



CRCOG Weekly Legislative Report

2018 Legislative Session

March 1, 2018

Weekly Legislative Feature Issues:

The Appropriations Committee concluded its series of public hearings last Friday and began the new week with its subcommittee work sessions, which provides the members of the committee with an opportunity to engage with state agencies and departments on issues pertinent to many difficult budgeting decisions. These work sessions will continue through next week. In the meantime, the General Assembly continues with its regular legislative business including committee meetings and public hearings.

As you may recall, the final raised bill deadline for legislative committees passed at 5:00 PM on Friday, February 23rd. The committees have reserved many of the bills that were raised prior to this deadline for subject matter public hearings. As such, the public hearing stage of the legislative session is in full swing with committees scheduled to hold public hearings on bills through much of March. These public hearings are often the most effective opportunity for regular citizens to engage in the legislative process and the hearings regularly run late into the night and the wee hours of the morning. This process will continue for a number of

This past week has revealed new developments of particular interest to you:

Fiscal Stability Panel Promising Tough Choices for Lawmakers

The issue of the state's fiscal crises still poses a problem with lawmakers in Connecticut and the disagreements between parties prolong achieving a solution. With the session's conclusion only a few weeks away, and with reelection occurring this year, this issue of the state's finances will be the subject of intense debates. The chairmen and other private entrepreneurs believe that a proposal will be presented to the legislature and it will be "holistic" in its approach. The members of the commission expect that this will garner both approval and disapproval of the proposal.

Connecticut's \$70 billion obligations have hindered economic growth and progress from the recession that ended nearly a decade ago. Many advocates have offered solutions for this deficit and their opponents have responded with their own solutions. Examples include business groups supporting financial conservation on public-sector retirement benefits. As a response, labor leaders proposed "higher tax rates on the wealthy and major corporations, raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, and penalties for employers for steering their workers onto state-subsidized health insurance". Governor Malloy also proposed his idea on this financial issue by using transportation-based revenue options, such as charging tolls and raising gas taxes.

It seems that lawmakers acknowledge the upcoming debate on this issue, but that does not mean that they will succeed in fighting for their party's interest. The lack of support for a proposal will

not stop lawmakers' efforts to urge a debate to fight for their initiative. The basic rights of individuals are still in the minds and intentions of lawmakers, such as Speaker of the House, Joe Aresimowicz. The goal is to change how budgets will be assessed and approached in the future and to hopefully have a smoother process to lessen bipartisan struggle. Most importantly, the legislature's mentality and intentions play a key role on future discussions for the state's financial plan.

[CT Mirror: Fiscal Stability Panel Promising Tough Choices for Lawmakers 2-27-2018.](#)

Amid Fiscal Perils, Will the State Embrace Regionalism?

Connecticut's struggling financial stability causes state lawmakers to search for a solution to achieve debt reduction, and the idea of regionalism is being strongly considered. In instances where cities like Hartford are near bankruptcy, metropolitan regionalism might help the state save money and start developing the economy. Moving towards metropolitan regionalism gives us four possibilities: The Nuclear Option, Empowerment of the regional councils of government, virtual regionalism, and focusing on counties. The Nuclear Option is reducing grouping the current 169 cities and towns in the state to five to eight metro governments, which could save up to billions of dollars. This will mean removing many tiers of management from many cities and towns, but lawmakers admit no one will agree with it. Next, the empowerment option would give greater revenue generating authority to regional councils of government (COGs) by giving them the power to tax and apply for loans. COGs currently acquire funds only through membership dues and grants. Additionally, Virtual Regionalism entails no formal changes in governmental structures, but towns would have to "regionalize services or risk loss of state funds." Lastly, counties have been dissolved in the state, but there is a possibility of them resurfacing. It is worth noting that the former county lines may need reconfiguration. One suggestion is basing the county lines from the five river drainage areas. Advantages include avoiding the creation of a new layer of government, but merely a subdivision of the state government. Assuming that counties would be less expensive than town-to-town, this could possibly lower taxes. Counties would also be eligible for a \$20 billion federal grant. Overall these various solutions from the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth give lawmakers a chance to evaluate a path to solve Connecticut's financial instability

