

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.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

CONSENT CALENDAR

ELECTION LAW

HB 387, relative to observation of voter registration. **MAJORITY: OTP. Vote 18-0.**

HRA Analysis: Our party platform states, “[v]oting in NH must be done by NH resident citizens only [and] [t]o prevent voter fraud, we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registration and voting.” Unless citizens have access to information that is used to determine voters’ eligibility voter fraud can never be discovered or challenged. By excluding poll watchers from hearing a voter provide the information on which registration or voting is allowed, they will not be able to determine that fraudulent voting is not occurring.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

REGULAR CALENDAR

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 119, establishing a commission to consider the feasibility of adopting the Atlantic Daylight Savings Plan.

MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 11-9.

HRA Recommendation: No platform or constitutional issue identified, therefore no recommendation.

HB 227-FN, relative to payment for tobacco products purchased by retailers. **ITL. Vote 17-2.**

HRA Analysis: Our party platform states that we should work “to provide an environment favorable to increasing the creation of private sector jobs including state-of-the-art technology [and]to prevent over-regulation of business....” This bill will over-regulate business.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 254, establishing a commission to study the effects of inflation on New Hampshire and possible remedies.

MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 17-3.

HRA Recommendation: No platform or constitutional issue identified, therefore no recommendation, although we question the necessity of a commission for studying an issue that seems to be endlessly the subject of private and federal studies.

ELECTION LAW

CACR 4, relating to elections. Providing that certain persons may vote in primaries prior to turning 18 years of age. **MAJORITY: OTP WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: The full privileges of citizens is extended to residents at various ages, most often age 18, but in some instances, such as holding various federal offices, at later ages. No compelling arguments exist for imposing expenses on towns and cities to maintain separate voter eligibility lists, defined by ages, therefore in conformity with our party platform this extra burden should not be imposed on our local governments.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA

HB 258, relative to undeclared voters at primary elections. **ITL. Vote 18-1.**

HRA Analysis: Part III of our party platform supports New Hampshire having the first in the nation primary. This distinction would be lost if presidential primaries are no longer restricted to members of the party selecting its presidential nominee. In addition,

under this bill, other New Hampshire primaries would no longer be votes by party registrants, but instead would allow persons not in any way affiliated with the party to choose its nominees for elected office

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 276-FN, relative to challenges of voters. **OTP WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: Once more it should be noted that our party platform states, “[v]oting in NH must be done by NH resident citizens only [and] [t]o prevent voter fraud, we support the requirement to produce positive identification upon both registration and voting.” Unless citizens have access to information that is used to determine voters’ eligibility voter fraud can never be discovered or challenged. This particular bill will substantially burden poll challengers with such unnecessary obstacles as notarized affidavits, completion of a lengthy form and the burden of sustaining the challenge that they will be denied any realistic opportunity to discover and prevent fraudulent voting.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 476-FN, relative to modifying the quorum requirement and filing fees for the board of tax and land appeals. **OTP WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 14-5.**

HRA Analysis: The modified quorum requirements will make it easier for the board to function with 3 members, rather than 4, after defunding one position. The platform, Section VI, desires the government to be lean and efficient. The filing fee increases would be increased from \$65 to \$100. Section VII of our party platform clearly places our party in opposition to higher taxes and fees.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA

FINANCE

HB 369, establishing a spending cap on state budget requests. **ITL. Vote 21-4.**

HRA Analysis: Section VII of our party platform clearly places our party in opposition to higher taxes and fees, and states that we should “[w]ork to limit the growth of state spending....”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB 440-FN, repealing the state's authority to bond school building aid costs. **ITL. Vote 14-10.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would have required school building aid to go back into the operational budget and not allow the governor to “fix” his deficit problem by bonding this aid. It mortgages our future and sets us on a path of ensuring that at some future time no school construction aid will be available as we could be paying too much in interest on past loans. In essence, if the state bonds this program, then these dollars are double bonded. The school district must bond because the state does not pay first dollar. While the school district is reimbursed, they are paying interest on the total cost of the bonded project. With the state also bonding this aid, they too are paying interest. It does not control taxes and spending as called for in our party platform.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 113, extending the moratorium on nursing home beds. **OTP WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 19-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill continues to restrict any new or expanded “nursing home, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or rehabilitation facility” beyond what is currently authorized. Once again, note our party platform states that we should work “to provide an environment favorable to increasing the creation of private sector jobs [and]to prevent over-regulation of business....” This bill will over-regulate business and prevent creation of private sector jobs.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA

HB 208-FN, directing the university of New Hampshire to study the health needs of certain counties. **ITL. Vote 16-3.**

HRA Analysis: In this economic environment, it is extremely important that we avoid new costs, including those resulting from commissions of marginally benefit. “Republicans realize that low taxes are the result of low spending.”

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 288, requiring nutritionally balanced meals in congregate housing. **ITL. Vote 13-4.**

HRA Analysis: The language of the bill does not appear to reflect the majority blurb. The present language requires “*Two Nutritionally balanced meals, 7 days per week*” will be provided. The proposed language would be “*Nutritionally balanced meals, 7 days per week*” eliminating the word “Two” but continues to specifies meals. It could be interpreted as allowing more than two meals.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 324, establishing a commission to study recycling of unused controlled drugs in long-term care facilities.

ITL. Vote 15-2.

HRA Recommendation: No platform or constitutional issue identified, therefore no recommendation.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 60, relative to large groundwater withdrawals. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 15-4.**

HRA Analysis: There is still an on-going commission as to what can/should be done with ground water and the felt thought they should be able to continue before any decisions were made.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 142, relative to extending municipal leases. **OTP WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 14-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill would give the governing body (such as the town meeting) the right to authorize a board of selectman to lease town property for up to five years. This provides greater local control.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 284-FN, increasing the contract amount that triggers the bond requirement on public projects. **OTP. Vote 19-0.**

HRA Recommendation: No platform or constitutional issue identified, therefore no recommendation.

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 51-FN-A, reestablishing the initial monthly gross charge exemption to the communications services tax.

MAJORITY: ITL. MINORITY: OTP. Vote 10-8.

HRA Analysis: This will restore a limited exemption that benefit those least able to pay this tax. Section VII of our party platform clearly places our party in opposition to higher taxes and fees.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB 221-FN-A, requiring a discount to wholesalers on cash purchases of tobacco tax stamps. **ITL. Vote 14-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill will offset costs incurred by wholesales in buying and affixing tobacco tax stamps. Similar to the cost offset allowed business that function as collectors of the meals tax; this cost should be reimbursed or credited. Section VII of our party platform clearly places our party in opposition to higher taxes and fees.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom, and then lost it, have never known it again.

— *Ronald Reagan*