

# 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, FEBRUARY 27**

## SPECIAL ORDER

**HB 438, removing the exemption for premium cigars. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 16-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This tax exemption supports a flourishing business sector. Platform: Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

## REGULAR CALENDAR PART 1

### COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**HB 292, relative to including brokers fees in the calculation of the insurance premium tax. OTP/A. Vote 14-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill intends to clarify requirements and simplify administration for the existing premium tax. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 680, relative to the definition of tobacco product for purposes of the tobacco tax and retail tobacco licensing. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 12-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill was intended to tax and regulate vaping products. Although there is no explicit tax in the bill, by adding vaping products, whether containing nicotine or not, into RSA that regulate tobacco products, a tax of 65% will be placed by the 2nd committee. The definitions in the bill, as amended, are overly broad and include devices that are used to vape, not just the liquids. While Republicans don't mind commonsense restrictions on access to harmful products by youths, many people have testified that vaping helped them stop smoking cigarettes. This is an overreaching regulation on a nascent industry that will stifle competition.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.**

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**HB 481, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a massive regulation environment and Commission (similar to the Liquor Commission) to oversee enforcement. On one hand, the Platform states “Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork;” on the other, “Support the State’s Constitutional right to determine legal restrictions on possession of controlled substances.”

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

**HB 726, relative to the secure psychiatric unit. OTP/A. Vote 18-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill creates an advisory council. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 732, relative to over-sentencing and racial profiling. WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would prohibit law enforcement from racial profiling, requires annual reports on racial

disparities from the departments of education and corrections, and allows a court to reduce a excessive sentence due to racial or ethnic bias. While racial or ethnic bias is forbidden by the constitution, it's not clear there is a problem in sentencing in New Hampshire. Platform: Justify expenditures against measurable benefits.

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

## EDUCATION

**HB 177, relative to stabilization grants. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 17-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, adds to the adequate education grant the stabilization grant from 2016, increasing state funding. Platform: "Promote local control of education policy and funding."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A.**

**HB 184, relative to the calculation of kindergarten students in the average daily membership and repealing prorated kindergarten funding based on Keno revenues. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill deletes the restriction that kindergarten students can only count as a half student for figuring school funding, and repeals additional funding from Keno. It therefore guarantees more state spending on education, in violation of the Platform: "Promote local control of education policy and funding."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support ITL.**

**HB 551, establishing a school funding commission. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 12-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a study commission, and funds it with \$500K. The Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" and we can study things for free, as the minority amendment proposes.

**HRA Recommendation: Support minority amendment, oppose majority amendment, and oppose OTP or OTP/A with the majority amendment.**

**HB 564, relative to possession of firearms in safe school zones. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill prohibits possession of firearms by law-abiding citizens in "safe school zones" in violation of the Constitution, "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A.**

**HB 673, governor's scholarship program covering the college level exam. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 11-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill is aimed at the costs of college education. It expands the Governor's Scholarship Program by \$100,000 for each year of the biennium to pay for college level examinations for which college credits are given for passing grades. These exams are open to anyone and can be taken based upon experience and knowledge from outside the classroom or free online courses. The potential is available to obtain your college freshman year for free! Our Platform says to provide expanded education choices, justify expenditures against measurable benefits, and support innovative measures to reduce tuition costs.

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

**HB 689, establishing a student career and college investment program. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 14-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a student college savings plan to be administered by a new commission. The plan is funded by a surcharge on all mutual funds, but the commission will also request appropriations in the state budget. Students passing a financial literacy course will have \$250 deposited from the surcharge fund into a college savings account. If they deposit additional money of their own, a new commission will deposit additional surcharge funds, as determined by the commission. Our Platform says to strongly oppose new taxes and fees.

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

**HB 709, relative to the formula for determining funding for an adequate education. OTP/A. Vote 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill revises the current education funding formula. The new formula includes disparity aid based upon equalized property valuation per pupil that also requires a school improvement plan. It also does away with stabilization grants in 2021 with implementation of the formula. However until then it rolls back district stabilization

rates to 2016 levels, This will cost the state approximately \$60 million over the biennium. The total cost of adequacy aid will increase by over \$100 million per year beginning in 2021. While the formula components are not the problem, the price tag is the problem. Our Platform says to always limit spending and growth of government, as well as to "Promote local control of education policy and funding."

