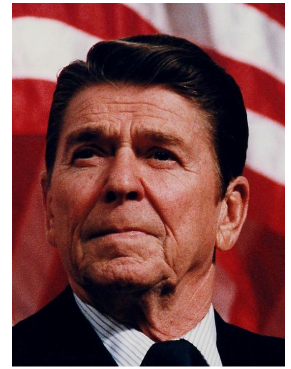


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet



"Trust but Verify"

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, March 14, 2019

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB160, relative to the adoption of budgets and special assessments by condominium associations. **ITL Vote: 20-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill would lower the required minimum number of condominium owners present at a budget meeting to reject the budget. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB597, relative to sales of beverages and wine hosted by other licensees. **OTP Vote: 18-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows a nano brewery to give samples or sell at retail unopened containers at a NH winery, at an additional annual license fee of \$120. It allows the reverse, for a winery to sell or give samples at a nano brewery location. While there is very little liberty in liquor/beer laws in this state, this is a tiny step toward more business freedom and consumer choice. The Platform says, "We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

HB446, relative to initiating amendments and corrections to birth records. **OTP/A Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill makes provision to change a New Hampshire birth certificate to allow for a change of sex to neither male or female. This bill would have the individual apply for such change through a town or city clerk which may expose highly private information. Our Platform directs; Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB692, relative to dental care for Medicaid recipients. **OTP/A Vote: 20-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds dental care to Medicaid plans. As stated in the fiscal note "unable to provide cost estimates without sufficient information about the program or benefit design, which the bill does not include." This is clearly an ill-considered proposal. platform: Allow free market driven health care plans and "ala carte" insurance plans free from government mandates.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB694, establishing a take-back program for illegal controlled drugs. **ITL Vote: 21-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill attempts to create a system to dispose of illegal drugs. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Judiciary

HB291, establishing a committee to study certain findings and other initiatives regarding end-of-life care. **Maj. OTP; Min. OTP/A Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill seeks to study a previous study on end of life issues, and other end of life issues, aka physician assisted suicide. The minority amendment limits the study to palliative and hospice care. Platform: Oppose euthanasia and physician assisted suicide.

HRA Recommendation: Support minority amendment and vote your conscience on OTP/A. Oppose OTP.

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB186, establishing a state minimum wage and providing for adjustments to the minimum wage. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill sets the NH minimum wage higher than the Federal Minimum and raises it until reaching \$12.00 per hour. It also raises the tipped minimum wage. This is an attempt to supplant decisions between employers and employees with government mandates. Most work in NH pays well above the Federal minimum, and this bill ignores the special circumstance that may surround why any particular position pays less than \$12/hr. A wage floor may eliminate those positions, hurting rather than helping the very people who most need an income. The platform asks us to trust free markets over government intervention.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB252, establishing a committee to study certain labor statutes. **OTP/A Vote: 12-6**

HRA Analysis: The Labor Statutes contain outdated references which were placed into law many decades ago but whose original intent has been superseded. While it is possible to address these issues with individual bills, the complexity of how Labor Law interacts with court cases and labor board rulings means changes should be undertaken carefully. This bill would establish a legislative committee to work with the Department of Labor and other stakeholders to identify changes that could be proposed in future legislation. The platform asks us to periodically review legislation. It also encourages working with businesses and having clearly written and relevant RSAs is an important part of that. The committee amendment simply narrows the focus to make the work of the committee more manageable.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

Municipal and County Government

HB373, allowing counties to establish drug and alcohol use prevention and treatment programs. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 15-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill is authorizing legislation only, with no mandate. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB388, requiring code compliance inspection for building permits. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill limits the administrative fee a municipality may charge for a building permit if it does not perform a code compliance inspection. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB469, relative to limiting amendments to warrant articles in towns that have adopted official ballot voting. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 17-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill provides that amendments to petitioned warrant articles in towns that have adopted official ballot voting shall not change the intent of the original warrant. platform: We believe that we the people are strongest when we stand together, that it is our responsibility to hold government accountable and that it is through the integrity of the ballot box that we do so.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

Science, Technology and Energy

HB132, relative to net neutrality. **ITL Vote: 16-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill attempts to mandate specific practices, unique to New Hampshire, for internet service providers, and requires review by the Attorney General and the Chief Information Officer. Platform: Minimize business regulations.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB156, establishing a commission to study the establishment of a state department of energy. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-7**

HRA Analysis: While this bill just forms a study commission, establishing a new department goes against our principle of limiting the size and growth of government.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A; Oppose any amendments

HB157, relative to the class rate for biomass. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill would save money on consumers' electric rates. Platform: "Work to reduce energy costs."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB166, relative to funding energy efficiency programs. **Maj. OTP; Min. ITL Vote: 10-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill gives the un-elected Public Utilities Commission the authority to raise taxes, bypassing the Legislature. Constitution, Article 12: "Nor are the inhabitants of this State controllable by any other laws than those to which they, or their representative body, have given their consent." Fees for services may be delegated, if necessary, but this is a tax, charged to everyone for the benefit of a few.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB183, establishing a committee to study the changes in law necessary to allow for microgrids in electrical supply. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: We should keep the government lean by not spending it on unnecessary Studies. The PUC can authorize a microgrid under existing law.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB404, relative to a local option for liquefied natural gas storage facility sitings. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP/A Vote: 17-2**

HRA Analysis: If we allow one town to undermine the Site Evaluation Committee they can decide for the state to not allow the storage facility that would benefit several communities. The gas would be utilized by homes and companies, attracting more businesses and jobs to NH, thus removing barriers to business formation.

