount for residents of Merrimack.
ITL. Vote 15-0.

The Merrimack tolls have been a controversial and contentious issue. It is also a complicated issue that has been going on from the last century on into this century. Rather than have it continue into the next century, it is time for a comprehensive study.

Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support Refer to Interim Study

