

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.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11
REGULAR CALENDAR**

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

SB 506, clarifying who may adopt. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 7-4.**

HRA Analysis: The committee amendment, which replaces the entire bill, updates the definitions of who can adopt. Families of all sorts, including unmarried couples, are added. The Platform: “We believe that *traditional* families are the foundation of strong communities and that family life best nurtures love of country, faith in God, morality and concern for others.” The original bill would allow any two unrelated adults to adopt a child.

HRA Recommendation: Support the committee amendment, oppose OTP or OTP/A.

SB 537, relative to record management of abuse and neglect reports. **MAJ: OTP. MIN:ITL. Vote 11-3.**

HRA Analysis: This bill extends the length of time unfounded reports of child abuse or neglect are retained, and resets when another complaint is made on the same family. The Platform: “Establish strict laws against sexual predators” but also “Ensure due process rights of those accused of child abuse or neglect.” These reports do not meet the usual standards of “beyond reasonable doubt.” It also tosses double jeopardy out the window.

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SB 411, relative to the merger of lots that are mortgaged. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 18-2.**

HRA Analysis: This forbids merging adjacent lots without permission of all mortgage holders. By requiring the (rarely available) permission of the mortgage holders, this bill essentially forbids a landowner from consolidating parcels to make a larger, more useful parcel or to reduce taxes. On the other hand, a mortgage holder has a legal interest and contractual rights in the lot in the form it was mortgaged, and a merger without its consent could impair these. The Constitution at Part 1, Article 2 says “All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights - among which are... acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property.” The unilateral act of one interest owner should not be permitted to impair the interests of others in the same land.

HRA Recommendation: You decide.

SB 532, prior authorization for substance abuse treatment. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 13-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill creates a new mandate on how quickly prior authorization for in-patient substance abuse treatment (only) must be approved. No matter how much we want this to happen, it's a mandate. The platform: “Increase the use of market forces to improve health care and lower costs” and the mandate eliminates market forces in this area. The minority amendment creates a much more significant mandate in that it forces insurers to pay for, essentially, one night of rehab that is not medically appropriate whenever requested.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose minority amendment, oppose OTP/A.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 336, relative to the qualifications for obtaining a license to carry a concealed pistol or revolver. **ITL. Vote 11-7.**

HRA Analysis: The bill removes the vague and subjective language of "suitable person to be licensed" to the clearly

defined "unless the applicant is prohibited from possessing a firearm by state or federal statute." Part 1, Art 2-a of the NH Constitution clearly states "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state." The Platform states: "Protect the rights of law-abiding individuals to own and carry firearms..."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL

SB 339, relative to required DNA analysis for certain offenses. **OTP/A. Vote 17-2.**

HRA Analysis: The bill expands the existing authority to take DNA samples from those charged with a felony offense, but were acquitted by reason of insanity. The committee amendment adds those judged not competent to stand trial. While the current law is controversial, this bill does little to change it. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SB 498, relative to penalties for possession of certain controlled drugs. **OTP/A. Vote 12-7.**

HRA Analysis: The bill reduces marijuana possession to an unspecified misdemeanor and eliminates mandatory fines. The committee amendment reinstates a fine and other penalties, but permits decriminalization of small amounts unless there is a third conviction within 3 years. Part 1, Art 18 of the NH Constitution states: "All penalties ought to be proportional to the nature of the offense."

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.

SB 540, relative to the possession, use, or sale of kratom by any person under 18 years of age. **OTP. Vote 9-8.**

HRA Analysis: There is an endless list of chemical compounds that *might* be abused. The Department of Safety testified that there is no indication that this particular compound has seen an increase of use or trafficking in NH. Therefore, this bill adds needless regulations that will have to be complied with, and creates additional prohibitions that must be enforced. The Platform: "always limit spending and growth of government"

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

EDUCATION

SB 483, a committee to study hiring a chartered school program officer. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 14-6.**

HRA Analysis: It's a study committee. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

