

# HOUSE REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION SHEET, PART 2



**"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.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 15 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 17 REGULAR CALENDAR

### MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**HB 109**, relative to residential fire sprinklers. **OTP/A Vote 13-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill prevents the planning board from requiring the installation of fire suppression sprinkler systems in one or two-family residences as a condition of approval for a local permit. The platform, part VI. Enterprise, Jobs, Economy, states a commitment to, "keeping state government lean to minimize its burden on taxpayers and businesses." This bill as amended would prevent unnecessary regulation and sprinkler installation costs from \$5,000 to \$20,000 - damaging to both the housing market and family finances.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 316**, relative to due process requirements in property appraisals for property tax purposes. **OTP/A Vote 14-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill as amended protects the constitutional right to due process in the property assessment process by allowing property owners to appeal what they believe is an unfair property assessment, regardless of whether they have allowed an assessment official to enter their property. This bill supports the platform tenet of "a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable to its citizens without interfering in their personal, daily lives."

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 340-FN**, promoting parental choice in education and providing for an abatement from the education taxes for parents of children not enrolled in the public school system. **ITL Vote 14-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is pro-education. By enabling municipalities to offer tax abatements to parents of school aged children not enrolled in the public schools, this bill offers parents the opportunity to be able to afford a private or a home schooling education for their children. Parents would be able to choose schools that best serve the needs of their children. The platform, part XI. Education states that, "Laws should be implemented to encourage school choice and competition and allow all parents to choose the public, private, charter or home education program for their children," and states that we, "support increased use of market forces to provide and improve education."

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

**HB 341**, relative to local spending caps. **OTP/A Vote 13-2**

**HRA Analysis:** The platform, part VII, "Maintaining a locally controlled tax system consistent with our commitment to keep New Hampshire a desirable place for people to live, work, raise their families and locate their businesses" and "Supporting local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services". This bill enables local control, and is needed to allow all charter towns and charter cities to have this level of local control over their spending and taxes.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 361**, enabling counties to adopt semi-annual payment of county taxes by towns and cities. **ITL Vote 13-2**

**HRA Analysis:** The platform, part VII. "Maintaining a locally controlled tax system consistent with our commitment to keep New Hampshire a desirable place for people to live, work, raise their families and locate their businesses" and "Supporting local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services". This bill would allow county delegations to choose to use a semi-annual payment method for county taxes, which would enable better local control at the county level, but would also remove that aspect of local control from the towns and cities so affected. Since local control is on both sides of the issue here, no recommendation.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation**

**HB 368-FN-L**, relative to workforce housing and the definition of community. **ITL Vote 14-1**

**HRA Analysis:** The Republican Platform in Section V states that "New Hampshire's government and its elected officials must, above all else, preserve and protect individual liberty." Further, "The preservation of the rights of our people should always constrain the actions of government...." This bill will do that, by eliminating a state mandate on municipalities that forces them to provide for opportunities for "workforce housing." Towns could still opt in to the requirements, however, with an affirmative vote of local voters or the Planning Board. This bill would help to preserve property rights and limit onerous zoning regulations, as well as restore local control to the planning and zoning process. The Fiscal Note states that it may lead

to reduced costs in some towns, with no impact on state expenditures.

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

**HB 391**, relative to an optional tax credit for service-connected disability. **ITL Vote 12-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows towns or cities to adopt a prorated property tax credit for veterans who have a service-connected disability which is less than a total and permanent disability. It could lead to thousands of people not currently receiving tax credits applying for new benefits, potentially increasing the property tax burden on non-veterans. While the GOP Platform supports veterans receiving benefits they deserve, we also support the NH constitution, which in Art. 10, Part I describes government as "... being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man family, or class of men....."

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HB 396**, exempting the land and buildings of Masonic temples or building associations from property taxation. **ITL Vote 13-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds Masonic temples or building associations to institutions whose property is exempt from taxation. Adding this exemption to those of religious and educational organizations would result in tax-shifting to home owners and businesses. Art. 10, Part I of the NH constitution describes government as being instituted "for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man family, or class of men....."

