

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.



“TRUST BUT VERIFY”

Bill Number	Committee	Committee Vote	HRA Recommends
SB 152	Education	OTP 17-2	No Recommendation
SB 320	Education	OTPA 11-9	Support OTPA
SB 330	ED&A	OTP 16-2	Oppose OTP
SB 339	Criminal Justice	OTP 10-3	Oppose OTP
SB 389	Criminal Justice	ITL 8-3	No recommendation
SB 392	ED&A	OTP 11-2	No recommendation
SB 446	ED&A	OTP 9-6	Support OTP
SB 460	Education	OTPA 20-0	Support OTPA w/floor amd
SB 464	Ways & Means	OTP 17-0	No recommendation
SB 498	Criminal Justice	OTP 13-0	No recommendation
SB 545	ED&A	OTPA 9-8	No recommendation

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

REGULAR CALENDAR

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 464-FN-A, (New Title) establishing a statewide drug offender grant program and making appropriations therefor, and relative to transferring certain revenues to the revenue stabilization reserve account. **OTP 17-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill was sent to Ways and Means by mistake, believing it had revenue impact. The bill should have been sent to Finance for both a policy review and expense impact. Ways refused to make a policy statement, stated such in the blurb, and voted to send it to a second committee (Finance) to properly hear the bill.

HRA Recommendation: Recommendation deferred to the report of the second committee.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 339-FN, relative to required DNA analysis for certain offenses. **MAJ:OTP MIN:ITL Vote 10-3**

HRA Analysis: Currently, DNA records are made for all felons. This bill would add the same DNA testing and record keeping for those not guilty by reason of insanity, and those civilly committed to the department of corrections. While DNA records are useful to solving crimes, especially given high recidivism rates, this bill goes too far in collecting DNA from some who are simply sick, and have never been charged or convicted of a crime. The platform says we will “Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies and employees who abuse their power and position.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP and Support ITL

SB 389-FN, relative to the penalty for possession of multiple firearms. **ITL Vote 8-3**

HRA Analysis: This bill deals with the law that makes possession of a firearm by a 3-time felon illegal. Current law makes each firearm a separate crime, while SB 389 would make possession of any number of firearms a single crime. No platform issues identified. The constitution does say that the punishment should fit the crime, but it is unclear how that should apply here.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

EDUCATION

SB 152, (New Title) relative to criminal history records checks for school employees and designated school volunteers.

MAJ:OTP MIN:OTPA Vote 17-2

HRA Analysis: The effect of this bill is to move responsibility for dealing with criminal background checks to superintendents from whoever now does hiring at public schools. It also allows consideration of misdemeanors as well as

felonies. Minority amendment 1105h adds a little flexibility in that the superintendent can be replaced with a “designee.” The minority argues that dealing with criminal background checks throughout the school district is too big a burden to put on the superintendent alone. While the amendment seems to be the most practical version, this bill is sufficiently down in the weeds, there is no platform or constitutional issue.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB 320, relative to non-academic surveys administered by a public school to its students. **MAJ:OTPA MIN:ITL Vote 11-9**

HRA Analysis: This bill makes non-academic surveys opt-in, requiring permission of parent or guardian, instead of the current opt-out, except for a particular survey from the Center for Disease Control, which will remain opt-out. The platform states “Do not interfere with parents’ right to control the education of their children” and “Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children.”

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 330-FN, (New Title) relative to licensure of medical imaging professionals and radiation therapists. **OTP Vote 16-2**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a new board to license and regulate MRI technologists, radiation therapists, sonographers, etc. The doctors and hospitals who hire these technicians are perfectly capable of judging their abilities - and have done so for decades - without any help from the government. Furthermore, this bill would disallow on-the-job training, which is the best way for young people to obtain the skills for a good job. Our platform says we should “Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more effectively by the private sector”, “Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork” and “Keep state government lean to allow lower business taxes.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP and Support ITL or Table

SB 392, relative to the special training licenses issued by the board of podiatry. **OTP Vote 11-2**

HRA Analysis: The bill has both good and bad elements. The positive is this allows for someone to get training on the job, not just in the classroom. The bad is this still supports the current licensing system by requiring a new license for this training.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

SB 446, relative to requirements of the state building code. **OTP Vote 9-6**

HRA Analysis: The bill sets a minimum standard of "reasonable" for requests made by the building inspector during the process of applying for a building permit. This bill will help get building permits issued quicker without changing the inspection requirements at the end. The buildings will still need to meet code and will be inspected as they are today. This change just minimizes the hangups at the beginning of the process. The platform states that we will “Work with municipalities to streamline planning and zoning barriers to business.”

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP

SB 545, proclaiming August as Cure all Cancer month. **MAJ:OTPA MIN:ITL Vote 9-8**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, would create Cancer Prevention Month (Feb), Cure All Cancer Month (Aug) and Cancer Prevention Day (Feb 4). No platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

BILLS OFF CONSENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 498-FN, relative to penalties for possession of certain controlled drugs. **OTP Vote 13-0**

HRA Analysis: This bill reduces the penalty for marijuana from a class A misdemeanor (jail time) to an unspecified misdemeanor (prosecutor determines if class A or class B, which would only be a fine). It also increases the fine from \$350 to \$500. We're told leadership will move to recommit the bill to reduce the jail time without increasing the fine. The constitution says penalties should fit the crime, but that is a judgment call.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation

EDUCATION

SB 460, authorizing the state board of education to adopt rules relative to child sexual abuse and healthy relationships.

OTPA Vote 20-0

HRA Analysis: The original bill expands the authority of the state board of education to ensure teaching of “healthy relationships” and prevention of child sexual abuse. The committee's amendment has the opposite effect. It constrains instruction on abuse to that defined in law. Our platform state that “We believe in local educational control, beginning with parents, teachers and principals.”

HRA Recommendation: Support OTPA with the Ladd floor amendment