[CT Mirror: Amid Fiscal Perils, Will the State Embrace Regionalism 2-27-2018.](#)

Tracked Bills:

BILL STATUS LIST				
Bill Number	Priority	Title & Synopsis	Sponsors	Status
<u>HB 5045</u>	3	An Act Establishing Accountability For Fair And Affordable Housing Through Zoning Regulations. To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.	Rep. Joe Aresimowicz (30); Sen. Bob Duff (S25); Sen. Martin M. Looney (S11); Rep. Matthew Ritter (1)	Committees: PD Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Planning and Development (2/8)
<u>HB 5046</u>	3	An Act Concerning The Sustainability Of Transportation Projects. To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.	Rep. Joe Aresimowicz (30); Sen. Bob Duff (S25); Sen. Martin M. Looney (S11); Rep. Matthew Ritter (1)	Committees: TRA Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation (2/8)
<u>HB 5051</u>	3	An Act Concerning The Deposit Of Motor Vehicle Sales And Use Taxes Into The Special Transportation Fund To accelerate the rate of deposit of motor vehicle sales and use taxes into the Special Transportation Fund and eliminate the phase-in.	Rep. Fred Wilms (142)	Committees: FIN Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding (2/9)

<p><u>HB 5069</u></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>An Act Reimbursing Certain Municipalities For The Loss Of Motor Vehicle Tax Revenue.</p> <p>To reimburse three municipalities that conducted revaluations after 2015 for lost motor vehicle tax revenue.</p>	<p>Rep. Michael D'Agostino (91); Rep. Josh Elliott (88); Rep. Robyn A. Porter (94)</p>	<p>Committees: APP</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations (2/14)</p>
<p><u>HB 5072</u></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>An Act Reimbursing Certain Municipalities For The Loss Of Motor Vehicle Tax Revenue.</p> <p>To reimburse three municipalities that conducted revaluations after 2015 for lost motor vehicle tax revenue.</p>	<p>Rep. Michelle L. Cook (65)</p>	<p>Committees: APP</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations (2/14)</p>
<p><u>HB 5073</u></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>An Act Restoring Holdbacks To The State Budget.</p> <p>To restore budget holdbacks made by the Governor during the current fiscal year.</p>	<p>Rep. Tim Ackert (8)</p>	<p>Committees: APP</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations (2/14)</p>