ELECTION LAW

SB 4, eligibility to vote and relative to availability of voter information. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes a 30 day residency requirement to vote in NH, and tightens the domicile definition. The committee amendment clarifies the legislative intent of the 1974 Constitutional Convention regarding the word "domicile". The Platform states: "Ensure voting is done by NH resident citizens only."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

SB 423, relating to the right of 17-year olds to register to vote. **OTP. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: Current law requires a person to be 18 to vote, and registration can be on the same day that voting occurs. By allowing an individual to register prematurely, an additional burden is placed on election officials to verify the current age of those on the checklist. The Platform: "Oppose 'downshifting' of costs and regulatory enforcement from state to local government" and "...prevent voter fraud..."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 315, regulation of barbers, cosmetologists, estheticians, and manicurists. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 8-7.**

HRA Analysis: This bill updates and coordinates the requirements for these professionals. The committee amendment (1697h) eliminates the requirement to license "shampoo apprentices," trainees who only wash hair; the minority amendment (1866h) exempts individuals who cut or style hair for friends and family; a floor amendment (1864h) decreases the penalty from a Class A misdemeanor to a violation. The Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork;" the Constitution, that the punishment must fit the crime.

HRA Recommendation: Support committee amendment, minority amendment, and Hoell floor amendment (including a rules suspension), No Recommendation on OTP/A.

SB 396, compatibility of electrical devices with the state building code. **ITL. Vote 10-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires all electrical equipment (new or used) sold in the state comply with the latest electrical code, with the intention of having no devices likely to trip arc-fault circuit interrupters. The Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork."

HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.

SB 421, relative to liability of governmental units. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 9-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill updates references and limits in the specification of liability coverage. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SB 452, requiring certain state agencies to conduct an audit of laws governing coastal regions. **OTP. Vote 9-6.**

HRA Analysis: This bill specifies that Fish & Game, Transportation, Resources & Economic Development, Administrative Services, and Environmental Services audit their laws and rules to make sure they support coastal flood risks. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified, but since both Transportation and DES report that they've already done this, SB452 doesn't seem necessary.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

FINANCE

General Note on Finance: At the moment, state revenues are running ahead of plan by about \$80M. It is also expected that the HHS department will lapse more money for the biennium than required by the budget. As a result many of the bills you will see below spend money, typically \$1M-\$5M, some from new spending and some from lapses. For almost all of these bills we could argue that this spending should simply be put off until the next budget, and then be prioritized against all other competing uses. This follows the platform's statement that we will "Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending." On the other hand you could argue that the Finance Committee did do that prioritization. Unless there is a specific platform or constitutional prohibition on a particular spending bill they will be listed below as no recommendation with an asterisk (*).

CACR 27, the state shall not spend more than revenue. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 15-11.**

HRA Analysis: As amended, this CACR provides that the state shall not borrow to fund operating expenses nor spend more on operating expenses than any initial surplus plus it receives in revenues. These limits may be overridden by a two-thirds vote of both bodies. Similar provisions now exist in law, but as such they are not binding on the legislature. The committee's amendment simplifies the convoluted original language. Our platform strongly rejects overspending: "We believe that low taxes are the result of low spending; that government has a moral obligation to the people to be as cost effective as possible, to always limit spending and growth of government, and to cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

SB 368, capital appropriation for department of environmental services monitoring equipment. **OTP. Vote 26-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill appropriates \$260,000 of unused capital funds for the purchase and installation of new and repair of existing monitoring equipment for the Piscataqua, Great Bay and Hampton estuaries.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation*

SB 406-FN, relative to classification of certain state employee positions. **OTP/A. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: The original bill adds four unclassified (high-level, non-union) positions and gives raises to six others for a total cost of about \$500,000 a year. Two other items are in the committee amendment. First, full-body scanners for the department of corrections to use on employees, contractors and other prison visitors to interdict contraband. There is also a 50% grant program for county jails to get similar scanners. Total cost about \$2M. Last, technical corrections to the authority of the liquor commission to transfer money among their accounts.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation*

SB 464, (New Title) establishing a statewide drug offender grant program. **OTP/A. Vote 26-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill as amended establishes grants for drug courts or alternative drug offender programs in the counties. It allocates enough money to pay for a year's worth of drug court in half the counties (all those who are assumed to be ready), or roughly \$2.2M. The bill also directs that up to \$40M of the surplus at the end of *this* fiscal year be added to the rainy day fund. The committee amendment changes the drug court program from a 50% grant to counties, to a program that is fully paid by the state, plus it ups the original \$5M going into the rainy day fund to \$40M.

