



CRCOG Weekly Legislative Report

2017 Legislative Session

January 12, 2017

Weekly Legislative Feature Issues:

The 2017 Legislative Session Kick-Off

Although the 2017 Legislative Session officially convened last week on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, the business of the legislature really began to ramp up this week with the beginning of organizational committee meetings. This last week saw legislative committee assignments being released later than usual, which caused delay as legislative staff scrambled to move and reorganize offices.

Additionally, individual legislator's proposed bills have begun to be published and are available for review. In the coming weeks, these committees will screen and file committee bills. The volume will intensify before the committee bill deadlines. Governor Malloy is expected to release his proposed budget on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 for the upcoming 2018-2019 biennium with projected deficits of \$1.5 billion dollars for the next fiscal year (2017-2018) and \$1.6 billion for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

This past week also revealed several budget-related themes of particular interest to you:

Governor Malloy remarked in his State of the State address last Wednesday, January 4, 2017:

"The state provides a total of \$5.1 billion in municipal assistance. That's more than one fifth of our overall budget this year, making it our biggest single expense – not state employee pensions, not Medicaid, not debt service, not salary and benefits of our employees; town aid accounts for the largest portion of our state budget," he said. "It simply would not be fair for us to talk about continued state agency reductions, or talk about the need for labor concessions, without talking about new ways to provide town aid."

[CT Mirror: Malloy warns of need for concessions, smaller government, new aid formulas- January 4, 2017.](#)

Yesterday, while addressing the Connecticut Council of Small Towns at the organization's annual meeting, Governor Malloy offered no assurances that municipalities "would be spared from cuts to local aid" as state lawmakers grapple with another major deficit.

However, Governor Malloy did send a positive signal regarding state mandates on cities and towns in reply to Mayor Daniel Champagne's request for mandate relief.

“Give us some relief,” the Mayor [Champagne] said. “Get rid of some of these mandates. ...If you can get rid of some of these mandates, we can save money.”

Malloy replied that “you will be happy with the budget” he will propose to legislators next month.

[CT Mirror: Malloy won't reassure CT towns they are safe from the budget axe- January 11, 2017.](#)

Also yesterday, the Senate announced that it scheduled a vote on the Dec. 8 deal in order to level the pension payments to the State Employees Retirement System. The House is expected to schedule a vote as well.

House Minority Leader, Representative Themis Klarides explained that legislative approval of pension deals is important for fixing the retirement system, which is a contributor to the state's fiscal crisis.

“We appreciate all the work that went into this proposal but it does not include critical issues such as pension benefits and individual contributions that must be addressed if the state is serious about fixing the retirement system,” Klarides has said. “These plans will grow increasingly unaffordable for future generations. Quite simply, our children and grandchildren will get stuck with the bills.”

[CTNewsJunkie: General Assembly Will Vote on Pension Deal- January 11, 2017.](#)

CRCOG Tracked Bills:

Bill	Title	Priority	Comment	History	Misc
HB05201	AN ACT CONCERNING A MORATORIUM ON NEW BOND AUTHORIZATIONS.	Proposed Bill		05-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON FIN	
HB05211	AN ACT REQUIRING THAT CONCRETE BE TESTED FOR PYRRHOTITE.	Proposed Bill		05-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON PD	
HB05212	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEDICATED TOWN ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND.	Proposed Bill		05-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON PD	
HB05214	AN ACT CONCERNING A CAP ON TRANSPORTATION SPENDING.	Proposed Bill		05-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON TRA	
HB05218	AN ACT CONCERNING PORTIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET CONCERNING THE EDUCATION COST SHARING FORMULA AND OTHER AID TO MUNICIPALITIES.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON APP	
HB05220	AN ACT CONCERNING UNFUNDED STATE MANDATES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON APP	

HB05227	AN ACT DELAYING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDENT DATA PRIVACY ACT.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
HB05228	AN ACT CONCERNING A REVIEW OF THE EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT FORMULA.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
HB05229	AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT FORMULA.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
HB05230	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY UNFUNDED EDUCATION MANDATES.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
HB05232	AN ACT DELAYING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDENT DATA PRIVACY ACT FOR ONE SCHOOL YEAR.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
HB05233	AN ACT REPEALING THE STUDENT DATA PRIVACY ACT.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
HB05272	AN ACT ENSURING THAT LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FULLY COOPERATE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON JUD	
HB05282	AN ACT CONCERNING MODERNIZATION OF THE PREVAILING WAGE LAWS.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON LAB	
HB05285	AN ACT LIMITING WAGE INCREASES UNDER BINDING ARBITRATION AWARDS.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON LAB	
HB05288	AN ACT CONCERNING WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS.	Proposed Bill		06-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON PD	
HB05309	AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING OF STATE MANDATES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.	Proposed Bill		09-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON APP	
HB05336	AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BY BOARDS OF EDUCATION IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.	Proposed Bill		10-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
HB05337	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO ANALYZE STATE EDUCATION FUNDING.	Proposed Bill		10-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	

HB05338	AN ACT REDUCING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS ON EDUCATORS.	Proposed Bill		10-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
HB05339	AN ACT ALIGNING STATE AND FEDERAL EDUCATION MANDATES.	Proposed Bill		10-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
HB05374	AN ACT CONCERNING WAGE PARITY UNDER MUNICIPAL BINDING ARBITRATION AWARDS.	Proposed Bill		10-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON LAB	
HB05450	AN ACT ELIMINATING THE MUNICIPAL SPENDING CAP.	Proposed Bill		11-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON PD	
HB05451	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL REVALUATION DEADLINES.	Proposed Bill		11-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON PD	
SB00002	AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE EQUITABLE EDUCATION COST-SHARING GRANT FORMULA.	Proposed Bill		04-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
SB00008	AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO LEVY A LOCAL SALES TAX.	Proposed Bill		04-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON FIN	
SB00015	AN ACT REQUIRING MUNICIPAL APPROVAL OF A SCHOOL CLOSURE.	Proposed Bill		09-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
SB00043	AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF THE POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR CERTAIN TOWNS.	Proposed Bill		11-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
SB00045	AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT LEARNING, ACHIEVEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY.	Proposed Bill		11-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ED	
SJ00005	RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND.	Proposed Bill		04-Jan-2017 REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON TRA	