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 403-L**, requiring a public hearing on certain school district warrant articles. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 13-3**

**HRA Analysis:** Requires a informational public hearing for petitioned school warrant articles. No platform issue identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HB 409**, relative to planning board members. **OTP/A Vote 15-1**

**HRA Analysis:** Neither the platform nor the Constitution address this issue.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HB 457-FN**, reducing the interest rate on late and delinquent property tax payments, subsequent payments, and other unpaid taxes. **ITL Vote 15-1**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would change the penalization of late tax bill payments from an interest rate of 12% to an interest rate of 6%. Then, within 90 days of the due date and 30 days prior to a lien being placed upon the property, the resultant penalty interest rate of 18% would become 9% under this new bill. The platform, part VII Taxes and Spending, states that we, "Support initiatives that lower property taxes for those in need," and "Support local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services, " and "Believe in promoting lower taxes to attract business development and expand economic opportunities." While this bill would lower the interest rate penalty on property taxes, it is not clear that this bill would effectively lower taxes for those in need and it could possibly shift a greater tax burden to those who have not incurred a penalty for late property tax payments.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HB 483-FN-L**, relative to mosquito control. **OTP/A Vote 14-1**

**HRA Analysis:** The platform, part XII. Environment, states our commitment to "Preserve sensitive ecosystems and effectively manage wildlife." This bill allows for local control of mosquitoes, providing a way to more effectively manage them.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY**

**HB 374**, banning corn-based ethanol as an additive to gasoline sold in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 10-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would ban the sale of corn based ethanol in New Hampshire. The NHGOP Platform espouses "Working to prevent over-regulation of business..." This bill, while aimed at sending a message to Washington concerning a foolish and counterproductive policy, would produce an unenforceable regulation that, if actually enforced, would damage local businesses.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 387**, requiring providers of prepaid cellular telephone service to provide subscriber information to the enhanced 911 system. **OTP/A Vote 8-6**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires providers of prepaid cellular telephone service to provide subscriber information to the enhanced 911 system. The NHGOP Platform "Rejects the imposition on the citizens of New Hampshire of law contrary to our founding principles..." The US Supreme Court has found an implicit right to privacy in the Constitution. Thus government should have a compelling reason to require the information be given without the consent of the subscriber. This bill requires compliance only in "exigent circumstances." The government states that it does not keep the information supplied, but that is not part of the bill. This is a close call where reasonable people can differ. Thus we recommend vote your conscience.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HB 389-FN-L**, relative to broadband infrastructure. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 9-8**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows towns to use their bonding authority to build or expand internet structure (not, however, to provide internet service). The majority felt that this puts towns in conflict with existing private suppliers. The minority felt that towns providing the infrastructure would stimulate competition. The NHGOP Platform endorses "Improving

telecommunications and technology access to rural areas of our state.” This would seem to support the minority position. However, the Platform also endorses “Working to provide an environment favorable to increasing the creation of private sector jobs including state-of-the-art technology.” This would seem to endorse the majority position. Thus a conflict exists.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HB 496-FN**, relative to radiological monitoring in nuclear emergency planning zones. **MAJORITY: ITL Vote 13-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would require real-time radiological monitoring in nuclear emergency planning zones, to wit: Seabrook Station. The subject matter does not appear to be a constitutional or platform issue.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM**

**CACR 12**, 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. **OTP/A Vote 12-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This CACR requires consideration of competing principles of the NH constitution and the Republican platform. The platform, Part XI. Education, states that, "Local control of education policy and education funding creates the best-managed school systems" and that "The NH Constitution should be amended to empower the people and their elected representatives to set educational funding and policy goals." In the light of the Claremont decisions, in which the NH Supreme Court granted itself the authority to dictate education policy and required the state to define and fund said education, this CACR takes authority away from the Supreme Court and grants it to voters and their elected representatives – one very positive step forward from two negative steps back (Claremont I and II). By granting the Legislature “full discretion” to define and fund education, it severely limits Judicial authority, and lets the General Court empower local school boards.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 337-FN-L**, relative to the calculation and distribution of adequate education grants. **OTP/A Vote 12-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended by the committee, will do the very opposite of what our Republican party platform states regarding education. It will discourage competition, decrease use of market forces to improve education, add to the inefficiency of education, enshrine in statute the Department of Education rules that mandate required staff regardless of their ability to improve the education of our children, reduce incentives to innovate and be creative to lower education costs, and decrease our national (and international) competitiveness. The bill will do this by shifting the focus of state education aid policy from centering on what our students need to succeed, to centering on the salaries of the school staff. The salaries of teachers, principles, guidance counselors, library/media specialists, technology coordinators, reading specialists, administrative assistants, and even custodians would now become factors in determining education aid to our local communities. Because of HB337's odd mechanism, if the average costs for certain school staff increase, then the new formula requires 2.8 times that cost increase in more state adequacy aid. And if the average costs for those staff decrease, then the new formula requires less state adequacy aid. Why should our school districts bother to innovate? If the districts increase efficiency, they'll get less state money! Therefore, this bill would provide a disincentive to what is needed to improve our public education system.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A and Support ITL**