HRA Recommendation: No recommendation*

SB 466, detention of youthful offenders at the youth development center. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 25-1.**

HRA Analysis: The state budget directed HHS to make significant spending cuts to the Sununu Youth Center's annual expenses. They have failed to perform. This bill as amended gives them an out for the current fiscal year by taking the money from other lapses in the department, but does not change the requirements next year. It also sets up a commission to look into ways for the savings to be accomplished, including reductions in headcount. It also directs the department to perform analysis of override orders where evaluations don't recommend incarceration but juveniles are sent to Sununu anyways. The minority's amendment adds a sentence that makes the commission consider the interests of employees who may be laid off, which is a matter for collective bargaining. The platform says we will "... cut spending and cost of government at every possible turn."

HRA Recommendation: Support the majority amendment, oppose the minority amendment, support OTP/A.

SB 481, (New Title) special health care service license and establishing a fund. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 23-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill is the hospitals' response to the upcoming sunset of the Certificate of Need Board. It puts into place three very anti-competitive measures designed to protect existing hospitals. First, it requires new providers of three complex services provided by large hospitals to undergo a strict licensing regime, with regulations and open-ended fees. This doesn't apply to existing hospitals who perform these services. Second, it requires that any new hospital have a 24/7 emergency room and take all comers regardless of ability to pay. Not all existing hospitals have such emergency rooms. Third, it draws a 15-mile radius around the 13 smallest hospitals and requires HHS to make sure that almost any new licensed medical services within those zones, not just new hospitals, be certified not to have a material effect on services those hospitals provide. These anti-competitive zones mostly do not extend around the largest hospitals, except that they do encompass Dartmouth-Hitchcock, which is within a few miles of small hospital Alice Peck Day. Our constitution in part 2 article 83 condemns monopolies and price fixing in the strongest possible terms and charges us to vigilantly prevent it. This bill is the opposite; a deliberate attempt to reduce competition for some of the largest employers in the state.

HRA Recommendation: Support any floor amendments which would limit the bill's scope, oppose OTP/A.

SB 485, state grant program to assist law enforcement with the opioid crisis. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 25-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds another \$1.5M of annual law enforcement spending from lapses on the drug problem, split between the Department of Safety and grants to local and county agencies. It also deals with retiree health care, which was underfunded in the budget, by treating Medicare-eligible and non-Medicare-eligible retirees differently, and by allocating \$300,000 for a consultant to better plan for future expenses.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.*

SB 495, relative to state retiree health plan costs and funding. **OTP/A. Vote 26-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill contains the retiree health provisions of SB 485 (these are similar to the House-passed version of HB 1591) plus a bit more. There is also \$360,000 allocated over the biennium to fill gaps in the retiree medical plan plus a small clarification that allows food to be consumed in cigar bars.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.*

SB 515, relative to child neglect and other changes to the child protection act. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 24-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill states that evidence of custodial parent's opioid abuse "shall create a rebuttable presumption that the child's health has suffered or is very likely to suffer serious impairment." This is one of the elements that define child neglect, which can lead the court to order the child removed from their home. This stands the principle of innocent until proven guilty on its head. The NH constitution states under Part 1, Art. 15: "Every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favorable to himself." If we truly recognize that drug abuse is an illness, we wouldn't attach penalties like this to it, that don't apply to other illnesses; even if we consider it a crime, due process should

apply. Neglect should be proven by actual evidence, not presumption.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A and support ITL

SB 522, technology upgrades for the controlled drug prescription health and safety program. **OTP/A. Vote 25-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allocates \$130,000 for technology updates to the controlled drug prescription health and safety program, so it can track prescriptions daily instead of weekly. The Platform: "Improve access to the information necessary to make informed health care decisions." The committee amendment attaches the House-passed version of HB 636, asset forfeiture reform. This bill has suffered cuts and amendments in the Senate, as well as a threatened veto by the Governor, so this is a way to attach it to something that has some momentum.

