

## 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.



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### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 REGULAR CALENDAR PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

**HB 56-FN**, renaming a bridge to honor U. S. Navy Seal Daniel Healy. **OTPA. Vote 11-0.**  
**HRA Analysis:** Republicans always support our young men and women serving our country.

### SPECIAL ORDER COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**HB 119**, establishing a commission to consider the feasibility of adopting the Atlantic Daylight Savings. **ITL Vote 11-9.**  
**HRA Analysis:** No platform or constitutional issue identified, therefore no recommendation.

### ELECTION LAW

**CACR 4**, relating to elections. Providing that certain persons may vote in primaries prior to turning 18 years of age.  
**MAJORITY: OTPA 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 276-FN**, relative to challenges of voters. **OTA 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**

### 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**

## WAYS AND MEANS

**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 businesses 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: Oppose ITL**

## REGULAR CALENDAR CONTINUED EDUCATION

**CACR 2**, relating to funding of public education. Providing that the legislature shall define standards for education, determine the level of state funding thereof, establish standards of accountability, and allocate state funds in a manner that mitigates disparities in educational opportunity and fiscal capacity, provided that a reasonable share of state funds shall be distributed on a per pupil basis. **ITL Vote 11-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** Platform issue as it takes away Local control of education and transfers it to the state.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**CACR 3**, relating to public schools. Providing that: it shall be the duty of the legislature to encourage the interest of literature and the sciences and all seminaries and public schools. **ITL Vote 12-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** Platform issue as it promotes Local Control.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL and support motion of OTP**

**CACR 8**, relating to public education. Providing that the recognition of local control of education in the New Hampshire constitution is reestablished. **ITL Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** Platform issue as it promotes Local Control.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL and support motion of OTP**

**HB 140-FN**, making charter schools eligible for grants for leased space. **OTPA Vote 13-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** Platform encourages choice in education.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP**

**HB 521-FN**, relative to funding for students eligible for the free and reduced-price meal program. **ITL Vote 10-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** Currently towns receive extra school aid for students who do not qualify free and reduced lunches. This bill will reduce \$126.5 million in excess payments.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL and support motion of OTP**

**HB 689-FN-A-L**, directing aid to isolated small schools. **OTP Vote 18-2.**

**HRA Recommendation: None**

## ELECTION LAW

**HB 175**, establishing a committee to study political advertising on public property. **ITL Vote 18-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** The costs associated with committees should be incurred only when they are necessary to address issues that have not been thoroughly analyzed in the recent past. Political advertising on public property is not such an issue.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**HB 265**, relative to proving qualifications to vote. **OTP Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill opens an additional avenue for the fraudulent voters to travel. Our platform is against voter fraud.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL**

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**HB 223-FN-L**, establishing a moratorium on the implementation of the retirement system employer assessments for excess benefits. **OTPA Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will lower costs for municipal governments and allow for greater local control, both of which goals are supported by our party platform.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA**

## **FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES**

**HB 407-FN**, establishing a lobster and crab landing license, and increasing the fee for the nonresident commercial salt water license. **OTP Vote 14-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** No party platform issue was identified.

**HB 466-FN-A**, establishing a safari fee on owners of big game hunting preserves. **ITL Vote 13-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will establish a new fee in the form of a property tax and does not appear to relate that fee to government costs resulting from the businesses being taxed. Our party platform opposes this form of oppressive taxation and over-regulation of business.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

## **LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

**HB 103**, relative to paying discharged and laid off employees in full at the time of discharge. **OTP Vote 12-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will over-regulate and improperly interferes with the employment relationship. Our party platform opposes such over-regulation.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP; Support ITL**

## **LOCAL AND REGULATED REVENUES**

**HB 428-FN**, relative to discounts on wine purchased from the liquor commission. **ITL Vote 14-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will extend the cap on the amount of wine that retail outlets can purchase at the 20% discount before that discount becomes 15% to past June 30, 2009. The two-tiered discount is unfair to successful business. This discrimination violates our party platform's goal of supporting a favorable business climate.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

## **PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS**

**HB 494-FN-A**, appropriating funds for construction of public facilities at Hampton Beach. **ITL Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This, and the next three bills (HB 551, HB 603, AND HB 687) bills, call for additional spending, in some instances beyond the amounts specified in the ten-year transportation plan. "*Republicans realize that low taxes are the result of low spending.*" These bills would unnecessarily increase spending and therefore taxes.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 551-FN-A**, making an appropriation for the painting of the arch bridge across the Connecticut River in Chesterfield. **ITL Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis: See above.**

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 603-FN-A**, relative to the construction of an Old Man of the Mountain monument on the shore of Profile Lake and making an appropriation therefore **ITL Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis: See above.**

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 687-FN-A**, establishing a radiological emergency evacuation infrastructure program. **ITL Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis: See above.**

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 259-FN**, relative to motor vehicle inspections. **ITL. Vote 15-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** In accord with Section II of the NH Republican Party Platform, this bill promotes limited government by reducing regulations that NH currently has in common with only 12 other states.

**HRA recommendation: Oppose ITL, then support OTP.**

**HB 383**, relative to passenger restraints. **OTPA Vote 11-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** The NH Republican Party Platform section II states we will work to enhance the freedoms of the citizens of NH. In doing so, we must allow adults to choose for themselves in regards to seatbelts. A 14-year old can choose to get an abortion in NH without parental consent but a war veteran must be treated as a child by the government and mandated to wear their seatbelt or else? This bill comes with an "incentive" of \$3.7 million from the federal government that may never be seen in our state and we have a history of not accepting such freedom-robbing payments in exchange for treating our constituents as a parent treats a child.

**HRA recommendation: Oppose OTPA, then support ITL.**

**HB 640-FN**, relative to speed limits and keeping right except to pass **ITL Vote 13-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** The Republican Party Platform has a strong foundation of individual freedom and an assumption that statutes not outlaw normal behavior. Increasing the speed limit on limited access interstate highways to 70 mph reflects the speed most people travel and which the roads are design to handle.

**HRA recommendation: Oppose ITL, then support OTP**

## WAYS AND MEANS

**HB 412-FN-A**, relative to the research and development tax credit. **ITL. Vote 13-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** No platform issue was identified. No recommendation.

**HB 457-FN-A**, increasing the standard exemption under the interest and dividends tax. **ITL 12-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** As is its tradition, the HRA is supporting this exemption for it will benefit many of those on fixed incomes, particularly the elderly.

**HRA recommendation: Oppose ITL, then support OTP**

## COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**HB 602-FN-A**, relative to costs associated with cashing payroll checks. **OTPA Vote 18-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill over-regulates business. If employees do not want to do pay the charges of the bank on which their payroll checks are drawn, they should avoid that bank. If they cannot, they should require their employers to do business with another bank. If the legislature passes this bill into law, it will invite all banks to impose this hidden charge on employers. This problem does not lend itself to a state legislative solution.

**HRA recommendation: Oppose OTPA, then support ITL**

# Your Handy Guide for Thinking out of the Box

"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance."

- Cicero - 55 BC