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSIONS REFORM**

**HB 231-FN**, relative to payment of state retiree medical benefits for spouses and dependents. **MAJORITY: OTP/A Vote 8-4**

**HRA Analysis:** The Platform, Part VII, states “Public employee benefits should be similar to those of the private sector”. Taxpayer funded health insurance after retirement, for all state retirees under age 65, regardless of their length of service, is a benefit far beyond private sector norms. Trimming the richness of this plan is one small step towards benefit equivalence. Note that HB231 does not increase premiums, as does the governor's budget, nor affect anyone over age 65.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 461-FN**, relative to repealing the authority for retirement system members to purchase service credit for certain out-of-state service. **OTP/A Vote 6-5**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill as written would prohibit buying pension service credit for out of state service. Buying credit is always a problem for the pension system because the people who do it are obviously planning to retire from the system, the calculations typically fail to take into account promotions and extra pay, and the system is responsible for paying the increased pension for the entire retirement. If nothing else, no matter what calculations are made, buying credit increases the obligations of the system and the risk to the taxpayers, if investments don't go as planned or the employee lives a long time after retirement. The amendment continues this practice, merely adjusting the amount paid by the employee. The Constitution, Part 1, Art. 36, states “no pension shall be granted, but in consideration of actual services; and such pensions ought to be granted with great caution, by the legislature, and never for more than one year at a time.” Caution would suggest not increasing the obligations of the pension system.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose the committee amendment, Oppose OTP/A, Support OTP**

**HB 462-FN**, relative to the determination of employer assessments for excess benefits paid by employers in the retirement system. **OTP Vote 9-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires public employers that pay significant end of career payouts (severance pay, massive

accumulated sick leave, excessive overtime, bonuses and promotions as the employees retire, etc) to provide enough funding to cover the increased pensions resulting from these payouts. Since only 30% or so of the public employers pay these bonuses, the bill will decrease pension payments from the taxpayers in other municipalities (approximately 10% of the pension rate is due to these end of career payments). The imposition of these payments has been delayed three years already, and the graduated payment schedule minimizes impact on taxpayers in the free spending cities and towns. The Platform, Part VII, supports local control of taxes and spending.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP**

**HB 464-FN**, requiring the transfer of certain retirement system group II special account funds to the state annuity accumulation fund. **MAJORITY: OTP Vote 9-4**

**HRA Analysis:** The Constitution, Part 1, Art. 36-a, states “All of the assets and proceeds, and income there from, .... shall be held, invested or disbursed as in trust for the exclusive purpose of providing for such benefits and shall not be encumbered for, or diverted to, any other purposes.” The \$89 million in the special fund was originally diverted from the pension fund when there were “excess” earnings due to booming stock markets, and used to pay for other benefits than the basic pension. The Legislature in that period was naively confident that earnings could continue to climb and extra benefits could be paid without endangering the health of the system; we’ve learned better since then.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP**

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING**

**HB 224-FN**, establishing an independent legislative redistricting commission. **ITL Vote 11-4**

**HRA Analysis:** The HRA, like any political organization, supports expansion of its ranks. This is more likely to be accomplished with the standard redistricting committee, than the “independent” (five Democrat, two Republican) committee created by this bill.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

