

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 NH and Federal Constitutions.



“TRUST BUT VERIFY”

REGULAR CALENDAR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND STATUTORY RECODIFICATION

HB 125-FN, relative to lawful commerce in firearms, including manufacture and sale, in New Hampshire.

MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 8-4.

HRA Analysis: This bill exempts firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition manufactured in New Hampshire from federal law and regulation. The commerce clause grants to the central government the right to regulate trade between states. As the central government has for many years over-extended its power by regulating intra-state trade, it is up to the states to check that usurpation. The people of NH chose to be their own masters (State Sovereignty, NH Constitution Part 1 Art 7).

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 110, requiring professional safety and security services personnel to report certain criminal offenses.

MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 14-2.

HRA Analysis: This bill requires college security personnel who have observed a felony, or had a felony revealed to them, to report that felony to their closest law enforcement agency. The bill, as amended, has an exception to the notification requirement: if the victim is 18 or older, has been the victim of a sexual assault offense or abuse as defined in RSA 173-B:1, and if the victim objects to the release of any information to the local law enforcement agency. The minority feels that this bill creates new regulations where none are needed. The bill would tie the hands of colleges and universities to deal with discipline on campus in the way they deem best. Requiring a college to report victimless crimes, even where there is no complainant, could lead to needlessly harming the futures of young people by tagging them with criminal records. The HRA feels that there are positive qualities to both the majority and minority opinions.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 84, establishing a statutory commission on motor vehicle recycling issues. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: The motor vehicle recyclers are regulated enough and more regulations could put the small recyclers out of business. The Republican Platform states that we will work “to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses” and that we will keep “state government lean to minimize its burden on taxpayers and businesses.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTPA then support ITL

FINANCE

HB 60-FN-L, repealing the moratorium on school building aid projects. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 25-0.**

HRA Analysis: The current budget situation is highly unlikely to provide the opportunity to remove the moratorium on school building aid in the next biennium. The platform emphasizes local education funding: “citizens who control their own education budgets have the strongest incentives to spend their money wisely.”

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 113, prohibiting the university system of New Hampshire from using state appropriations to fund public television. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 19-6.**

HRA Analysis: This bill with amendment eliminates any state general funds from being provided to New Hampshire Public Television. State-run media are a violation of freedom of the press and are characteristic of oppressive regimes.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

HB 185-FN, relative to determining bargaining units for purposes of public employee collective bargaining.

MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-4.

HRA Analysis: This bill restores the size limit for local government bargaining units to a minimum of 10 employees. The lowering of the limit in 2008 imposed increased costs on some localities in violation of article 28-A of the NH Constitution which requires the local legislative body's approval for such changes.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB 474-FN, relative to freedom of choice on whether to join a labor union. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: This very important bill would prevent a worker from being forced to join a union as a condition of employment (exercising an allowable option under federal labor law), thus making New Hampshire a “Right to Work” state. This is a fundamental issue of freedom of association, a right guaranteed by the first amendment. Right to work is also explicitly endorsed by the New Hampshire GOP platform.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

SB 1-FN-L, eliminating the automatic continuation requirement for public employee collective bargaining agreements. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-4.**

HRA Analysis: Repeals RSA 273-A:12, VII which forces some aspects of public employee union contracts to continue even after those contracts expire. This can make it difficult for local governments to negotiate with employees, it violates 28-A by imposing an expense and it interferes with the fundamental right to make meaningful contractual agreements. It also violates the platform's call for local control of spending.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 249-L, relative to procedures for property revaluations. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 15-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill would eliminate the method currently used to estimate and update property values between full revaluations, requiring a much less efficient, but arguably more accurate method. Requiring towns to increase spending violates article 28-A of our constitution.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 267-FN, permitting the adoption of slot machine gaming in a city or town. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: The Republican platform states: “We reject being compelled to have a discussion on gambling that focuses on government revenue and does not fairly assess its possible merits and risks.”

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HB 202-FN, relative to road salt applicators. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 10-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill licenses road salt applicators. Licensing inhibits competition, thus raising costs. The platforms says we will “work to prevent over-regulation of business, particularly with respect to small businesses.”

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 230, exempting the repair of certain structures from compensatory mitigation requirements. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-4.**

HRA Analysis: The right to property is mentioned many times in our state constitution. This bill allows repairs to boat docks, platforms, etc in bodies of water that are entirely within one's property without mitigation fees. It is one small step toward allowing landowners true control over their property.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 440-FN, requiring that New Hampshire join the lawsuit challenging federal health care reform legislation, and repealing the authority for state implementation of federal health care reform. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 8-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill would require the attorney general of NH to join the lawsuit challenging the federal health care reform act. Section V. “Government of the People” of the Republican platform affirms NH’s sovereignty in a nation of states and opposes centralization of power by: “Opposing the enactment of federal programs that contradict the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the power not delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” And, “Supports efforts to stop Washington from mandating unfunded federal programs on our state and local governments, and hold the federal government to the same standard against unfunded mandates as we do our state government under the NH Constitution.”

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HCR 6, requiring the Congress of the United States of America to reaffirm its adherence to the Constitution of the United States regarding international agreements and treaties. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 8-2.**

HRA Analysis: HCR 6 is a straight-forward wakeup call to the Congress of the United States, reminding them that the constitution of the United States makes no provision for the creation of new treaties or agreements among nations without the concurrence of 2/3 of those present and voting of the United States Senate (Art. 2, Sec. 2). That the President and the Congress of the United States be required to reaffirm their allegiance to the Constitution of the United States by severing all commitments to agreements and treaties that have not been subjected to Constitutional authority and Congressional oversight. The HRA supports both the New Hampshire and the United States Constitutions.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

TRANSPORTATION

HB 414-FN-A, establishing an assessment on motor vehicle inspections to be deposited in the police standards and training council training fund. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 11-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill imposes a new tax on vehicle inspections. The Platform, Section VII, states “we believe in promoting lower taxes” and this change, from \$3.25 to \$8.25 (a 154% increase!) will tax every motor vehicle owner in the state.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB 626-FN, relative to a division of motor vehicles office location in Milford. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill mandates a motor vehicle office and district court in Milford, at a specific location ideal for neither use. This is an attempt to force the rest of us to pay so that the residents of Milford have the convenience of these state services close at hand.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 37-FN-A, reestablishing the initial monthly gross charge exemption to the communications services tax.

MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 14-5.

HRA Analysis: This bill reestablishes the exemption to the communications services tax for the first \$12 of the monthly gross charge for a residential customer's telephone exchange access and service. The Republican platform states: "We believe that controlling spending and minimizing taxes are the best way to protect the economic and civic well being of the New Hampshire residents."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

HB 166-FN-A-L, reducing the rate of the meals and rooms tax. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 16-5

HRA Analysis: The Republican platform supports cutting or eliminating taxes which inhibit enterprise. Our platform also echos Gov. Thomson: "Low taxes are the result of low spending." For a tax cut of this size it might be prudent to wait and see if excess revenues materialize or if a matching spending cut can be found.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP, no recommendation on motion to table

CONSENT CALENDAR

TRANSPORTATION

HB 83, relative to vessel registration. **OUGHT TO PASS. Vote 10-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds a registration requirement for qualifying boats that are moored, but not operating. While done for the convenience of the Dept of Safety, it is a fee increase on certain boats. We promised to hold the line on taxes and fees.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then support ITL