<p><u>HB 5079</u></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>An Act Reducing The Subsidy For Ct Fastrack.To reduce the subsidy for CT Fastrack.</p>	<p>Rep. Robin Green (55)</p>	<p>Committees: APPStatus:Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations (2/14)</p>
<p><u>HB 5083</u></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>An Act Concerning The Full Funding Of Special Education. To require the state to pay the full cost of special education.</p>	<p>Rep. Doug Dubitsky (47)</p>	<p>Committees: ED Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Education (2/14)</p>
<p><u>HB 5123</u></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>An Act Restoring Education Cost-sharing Grant Funding To Towns. To restore education cost-sharing grant funding to those towns whose grants were reduced by the executive branch.</p>	<p>Rep. Andrew M. Fleischmann (18)</p>	<p>Committees: APP Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations (2/15)</p>
<p><u>HB 5143</u></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>An Act Lowering The Age Of Eligibility For Property Tax Relief For Elderly Persons. To lower the age an elderly person must be to obtain available property tax relief.</p>	<p>Aging Committee</p>	<p>Committees: AGE Status: AGE Public Hearing: Thu 3/1 10:00 AM @ Room 1B (2/23)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5150</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Revisions To The General Statutes Concerning Municipal Health Authorities And District Departments Of Health.</p> <p>To implement the recommendations of the Department of Public Health regarding revisions to the general statutes concerning municipal health authorities and district departments of health.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Health Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: PH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: PH Public Hearing: Mon 3/5 11:00 AM @ Room 1D (3/1)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5167</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>An Act Increasing The Amount A Board Of Education May Deposit Into A Nonlapsing Account For Unexpended Education Funds.</p> <p>To increase the amount of unexpended funds that a board of education is allowed to deposit into a nonlapsing account at the end of the fiscal year.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: ED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: ED Public Hearing: Mon 2/26 11:00 AM @ Room 1E (2/22)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5171</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>An Act Prohibiting The Executive Branch From Making Rescissions Or Other Reductions To The Education Cost Sharing Grant During The Fiscal Year.</p> <p>To prohibit the Governor from making rescissions to a town's education cost sharing grant during the fiscal year.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: ED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: ED Public Hearing: Mon 2/26 11:00 AM @ Room 1E (2/22)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5183</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>An Act Requiring A Study Of The Planning, Development And Financing Of Municipal Entertainment Districts.</p> <p>To require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to conduct a study concerning the planning, development and financing of municipal entertainment districts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: PD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: PD Public Hearing: Mon 2/26 10:00 AM @ Room 2B (2/22)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5184</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>An Act Permitting The Amendment Of Municipal Charters For The Purpose Of Modifying Budget Adoption Dates.</p> <p>To permit the amendment of municipal charters for the purpose of modifying budget adoption dates.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: PD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: PD Public Hearing: Mon 3/5 11:15 AM @ Room 2D (3/1)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5199</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>An Act Allowing Certain Municipalities To Create Property Tax Relief Programs For Graduates Of Certain Educational Institutions Located In Connecticut.</p> <p>To allow the eight municipalities with largest populations in this state to create a program providing property tax relief as an incentive for certain graduates to buy a first home in such municipalities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Housing Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: HSG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: HSG Public Hearing: Thu 3/1 01:00 PM @ Room 1C (2/23)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5229</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>An Act Concerning Reimbursement For The Purchase Of Dashboard Cameras With A Remote Recorder And Digital Data Storage Devices Or Services.</p> <p>To expand a grant program that reimburses a municipality for the cost of dashboard cameras purchased during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018, and digital data storage devices or services purchased during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Safety and Security Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: PS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: PS Public Hearing: Tue 2/27 11:00 AM @ Room 2B (2/23)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5283</u></p>		<p>An Act Concerning Neighborhood Revitalization Zones.</p> <p>To require municipalities to defend and indemnify neighborhood revitalization zone planning committees and their members in certain civil actions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: PD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: PD Public Hearing: Mon 3/5 11:15 AM @ Room 2D (3/1)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5285</u></p>		<p>An Act Concerning Authority For Municipalities To Extend Their Budget Adoption Processes.</p> <p>To authorize municipalities to extend their budget adoption processes for fiscal year 2018.</p>	<p>Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PD</p> <p>Status: PD Public Hearing: Mon 3/5 11:15 AM @ Room 2D (3/1)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 5286</u></p>		<p>An Act Establishing A Municipal Option To Provide Property Tax Relief To Certain Residents With Homes Damaged By Natural Disasters.</p> <p>To provide a municipal option to allow property tax relief for residents with homes damaged by natural disasters.</p>	<p>Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PD</p> <p>Status: PD Public Hearing: Mon 3/5 11:15 AM @ Room 2D (3/1)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SB 6</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations For General Government.</p> <p>To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.</p>	<p>Rep. Joe Aresimowicz (30); Sen. Bob Duff (S25); Sen. Martin M. Looney (S11); Rep. Matthew Ritter (1)</p>	<p>Committees: APP</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations (2/8)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SB 8</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rep. Joe Aresimowicz (30); Sen. Bob Duff (S25); Sen. Martin M. Looney (S11); Rep. Matthew Ritter (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: ED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: ED Public Hearing: Mon 2/26 11:00 AM @ Room 1E (2/22)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SB 25</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">An Act Concerning The Reimagining, Reinvesting And Linking Of Technical Education And Career Schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To overhaul Connecticut's workforce pipeline and to provide training to students that will prepare them with the work skills needed to meet the state's growing workforce needs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sen. Douglas McCrary (S2)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: ED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Education (2/14)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SB 161</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">An Act Exempting Certain Building Materials From The Sales And Use Taxes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To exempt from the sales and use taxes building materials that are used in connection with repairs of crumbling foundations of residential buildings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sen. Anthony Guglielmo (S35)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: FIN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding (2/16)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SB 181</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">An Act Establishing A Pilot Program For The Preservation Of Open Space.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to establish a pilot program to permit certain municipalities to impose a buyer's fee on the conveyance of certain real property sales to generate funds for the purchase, preservation or stewardship of open space.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: PD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: PD Public Hearing: Mon 2/26 10:00 AM @ Room 2B (2/22)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SB 182</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">An Act Concerning Municipal Tax Appeals And Contingency Agreements.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To require persons representing property owners or lessors in certain appeals concerning real property assessments to be either attorneys or certified or provisionally licensed real estate appraisers and to prohibit certified or provisionally licensed real estate appraisers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: PD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: PD Public Hearing: Mon 2/26 10:00 AM @ Room 2B (2/22)</p>