## **STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HCR 9**, urging Congress to support H.R. 6416 or similar legislation relative to airport security. **OTP/A Vote 10-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill simply encourages Congress and our delegation to pass H.R. 6416 to enact legislation protecting the rights and dignity of travelers in the nation’s airports. The statement of intent mentions “... concerns presented by advanced imaging technology employed by Transportation Security Agency employees. ...” The Republican Party Platform states in Section V that we oppose “the enactment of federal programs that contradict the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution” and that the party “Rejects the imposition on the citizens of New Hampshire of law contrary to our founding principles and documents and our system of government.” Random searches in airports certainly violate Art. 2 [Natural Rights] and Art. 19 [Searches and Seizures Regulated] of the NH Constitution.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HCR 11**, to urge the Congress of the United States to withdraw the membership of the United States from the United Nations so that the United States may retain its sovereignty and control over its own funds and military forces. **OTP Vote 9-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This house concurrent resolution urges Congress to withdraw the membership of the United States from the United Nations so that the United States may retain its sovereignty and control over its own funds and military forces. While the party Platform refers to state sovereignty, it doesn’t speak to extra-national alliances that are of a purely federal nature. Unlike HCR9, the underlying intent of this bill doesn’t directly affect NH citizens in NH.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HCR 12**, urging Congress to withdraw the United States from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in accordance with Article 2205 of the agreement. **OTP Vote 9-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This house concurrent resolution urges the United States Congress to withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). While the party platform speaks to border security and immigration laws, it does not refer to trade agreements. This resolution is not influenced by any provision of the Republican Platform or the NH Constitution.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HCR 22**, opposing the right of any firm, corporation, or individual to trademark the name Mount Washington. **OTPA Vote 10-3**

**HRA Analysis:** This concurrent resolution declares that although a trademarked name may include a New Hampshire geographic location such as Mount Washington, no single business, firm, or association shall have sole authority or exclusive use of the name of such geographic location. The original bill specified that the NH general court request our congressional delegation to actively oppose any effort to federally trademark the name Mount Washington. The amendment directs copies of the resolution to be sent to the US Patent and Trademark Office. While one could argue that the party platform’s commitment to “Creating a supportive business climate and increasing tourism” might be reflected in this resolution, it appears to be outside the scope of the platform or the state constitution.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HCR 25**, urging Congress to amend the Internal Revenue Code to permit churches and other houses of worship to engage in political campaigns. **ITL Vote 10-2**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill relates to issues (IRS code) outside the purview of the HRA and the NH legislature.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

## TRANSPORTATION

**HB 218**, repealing the New Hampshire rail transit authority. **OTP Vote 11-5**

**HRA Analysis:** The rail authority is planning to spend up to 5 million Federal dollars to determine whether or not New Hampshire is ready for high speed rail. Has such a study ever returned a negative result? Once that money is spent, the authority will apply for hundreds of millions more in Federal funds for construction of the system. After the Federal dollars are gone, the continuing operation of the trains will be dependent on the NH taxpayer. When this idea was pitched to the Legislature four years ago, supporters estimated that the state would eventually be on the hook for 70% of annual operating costs. If rail transit is so wonderful, why won't riders pay for it the way drivers pay for roads? The Republican Party platform states that we will keep "state government lean to minimize its burdens on taxpayers and businesses."

*Note that an HRA co-chair is the prime sponsor of this bill.*

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose the disruptive floor amendment and Support OTP**

**HB 335-FN-A**, establishing multi-use number plates. **OTP Vote 14-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill will establish a multi-use number plate while continuing to be committed to maintaining the purpose and sanctity of our license plates. This bill requires no financial support from our state budget. Organizations who qualify will fund the production, administration and delivery of these number plates. This bill does not violate the NH Constitution or Republican Party platform.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HB 540-FN**, relative to motor vehicle inspections. **ITL Vote 11-1**

**HRA Analysis:** There are a vast amount of studies that indicate that safety inspections are ineffective. Thirty out of fifty states, including high snow areas such as Colorado, Michigan and Montana, do not require that safety inspections be done at all. This bill is a step in the right direction of promoting personal responsibility and limited government.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, then Support OTP**

**HB 546**, relative to the use of hand-held cellular phones while driving. **ITL Vote 10-4**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill proposes that no person shall operate a motor vehicle on a public way while using any type of hand-held cellular telephone to engage in a call while such vehicle is in motion. This bill opposes the Republican Party platform stand on "Protecting the fundamental rights of people and enhancing there freedom."