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

**HB 719, establishing the position of school nurse coordinator. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates and funds a new administrative position in the department of education. The Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A.**

#### **ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE**

**HB 688, relative to transfer and inspection of animals. WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a new bureaucracy about animal breeding and selling. The Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits," and benefits here seem minimal.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP, support table or ITL.**

#### **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION**

**HB 616, cost of living increase for retirees in the state retirement system. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds a small but permanent cost of living adjustment to retirees' pensions. Funding is not defined by the bill, but it's either \$78 million this year, in the budget, or an increase in property taxes for the next 20 years. Platform: "Ensure that public employee benefits are similar to and do not exceed those of the private sector," and COLAs are rare for the few defined benefit pensions left in the public sector.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.**

#### **FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES**

**HB 516, funding for pollution control equipment at Powder Mill hatchery. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 12-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill introduces the MANDATORY purchase of a trout/salmon stamp to take trout or salmon. The revenue raised would be used to fund pollution control equipment at the Powder Mill fish hatchery. Currently there exist no clear EPA standards. This is a solution looking for a problem. Platform: "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees."

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

#### **HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**HB 696, establishing a protective order for vulnerable adults. OTP/A. Vote 22-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, presumes the defendant is guilty until proven innocent, and provides a way to prevent the opportunity to prove innocence. The procedures of this bill could be easily abused or triggered by a moment of hostility in a dementia patient, and it conflates investigation, conviction, civil law and criminal law. The Constitution: "No subject shall be held to answer for any crime, or offense, until the same is fully and plainly, substantially and formally, described to him."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.**

#### **JUDICIARY**

**HB 729, establishing a citizen's right-to-know appeals commission and a right-to-know law ombudsman. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill addresses the recurring problem of local officials refusing to properly answer right to know requests. On the one hand, the Constitution requires open government; on the other hand, the Platform resists increasing costs and complexity of government, which this bill does.

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

#### **LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

**HB 712, a family and medical leave insurance program. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires all employers in the State of NH to pay a half-a-percent of payroll to the State. It then allows them to deduct that percentage from their employees' paychecks, effectively creating a State income tax, which the platform opposes. The bill also exempts municipalities, based on the union status of their workforce, creating a constitutional quandary. Without the exemption, the bill violates Article 28-A, mandating that municipalities expend money for a State program without providing the funding. With it, the bill violates Articles Pt. 2nd, 5 (proportional taxes) and the equal protection clauses in the Federal and State Constitutions. With the majority-supported amendment, it allows certain government employees to exempt themselves from a tax levied on all other citizens of the State.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A, support ITL.**

#### LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

**HB 488, requiring interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing at the state house campus. OTP. Vote 7-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires the legislature provide interpreters when requested. The Constitution asserts that "Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive." It's hard to access your government or hold them responsible if you can't hear them.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP.**

#### MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**HB 232, enforcement of immigration laws and prohibition of sanctuaries. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 11-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill forbids municipalities from declaring themselves "sanctuary cities," where federal immigration laws are not enforced, and requires law enforcement to treat immigration detainees as they treat arrests or court orders from other states. Platform: "we believe that secure national borders are an integral part of a strong national defense," and immigration law enforcement is necessary for secure borders.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, Support OTP/A.**

**HB 579, car registration discounts for seniors, veterans, and disabled. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 16-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow towns to establish discounts on car registration for worthy citizens, with no means test. The Constitution allows "proportional and reasonable assessments, rates, and taxes, upon all the inhabitants" and forbids laws favoring "any one man, family, or class of men."

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**HB 581, relative to payment of membership dues for professional organizations on behalf of employees of municipalities and school districts. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** As amended, this bill prohibits local public funds from being used for lobbying or political activities, as state funds already are. The Constitution asserts "no person shall ever be compelled to pay towards the support of the schools of any sect or denomination," and that includes other political activities.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose ITL, support OTP/A.**

**HB 641, allowing municipalities to collect a fee from local room rentals. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows municipalities to impose a local tax on hotel rooms, to be used to support tourism. On one hand, the platform says "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees;" on the other, "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services."

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

#### PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

**HB 510, state motor vehicle registration fees and funding for noise abatement projects. ITL Vote 20-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would raise revenues for the Department of Transportation through increased fees. Platform: "We believe that economies flourish when all people retain as much of their hard earned income as possible, to spend and invest as they see fit."

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

## RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**HB 107, making appropriations for costs involved in controlling invasive aquatic species. OTP. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill funds removal of invasive foreign species in our lakes and streams, at \$5 million/year. On one hand, the Platform: "Provide public access to all public lands and great ponds, subject to adequate protection for indigenous plants and animals;" on the other, "Keep state government lean."

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

**HB 542, grant program for municipalities to update wetlands regulations. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a new fund to give grants for municipalities for updating wetland regulations. If towns want to update, they are able to do so now. Platform: "Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, support ITL.**

**HB 557, creating a fund for dredging the seacoast. OTP/A. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, provides matching funds for federal grants to dredge harbors in Hampton, Rye, and Seabrook. Platform: "Justify expenditures against measurable benefits" and these harbors need maintenance.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

**HB 625, relative to an aquatic invasive species decal for boats. OTP/A. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, requires out of state power boats purchase and display a \$20 decal to fund controlling invasive species in our waters. On the one hand, "Provide public access to all ... great ponds, subject to adequate protection for indigenous plants and animals;" on the other, "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees."