HRA Recommendation: Support the committee amendment, support OTP/A or OTP.

SB 527, making an appropriation to the police standards and training council, repealing the police standards and training council training fund, making an appropriation for the purchase of state police cruisers. **OTP/A. Vote 26-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allocates \$2.1M, some in new funds and some from lapses, for three purposes. First, extra money to Police Standards and Training to make up for overoptimistic estimates of ticket revenue. Second, funds to fix their building and parking area. Third, to buy cruisers for the state police to replace those which have exceeded their useful life. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.*

SB 533, the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. **OTP/A. Vote 23-1.**

HRA Analysis: This bill spends an additional \$3M for drug treatment and \$2M for housing for those receiving treatment, from lapses.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.*

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES

SB 376, relative to wildlife corridors. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill specifies that Fish & Game, along with Transportation and Environmental Services, identify and plan to improve or create wildlife corridors. This is to be done with existing resources. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

SB 325, relative to vaccines administered by pharmacists. **INTERIM STUDY. Vote 13-4.**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds one more vaccine to those administered by pharmacists. The MMR vaccine is unique in that group in that it requires two doses to be effective in adults, so the pharmacists and/or the patients, and/or their doctors, would need to keep track. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SB 523, relative to the controlled drug prescription health and safety program. **OTP/A. Vote 18-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill adds naturopaths to those eligible to prescribe opioids, and creates a study commission. The committee amendment deletes the requirement that any person using prescription opioids for more than 90 days sign an agreement to fill the prescription at only one pharmacy, allow random drug tests, and other clauses that interfere with the doctor's professional activities. The Platform: "We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise."

HRA Recommendation: Support the committee amendment, No Recommendation on the bill.

SB 534, a system of care for children's behavioral health. **OTP. Vote 18-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill orders HHS and the Department of Education to work together to develop and implement an integrated plan for all children receiving services for mental health, from CHINS to special education to juvenile delinquents. Besides the invasion of privacy issues, this would create a giant bureaucracy combining the "best" parts of HHS and the school systems. The Platform: "always limit spending and growth of government."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

JUDICIARY

SB 331, fulfilling the requirement for a notarized signature electronically. **MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 14-6.**

HRA Analysis: This bill simply allows a notarized signature be made electronically. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified, but it's not clear that this bill is necessary.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SB 387, relative to the disposition of ward accounts. **OTP/A. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill allows a guardian to petition the court to wind down a deceased ward's accounts and possessions. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SB 426, establishing an end-of-life choices study commission. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 9-7.**

HRA Analysis: The Platform: "Oppose euthanasia and physician assisted suicide" and this study committee is likely to recommend one or both. Why study when we wouldn't support any result?

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

SB 416, relative to flexible working arrangements in employment. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 13-5.**

HRA Analysis: This bill prohibits retaliation against an employee for requesting a flexible schedule. Absent a documented problem, this creates a mandate for employers to prove that they haven't "retaliated" (undefined) and a cause of action for disgruntled employees. Compliance costs could be significant. The Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork."

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP.

SB 429, changing statutory references from the "Workforce Investment Act" to the "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act." **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

HRA Analysis: In addition to changing these references, SB429 authorizes the commissioner to share data with two different federal databases, provided he is satisfied that confidentiality will be maintained. The floor amendment 1894h tightens the privacy protections and ensures that only in these specific instances will data be shared. However, this data is available from the private sector. The Platform: "Privatize programs and functions that can be handled more efficiently by the private sector." and "Protect the privacy of individuals from government agencies."

HRA Recommendation: support floor amendment 1894h, oppose OTP or OTP/A.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

SB 66, (New Title) relative to the naming of areas of the state house complex. **OTP/A. Vote 9-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill requires any dedication of areas in the LOB or state house to be approved by the facilities committee and the historical committee. The committee amendment, which replaces the entire bill, simply names the LOB lobby for former Speaker George Roberts. While no Platform or Constitutional issues have been identified, it seems inappropriate to honor a living person in this way.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SB 59, relative to the removal of county officers and temporary filling of the office. **OTP/A. Vote 16-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill sets a more appropriate method of removing an elected county officer for bad behavior, preserving due process rights, and also of replacing him. The committee amendment adds language on pole taxes which gets the DRA out of pole valuation issues. Due process in all cases is required by the Constitution, Part 1, Article 15.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

SB 482, a committee to study the effect of short-term rentals on municipalities. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-4.**

HRA Analysis: It's a study committee. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

SB 364, committee to study using “complete streets” in the 10-year transportation plan. **OTP/A. Vote 11-5.**

HRA Analysis: It's a study committee. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SB 324, requiring approval of federal land acquisitions by governor and council. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-7.**

HRA Analysis: SB324 provides a clear process to limit federal land acquisitions for forestry, land conservation, or recreation to the 2% of the state (less the White Mountain National Forest) established in 1935. The Platform states both “Recognize that private property owners are the most effective land stewards and have a fundamental right to freely use and enjoy their property.” In addition, this bill restricts the ability of the federal government to acquire land for purposes not authorized by the constitution.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

SB 381, combustion of wood construction and demolition debris. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: INTERIM STUDY. Vote 11-8.**

HRA Analysis: SB381 allows limited combustion of clean wood in trash to energy plants. The Platform: “Work to reduce energy costs” and this does.

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 547, a commission to study if current force protection measures provide adequate safeguards for New Hampshire national guard personnel, facilities, and equipment. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 9-7.**

HRA Analysis: It's a study commission. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SCR 3, applying for a limited convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing amendments to the federal Constitution concerning election reform that do not abrogate or amend the first amendment to the federal Constitution. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-6.**

HRA Analysis: SCR3 calls for a federal constitutional convention on the “Citizens United” decision. Since it explicitly rejects changes to the right of free speech, it would be constitutional, but likely to be futile.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SCR 4, applying for an Article V convention to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that imposes fiscal restraints on the federal government. **MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-5.**

HRA Analysis: SCR4 calls for a federal constitutional convention to require a balanced federal budget. No Platform issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 471, relative to parking for persons with disabilities. **OTP/A. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill, as amended, puts an expiration date on handicap placards; requires on van-accessible space for every 5 handicapped spaces; and creates a new fee of \$5 for each placard. Besides the fee, it also mandates that businesses revise their parking facilities for the van spaces. The Platform: “Minimize business regulations” and “Strongly oppose new taxes and fees.”

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

SB 478, permitting the online renewal of a non-driver’s picture identification card. **OTP. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill gives non-drivers the same ability to renew their ID online as drivers have for licenses. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.

SB 550, relative to the maximum gross weight for dump trailers. **OTP. Vote 15-0.**

HRA Analysis: This bill increases the maximum weight allowance for dump trailers and allows slightly shorter trailers

to carry the maximum weight, which has (informally) been the case for almost 30 years. It brings New Hampshire limits closer to those of neighboring states, which are all higher than the normal federal limit for interstates. The Platform: "Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business."

HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 210, regulation of septic system evaluators. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: Interim Study. Vote 16-2.**

HRA Analysis: This bill establishes an oversight Board and licensing requirements for septic system evaluators. The Platform: "Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork" and "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees". As a system deemed "failed" requires concurrence of the town, it's unclear that any additional consumer protection is required. As with home inspections, this creates a new fee for someone selling their home.

HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.

SB 441, relative to discounts and free admissions at state parks. **MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: OTP. Vote 15-3.**

HRA Analysis: The bill eliminates free weekday Cannon mountain skiing for seniors, replacing it with a 2/3 discount on weekdays and 1/3 discount on weekends and holidays. The committee amendment keeps free weekday skiing, and adds a new weekend discount. Part 1, Art. 10 of the NH Constitution states: "Government 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", in this case seniors. But there is no incremental expenditure involved, the lifts are running anyway. And it can be argued that seniors bring other paying customers with them, adding net revenue to NH, consistent with the Platform's broad statement of "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits."

HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.