		from entering into contingency fee agreements in such appeals.		
<u>SB 184</u>	3	<p>An Act Concerning Authorization Of State Grant Commitments For School Building Projects.</p> <p>To authorize state grant commitments for school building projects.</p>	Education Committee	<p>Committees: ED</p> <p>Status: ED Public Hearing: Mon 2/26 11:00 AM @ Room 1E (2/22)</p>
<u>SB 199</u>	3	<p>An Act Concerning Special Education Funding.</p> <p>To alter the manner in which special education is funded in this state.</p>	Insurance and Real Estate Committee	<p>Committees: INS</p> <p>Status: INS Public Hearing: Tue 2/27 12:00 PM @ Room 2D (2/23)</p>
<u>SB 263</u>		<p>An Act Eliminating Certain Unclaimed And Seldom Claimed Tax Credits.</p> <p>To eliminate the enterprise zone tax credit for qualifying corporations, the service facility tax credit and the</p>	Commerce Committee	<p>Committees: CE</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing 03/08 (3/2)</p>

		<p>manufacturing facility tax credit for facilities located in an enterprise zone.</p>		
	<u>SB 264</u>	<p>An Act Eliminating The Regional Tourism Districts.</p> <p>To eliminate tourism districts in an effort to concentrate on state-wide tourism funding.</p>	<p>Commerce Committee</p>	<p>Committees: CE</p> <p>Status: Public Hearing 03/08 (3/2)</p>
	<u>SB 272</u>	<p>An Act Concerning Municipal Construction Projects.</p> <p>To require municipalities to hold public hearings on proposed construction projects with a value of more than twenty-five million dollars.</p>	<p>Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PD</p> <p>Status: PD Public Hearing: Mon 3/5 11:15 AM @ Room 2D (3/1)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SB 274</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">An Act Concerning The Assessment Of Municipal Taxes On Certain Residential Dwellings.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To require that land on which a one, two, three or four-family residential dwelling is planned for construction, is under construction or has been constructed is assessed exclusive of the value of such dwelling until a certificate of occupancy is issued for such dwelling, the dwelling is used for its intended purpose or title to such dwelling is co</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: PD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: PD Public Hearing: Mon 3/5 11:15 AM @ Room 2D (3/1)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SB 292</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">An Act Concerning Public-private Partnerships.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To amend the current public- private partnership statutes and enhance the Department of Transportation's ability to utilize these agreements</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Transportation Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committees: TRA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: TRA Public Hearing: Mon 3/5 10:30 AM @ Room 1E (3/1)</p>

		in designing, developing, financing, constructing, operating or maintaining projects.		
--	--	---	--	--