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

**HB 630, increasing certain fines for OHRV and snowmobile operation violations. OTP/A. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, increases fines for violating OHRV or snowmobile laws, including speeding, trespassing, and excessive noise; it also reimburses local agencies for the cost of enforcement. Platform: "Oppose "downshifting" of costs and regulatory enforcement from state to local government."

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

**HB 682, establishing a water resources fund and charging certain fees. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 10-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill has both new fees and an increase of fees by more than double or triple. The bill lets fees be adjusted by rule in the future. Platform: "Strongly oppose new taxes and fees."

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A, support ITL.**

**HB 727, boat ramp and parking improvements at Mount Sunapee state park beach. OTP/A. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill, as amended, provides for public boat access to Lake Sunapee, which has long been limited. Platform: "Provide public access to all ... great ponds."

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

**HB 290, relative to the removal of certain wood stoves upon the sale of a home. ITL. Vote 10-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires the removal of certain wood stoves upon the sale of a home and notification to the department of environmental services. Platform: We believe in free people, free markets and free enterprise.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

## WAYS AND MEANS

**HB 254, allowing operators to retain a portion of meals and rooms taxes collected. ITL. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill limits the 3% service fee paid to the operators who collect the rooms & meals tax for us to \$100/month, not even enough to cover the credit card fees, let alone the costs of collecting and remitting the tax.

Platform: "Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business."

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 623, relative to the business profits tax and business enterprise tax. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill repeals scheduled reductions to the business tax rate. Capricious reversal of tax policy increases tax regime uncertainty and dissuades future investment. Platform: “Foster an attitude of assistance and cooperation with business.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A, Support ITL**

**HB 686, extending the interest and dividends tax to capital gains. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill extends the 5% interest and dividends tax to capital gains. Platform: “Strongly oppose new taxes and fees, including an income, sales and capital gains tax” and “Cut or eliminate taxes which inhibit enterprise, earnings and savings,” such as a capital gains tax.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A, Support ITL**

## REGULAR CALENDAR - PART TWO

### COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**HB 159, relative to condominium association unit owner payments in arrears. ITL. Vote 18-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows the budget of a condominium to adjust for owner payments in arrears. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**HB 218, relative to the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer. ITL. Vote 18-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would delete the law that a police officer is justified and authorized in using deadly force to effect an arrest. This change does not limit the police option of using deadly force to protect himself or a third person. NH Constitution Part First, Art. 18: All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense. On the other hand, this would put restraints on officers during arrest and would encourage second guessing about deadly force.

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

**HB 491, relative to questioning and detaining suspects. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 19-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes it plain that refusing to give police one's name is not grounds for arrest. Platform: we believe that “the liberty of the people must be protected above the power of the government.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

**HB 609, relative to penalties for possession or distribution of child erotica. ITL. Vote 17-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill establishes a criminal penalty for possession or distribution of erotica. Erotica was poorly defined and appears to contradict the freedom of speech rights guaranteed by the Federal First Amendment.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

### EDUCATION

**HB 101, relative to regulating possession of firearms in a school district. ITL. Vote 14-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would allow school districts or SAU to adopt a weapons policy unique to its campuses, likely to prohibit their possession. The Constitution: “All persons have the right to keep and bear arms.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 123, relative to emergency response plans in schools. OTP/A. Vote 17-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill modifies the requirements for the existing emergency response plans and drills in schools. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 258, a committee to study teacher preparation and education programs MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would have a committee study teacher preparation programs in other states – and OTHER COUNTRIES - then report by Nov 1st. There is already a Teacher Preparation Council. Our Platform says to always limit spending and growth of government.

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

**HB 226, relative to the renomination of teachers. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 14-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** Renomination was changed to 5 years several years to give new teachers the opportunity to grow and learn the profession. This same legislation was killed by the House just a year ago. Platform: “Eliminate tenure and institute merit pay.” Though not truly tenure, reducing the time requirement goes in the wrong direction.

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

**HB 289, the recitation of the Lord’s prayer in public elementary schools. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 15-5.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would repeal the RSA that allows for voluntary recitation of the Lord’s Prayer. Our Platform says: “We believe that the Founding Fathers gave the 1st Amendment its preeminent position with intent that religious freedom deserves to be protected”.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL**

**HB 569, relative to innovation schools. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 11-8.**

**HRA Analysis:** We have often heard about charter schools being laboratories of innovation and that is even specified in statute. This bill enables local school boards to develop plans for innovation and request waivers of administrative rules. A process for local and state approval is specified as well as monitoring and reporting on the plan. Our Platform says: “Support innovative measures to reduce tuition costs and increase national competitiveness”.

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

#### ELECTION LAW

**HB 152, increasing the limit for reporting by political committees. MAJORITY: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 12-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows contributions of up to \$100, rather than the current \$25, be aggregated and reported without being itemized. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 505, allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates for an office. ITL. Vote 19-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would institute approval voting, where the voter indicates which candidates are acceptable. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

#### ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

**HB 476, replacing the milk producers emergency relief fund with the dairy premium fund. OTP/A. Vote 20-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a unique marketing program for “premium” milk products, funded by producers' voluntary contributions from federally mandated marketing fees. The platform: "Support cost-efficient means to protect, develop and market agricultural, forest and high value natural resource products."

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

#### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

**HB 547, relative to licensure of polysomnographers. MAJ: ITL. MIN: OTP. Vote 11-9.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would create a new professional license for sleep technicians. Platform: “Minimize business regulations, permits, licenses and paperwork.”

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

**HB 567, relative to using the Atlantic Time Zone in New Hampshire. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 11-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would eliminate switching for Daylight Saving when Maine and Massachusetts do the same.

No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 572, proclaiming the second Saturday in June as Pollyanna Recognition Day. OTP. Vote 15-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a special new day. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 634, a study commission on licensing individuals who forage for wild mushrooms for sale. OTP. Vote 12-7.**

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

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 720, relative to part time employment of retired community college system faculty. ITL. Vote 17-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill would create a special exemption for retiring community college faculty, namely avoiding a 28 day separation of service required for all other retirees. The Constitution prohibits laws benefiting specific individuals or classes of people.

**HRA Recommendation: Support ITL.**

#### JUDICIARY

**HB 153, circumstances under which police officer disciplinary records shall be public. OTP/A. Vote 16-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill makes police disciplinary records public in convicted cases of dishonesty, sexual assault, or discharging a firearm that results in death or serious injury. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 8: "all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to" the people.

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

**HB 154, prohibiting non-disclosure agreements in certain legal actions against a governmental body. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: OTP/A. Vote 13-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill forbids a non-disclosure agreement in cases where a government unit admits liability or pays a settlement. The Constitution, Part 1, Article 8: "all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to" the people.

**HRA Recommendation: Support majority amendment, support OTP/A.**

**HB 256, establishing reciprocity for notaries in adjacent states. MAJ: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 16-3.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill allows notaries in neighboring states to register as notaries in New Hampshire, as long as they meet the same requirements and pay the license fee. Platform: "Remove barriers to business formation and encourage small businesses."

**HRA Recommendation: Support OTP/A.**

#### LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

**HB 650, a committee to study the challenges of serving in the legislature. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 7-4.**

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

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HCR 1, rescinding all requests for a federal constitutional convention. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 8-6.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill revokes all previous requests for an Article V convention. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

#### MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**HB 167, allowing the town of Kingston to hold a bonfire event. MAJORITY: OTP/A. MIN: ITL. Vote 14-4.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill authorizes one bonfire event. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 381, repealing requirement for appropriations transfer in Carroll county. MAJ: OTP. MIN: ITL. Vote 12-7.**

**HRA Analysis:** In 2015, legislation was passed by voice votes in both chambers to allow Carroll County Delegation Executive Committee review of transfers over \$1,000. This was in response to previous county financial difficulties and was modeled after similar statutes for other counties. It has worked well and there is no reason to repeal the statute. Our platform says “Prioritize programs to ensure effective spending” and “Maintain local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services”.

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

#### **PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS**

**HB 135, relative to leased railroad property. ITL. Vote 15-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill requires municipal notice of sales or leases of state-owned railway property, and requires the lessee or purchaser to follow local laws and zoning regulations. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 515, establishing a commission to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of toll collection. ITL. Vote 16-0.**

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

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

#### **REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

**HB 511, relative to vaping. OTP/A, 20-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill adds vaping to the statute forbidding youth access to tobacco, and also to the indoor smoking act. While the restriction on youth access may be reasonable, adding vaping to the indoor smoking ban penalizes adults who wish to indulge without smoking. Platform: “We believe in free people.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A.**

**HB 545, prohibiting law enforcement from questioning a minor at school without a parent present. ITL, 17-2.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill protects children from possibly aggressive questioning, in a place they feel safe. No Platform or Constitutional issues identified.

**HRA Recommendation: No Recommendation.**

**HB 565, creating supervised visitation centers in the state. OTP/A, 17-1.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a new million-dollar program of providing supervised visitation centers. Platform: “limit spending and growth of government.”

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A.**

**HB 706, establishing an independent redistricting commission. OTP/A, 20-0.**

**HRA Analysis:** This bill creates a bulky, unwieldy commission to redistrict the state after the next census. The Constitution, Part 2, Article 9, clearly places redistricting in the hands of the legislature.

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose OTP or OTP/A.**