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB477, relative to allowance sales under the New Hampshire regional greenhouse gas initiative program. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: RGGI is a tax. This bill would rebate all RGGI funds back to ratepayers. We should keep government lean and allow people to retain as much of their hard earned income as possible

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB496, establishing a committee to identify the requirements needed to commit New Hampshire to a goal of 50 percent renewable energy for electricity by 2040. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This might just be a study, but the goal is against the platform: Renewables are subsidized, costing NH taxpayers money and this state cannot efficiently run on "renewable energy." The government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible and to cut the cost of government as every possible turn.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

HB522, establishing a commission to study the environmental and health effects of evolving 5G technology. **OTP Vote: 11-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a study commission. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HJR1, supporting efforts to develop wind power off the New Hampshire coast. **OTP Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: Everything requested in this bill has already been done, according to the Governor's office. It would not be cost effective to send it to the other Chamber.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

HCR5, requesting the Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to reverse the ruling of the US Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. **Maj. OTP/A; Min. ITL Vote: 11-7**

HRA Analysis: We believe in free speech and agree that United States Supreme Court correctly decided in Citizens United. No such constitutional amendment should be proposed.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A

Transportation

HB198, repealing the prohibition on texting while driving. **OTP/A Vote: 15-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill clarifies the laws by repealing one of three prohibitions on the use of mobile electronic devices. The committee amendment increases the fines and penalties for violations of the 'Hands-Free' law. No platform or constitutional issues.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB230, prohibiting smoking in motor vehicles when a passenger is under 16 years of age. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 11-7**

HRA Analysis: While second-hand smoke is a health concern, children under the age of 16 do not carry state ID and thus the law is unenforceable. It also prohibits the free enjoyment of a legal substance, tobacco, by adults. Platform: "We believe in free people."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

HB395, relative to number plates for motor vehicles. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 13-7**

HRA Analysis: This bill would provide that a passenger vehicle shall only be required to display one number plate on the rear of the vehicle. It was argued that a single plate would be more environmentally sound and cost less to produce while police opposed the single plate as they scan front plates for ID; it was mentioned that the cash lane at toll booths only captures the front license plate for the EZ pass. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

HB472, relative to special number plates for certain veterans. **OTP/A Vote: 19-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, says that while the initial special plates are issued without charge, an additional set of plates can be issued to a qualified person upon payment of the state and municipal permit fees for the special number plates. No constitutional or platform issues.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation

HB537, relative to the release of motor vehicle records. **OTP Vote: 15-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill gives unlimited discretion to the commissioner to share licensee information. platform: Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB592, relative to OHRV operation and license. **OTP Vote: 15-4**

HRA Analysis: Present law allows any person at least 12 years old who has successfully completed an approved snowmobile or OHRV training program to operate on OHRV on public highways, where permitted, when accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 18 years old. This bill would only allow licensed drivers to operate an OHRV on public highways, thereby eliminating their usefulness as trail connectors and forbidding families from "driving" to the trails. As such, it interferes with the businesses that have grown up around the "ride the wilds" trail system and limits much of those trails to adults rather than families. Platform: encourage small businesses

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

HB672, relative to driving to the left of an unbroken painted line. **OTP Vote: 13-4**

HRA Analysis: This bill clarifies a conflict in NH law, where one states you can't cross the yellow line, and another requires you to give a wide berth to safety vehicles. This bill creates an exception for safely crossing the yellow line. No constitutional or platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

Ways and Means

CACR10, Providing that revenue from any state income tax shall be returned to the cities, towns, school districts, and counties to assist in property tax relief. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-1**

HRA Analysis: This constitutional amendment would distribute funds from any income tax to local government entities, ostensibly to lower property taxes. With no mention of how funds would be distributed, and no mention of the current interest & dividend (income) tax, this amendment would result in continual lawsuits and turmoil. We may hate property taxes, but they are controlled by the local voters who receive the services. Platform: "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL

CACR11, Providing that a broad-based sales tax shall be prohibited. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This constitutional amendment would ban a state sales tax. Platform: "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees, including an income, sales and capital gains tax."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

CACR12, Providing that an income tax on personal income shall be prohibited. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 12-8**

HRA Analysis: This constitutional amendment would ban a state earned income tax. Platform: "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees, including an income, sales and capital gains tax."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

HB458, repealing certain inactive dedicated funds. **OTP/A Vote: 17-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, repeals various funds with minimal activity. Platform: “Keep state government lean” and tracking and reporting on unused funds is fat.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A

HB676, repealing the collection of the state education property tax. **Maj. ITL; Min. OTP Vote: 16-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill repeals the “state” property tax, which actually supports local education. However, without cutting any spending anywhere, this bill creates a \$368 million hole in school budgets. Possibly some districts will raise taxes, in violation of the platform warning against downshifting; possibly the state will raise other taxes to replace this one. Platform: “Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services.”

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience

Removed from Consent Calendar

Children and Family Law

HB314, relative to the submission of evidence prior to hearings in divorce cases. **ITL Vote: 18-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires the disclosure of evidence to the opposing party at least 5 days prior to the date of the hearing. The Constitution: Every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favorable to himself; to meet the witnesses against him face to face, and to be fully heard in his defense, by himself, and counsel.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

Municipal and County Government

HB415, relative to the official ballot referendum form of town meetings. **OTP Vote: 18-1**

HRA Analysis: This bill moves the approval of SB2 status from the election ballot to town meeting, allowing a tiny minority to block or push SB2 on a town. The Constitution states: Nor are the inhabitants of this State controllable by any other laws than those to which they, or their representative body, have given their consent.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP