

House Republican Conference

Applying Principles to Legislation

Protect the Free Market

- 1) Will this bill result in competition between the government and the private market?
- 2) Will this bill create barriers to entry or otherwise protect current market participants from competition?
- 3) Will this bill result in regulation of previously unregulated activities or expand existing regulations?
- 4) Will this bill interfere with private property rights?

Lower Taxes

- 5) Will this bill result in an overall increase in state or local taxes, fees, or assessments?
- 6) Will this bill increase state or local government expenditures?

Limit Government

- 7) Will this bill create or significantly expand a state or local government program?
- 8) Will this bill reduce personal responsibility or place new restrictions on individual freedom?

Empower Families

- 9) Will this bill substitute the government's judgment for the judgment of parents or families?
- 10) Will this bill further erode familial, social, or community bonds?
- 11) Will this bill diminish the sanctity of innocent life?

Preserve Constitutionality

- 12) Will this bill cede legislative authority to another branch of state government or cede state authority to the federal government or local government?

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Checklist for Potential Legislation

- 1) What problems do you intend to solve?
- 2) How does this legislation solve those problems?
- 3) Is this legislation consistent with House principles?
- 4) If the legislation passes, will a financial gain be realized by the occupation, industry, employer, or business interests of you, your spouse, or your family?
- 5) Have you considered relevant information from multiple independent sources and thoroughly evaluated alternative solutions?
- 6) Have you sought out stakeholders who have different perspectives and considered their comments or concerns?
- 7) Is the legislation being driven by anecdote or a single occurrence? Is there evidence that the problems are recurring and on-going?
- 8) Are the problems of statewide public concern, or are they only important to a particular profession, industry, demographic subgroup, or constituent? If the problems are not statewide public concerns, why should the Legislature intervene?
- 9) Who wins and who loses if the legislation passes?
- 10) Has similar legislation been considered in the past? What's different this time?
- 11) Does the legislation create the need for a new public records or public meeting exemption? If so, why is creating such an exemption a public necessity?
- 12) Does the legislation require reporting of data so that future legislators can evaluate the effectiveness of the legislation? Would the legislation benefit from a sunset provision?
- 13) Does the legislation trigger the local government mandate provision or any other provision that requires a supermajority vote in order to pass the Legislature?