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

## WAYS AND MEANS

**CACR 6**, relating to taxation. Providing that a 2/3 vote is required to pass legislation imposing new or increased taxes or license fees provided that the legislature may increase the rate of taxes and fees with a majority vote in any fiscal year that insufficient revenues are provided to pay the principal and interest on a debt payable in that year, to which the state has pledged its faith and credit. **OTP/A Vote 13-6**

**HRA Analysis:** The Republican Party has repeatedly stated that it favors a lean, smaller government and reduced taxation. If passed by voters this change makes it more difficult for the inexcusable tax increases of the past four years to again take place, regardless of which party is in power. It also assures that the minority party will have a strong voice in an open and above board process of passing needed taxes in the light of day, not the dark of night. This CACR allows the people to decide whether they wish us to use super majorities for tax increases.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 156-FN-A**, reducing the rates of the tobacco tax. **OTP Vote 14-5**

**HRA Analysis:** The Party platform is clear that increased taxes hurt business and hurt the taxpayer. Granted, smoking is bad for one's health, but tax policy should never be about a learned elite telling people how to behave by forcing taxes upon them. Past tax increases have reduced collateral sales, including lottery and beer & wine sales in the border communities. This tax reduces overall legitimate tax revenue to the State.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP**

**HB 213-FN-A**, reducing the rate of the business profits tax. **OTP/A Vote 14-5**

**HRA Analysis:** The platform provides strong support for business and private enterprise. However, of our neighboring, theoretically 'high-tax' New England States, NH has the highest cumulative business tax burden. We compete with tax dollars lavished on companies to form in our neighboring states. Business flocked here in the 80s and 90s precisely because we had a low business tax and a business favorable climate (even with a lot of snow!). Return NH to a business friendly environment.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 229-FN-A**, repealing the tax on gambling winnings. **OTP/A Vote 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** Finally a tax elimination bill!

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

**HB 277-FN**, relative to the deposit of fees collected under the Unified Carrier Registration System into the highway fund. **OTP Vote 19-0**

**HRA Analysis:** Housekeeping only.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**HB 557-FN-A**, relative to the standards and burden of proof with respect to the business profits tax deduction for reasonable compensation attributable to owners of partnerships, limited liability companies, and sole proprietorships. **OTP/A Vote 16-4**  
**HRA Analysis:** This bill is yet another business friendly bill for NH. The back bone of business operations in NH are small businesses. But they are singled out for audits and hit with fees because it is generally cheaper to pay a fine than fight the state. This bill places the onus of proving a grossly excessive exception on the state, but without an excessive burden of proof. Those who try to swindle the state out of rightful taxes will be discovered. Those who play by the rules will thrive. This bill will stimulate business growth and investment in New Hampshire.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**

## SELECTED CONSENT CALENDAR BILLS

*Unfortunately time did not permit a full analysis of the removed consent calendar bills. What follows are some thoughts that occurred to us as we browsed the list. These recommendations have not been as thoroughly researched and vetted as those above.*

### HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

**HB 485-FN**, relative to requiring photo identification for food stamp program participants. **ITL Vote 16-1**

**HRA Analysis:** The blurb says “it is not possible to place a picture of the recipient on the EBT card” yet we do have credit cards with our picture on them which is a no-cost service of our issuer. More telling is “since the food stamp program is 100% federally funded, any savings would not accrue to the State of New Hampshire.” We must disabuse ourselves of the notion that our federal government is akin to Santa Claus or the Tooth Fairy. We should be even more careful stewards of our neighbor's money than we are of our own.

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

**HB 489-FN**, relative to health information exchange. **OTP/A Vote 18-0**

**HRA Analysis:** If you read the blurb this sounds like anything but small government. Our health sector is wildly over-regulated.

### JUDICIARY

**HB 569-FN**, establishing domestic union as a valid contract and extending certain rights to parties to a domestic union. **ITL**  
This is an easy call for us. The platform states that we “recognize marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman” and “oppose recognition by the State of New Hampshire of all other forms of civil unions”. Bills to restore marriage are forthcoming.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

### LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

**HB 26-FN**, clarifying the definition of gross misconduct for purposes of unemployment compensation. **OTP/A Vote 15-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill attempts to undo last year's HB 1168, which changed the long time standard for gross misconduct in employment from “dishonesty” to “stealing \$500 or more” (we paraphrase). HB 1168 snuck through on the consent calendar, and now the retraction seems to be getting buried on the consent calendar as well.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose the amendment and Support OTP**

### PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

**HB 621-FN-L**, relative to the authority of the department of transportation. **OTP/A Vote 15-0**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill eases the burden on DOT in their interactions with DES.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A**