

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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23
REGULAR CALENDAR
Part 1

FINANCE

HB 280, authorizing multi-use decal plates. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 14-12. **No Recommendation.**

HB 626, designating energy infrastructure corridors. OTP/A. Vote 23-3. **Support OTP/A.**

HB 636, relative to forfeiture of property. OTP/A. Vote 18-7. **Support OTP/A.**

HB 1527, authorizing additional part-time positions in administrative services. OTP. Vote 25-0. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1531, permitting the legislature to open the state house on weekends. OTP. Vote 22-4. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1551, the John and Molly Stark scholarship program. INTERIM STUDY. Vote 16-10. **Support Interim Study.**

HB 1553, transferring the telecommunications accounting unit. OTP. Vote 25-0. **Support OTP.**

SB 238, relative to the workers' compensation appeals board. OTP. Vote 24-1. **No Recommendation.**

JUDICIARY

HB 1243, relative to storm water or sewage penalties. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-5.

HRA Analysis: This bill allows municipal water or sewer districts to seek injunctive relief for violations, as well as assess fines; recover out of pocket costs of investigating or fixing violations; and adopt a schedule of fines, up to the current maximum allowable fine. However, considering each day a separate offense means that one could have to pay a major penalty in circuit court, with no chance of a jury trial, as required by the Constitution, part 1, Article 20.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support motion to table.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 602, relative to the use of drones. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 8-7.

HRA Analysis: HB 602 adds a new RSA chapter which limits the use of drones by both government and private individuals, particularly when not on their own property. Drones are an increasing threat to citizens' expectations of privacy. Our platform states that we will "protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position." On the other hand, the preemption clause which reads, "If federal law preempts any provision of this chapter, that provision shall not apply," is a clear violation of federalism: "The people of this state have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves." Part 1, Article 7.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

HB 1681, hypodermic syringes with residual amounts of drugs. NO RECOMMENDATION
Vote 7-7.

HRA Analysis: This bill decriminalizes possession of used syringes, and allows businesses and other organizations to sell or give away clean needles. In other states, needle exchanges have been shown to reduce transmission of blood-borne diseases, such as hepatitis and AIDS, as well as improving safety for first responders. The current penalty for possession of a residual/ non-usable amount is up to 7 years in prison. The Constitution, Art. 18, "All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

REGULAR CALENDAR – PART II, SPECIAL ORDERED BILLS FROM MARCH 10

EDUCATION

HB 1120, teacher qualifications at charter schools. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 13-4.
SUPPORT ITL.

HB 1229, prohibiting including assessment results without consent. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL.
Vote 10-8. **SUPPORT OTP.**

HB 1231, school policy on objectionable course material. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 13-6.
SUPPORT OTP/A.

HB 1274, a committee on community college. MAJ: ITL. MIN: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 12-9.
No Recommendation.

HB 1300, on the content of patriotic exercises in schools. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-8. **SUPPORT OTP/A.**

HB 1338, student exemption from the statewide assessment. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-9. **SUPPORT OTP.**

HB 1365, requiring public schools to observe New Hampshire constitution day. ITL. Vote 17-2. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1371, a committee to study education savings accounts. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-8. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1393, requiring Education to report statewide assessment results. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 11-10.

HRA Analysis: Data on statewide assessment results, sorted by the category of differentiated aid received, is an essential metric in evaluating the effectiveness of these programs. The Platform states: "Promote local control of educational policy and funding in order to create the best-managed school systems".

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP with minority amendment 2016-0687h

HB 1484, electing members of the state board of education. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 13-6.

HRA Analysis: The bill would allow the voters in each county to directly elect a member of the State Board of Ed. These new board members would be in addition to the current 7, bringing the total to 17. The Platform: "Promote local control of educational policy and funding in order to create the best-managed school systems".

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP.

HB 1637, attendance in towns with no public schools. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-9. **No Recommendation.**

REGULAR CALENDAR – PART III, BILLS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR MARCH 9

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 1135, relative to physical force in defense of a person. ITL. Vote 17-0. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1153, prohibiting residency restrictions on sex offenders. OTP. Vote 15-1. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1261, relative to multiple indictments in criminal prosecutions. ITL. Vote 16-1. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1318, relative to sex offender registration. OTP/A Vote 13-2. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1610, legalizing the possession and cultivation of marijuana for personal use. ITL. Vote 9-4. **No Recommendation.**

EDUCATION

HB 1414, repealing the home education advisory council. ITL. Vote 19-1. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1497, limits on disclosure of information used on college entrance exams. OTP. Vote 19-0. **No Recommendation.**

ELECTION LAW

HB 1143, relative to showing a ballot. ITL. Vote 17-0.

HRA Analysis: This bill repeals the changes passed in 2012, prohibiting posting a picture of a ballot on social media. The First Amendment of the US Constitution states "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech."

HRA Analysis: Oppose ITL.

HB 1144, relative to notice for sessions of correction of the check list. OTP/A. Vote 19-0. **No Recommendation.**

Support floor amendment 0403, which retains full notice requirements when the entire checklist is cleared.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

HB 1661, on conversion therapy to change a person's sexual orientation. OTP/A. Vote 17-0. **No Recommendation.**

Support a motion to table.

HB 1701, relative to specialty care in drop-in or walk-in clinics. ITL. Vote 16-1. **No Recommendation.**

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

HB 1126, limiting the authority of delegates to Article V conventions. ITL. Vote 7-1. **No Recommendation.**

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1263, authorizing municipalities to use form-based codes for zoning. ITL. Vote 14-0. **No Recommendation.**

HB 1359, relative to the tax credit for service-connected disability. ITL. Vote 16-0. **No Recommendation.**

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

HB 1134, relative to open access to broadband infrastructure. ITL. Vote 20-0. **Support ITL.**

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 10, requesting investigation of benzodiazepines and suicides by veterans. ITL. Vote 13-0. **No Recommendation.**