



## **CRCOG Weekly Legislative Report**

### **2017 Legislative Session**

**May 11, 2017**

#### **Weekly Legislative Feature Issues:**

It has been a busy week with Wednesday marking the point at which there is one month remaining in the legislative session. The House has held several sessions with significant productivity, but the Senate came in for a single session on Wednesday- where productivity stalled following the passage of a single bill. The budget saga continues with the release of Governor Malloy's proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan, which is aimed at closing a \$389.8 million deficit in the General Fund and a \$30.6 million deficit in the Special Transportation Fund. In addition, the governor and the legislative Republicans and Democrats are expected to release their own revised budget proposals by the end of the week.

#### **2017 Legislative Session in the News:**

##### **Malloy, CT Lawmakers to Begin Closing \$5B in Red Ink**

Governor Malloy and the legislative leaders were faced with a daunting task on Monday- closing the largest state budget gap since the last recession. Three new budgets are expected by the end of the week, which are aimed at addressing the recent revelation that state income tax receipts are down 11.3% below current service funding levels. This news effectively precluded the viability of all previous plans by throwing them entirely out of balance. The release of three competing budget proposals will underscore the striking philosophical differences between Democrats and Republicans, the Executive and Legislative branches, as well as amongst political allies. While the legislative session ends on June 7, the state's fiscal year ends just 23 days later. If there is no budget agreement before the end of the fiscal year, Governor Malloy will have to attempt to run the state on the previous fiscal year's spending and revenue plan. Even if a deal is reached before this hard deadline, the state's financial difficulties remain. The legislature's non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis and the Governor's Office of Policy and Management both anticipate without drastic measures that the state will run \$2.2 billion to \$2.3 billion in deficit next fiscal year, and \$2.7 billion and \$2.8 billion in the red the year after that. Regardless of the current fiscal situation, decisive action will need to be to find a solution that moves Connecticut forward.

[CT Mirror: Malloy, CT Lawmakers to Begin Closing \\$5B in Red Ink 5-8-2017.](#)

##### **While Democratic Leaders Call Tolls 'Inevitable,' Republicans Strongly Opposed**

Partisan positions began to solidify on Wednesday as a possible vote on tolls in Connecticut becomes increasingly more likely with just one month remaining in the 2017 legislative session. Speaker of the

House, Joe Aresimowicz said that “it makes no sense that trucks and cars can drive through Connecticut unimpeded when motorists are routinely paying tolls throughout Connecticut’s neighboring states. Aresimowicz and House Majority Leader, Rep. Matt Ritter agreed that tolls are not universally unpopular. On the other hand, several Republican senators laughed on hearing this news. Sen. Toni Boucher, Senate Republican Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee replied that the idea is highly unpopular, because 70 percent of the costs will be borne by Connecticut residents and 30 percent by out-of-state drivers. Other Republican lawmakers argue that the issue has not been sufficiently studied to determine the number of drivers who would circumvent highways to avoid tolls. They argue that this is just another way to tax Connecticut’s citizens.

[Hartford Courant: While Democratic Leaders Call Toll 'Inevitable,' Republicans Strongly Opposed 5-10-2017.](#)

**Malloy Would Empty Reserve, Cut Local Aid to Close Deficit**

Governor Malloy released his proposed deficit mitigation plan on Wednesday to address the nearly \$390 million budget deficit for FY 2017. The governor is required by law to issue a deficit-mitigation plan whenever the comptroller certifies a shortfall in excess of 1 percent of the General Fund, which in this case means a deficit greater than \$181 million for the current fiscal year. This plan offers to chip \$155.6 million away from the deficit through a combination of spending cuts and revenue sweeps. The governor has also ordered a series of small rescissions totaling \$33.5 million. It is worth noting that the governor does not have broad authority to unilaterally reduce spending. As such, he is asking the legislature to cancel a \$19.4 million payment owed to towns as part of the share of casino proceeds that Connecticut distributes to municipalities throughout the state. The governor is also looking to cancel \$750,000 in grants to regional councils of government and \$4.8 million in transportation spending on maintenance and planning. Along with a host of additional spending cuts and revenue sweeps, these efforts would reduce the current deficit to \$234 million. The remaining component of the plan is to drain most of Connecticut’s \$235.6 million emergency reserve.

[CT Mirror: Malloy Would Empty Reserve, Cut Local Aid to Close Deficit 5-10-2017.](#)

**Tracked Bills:**

Bill	Title	Priority	Comment	History	Misc
HB07175	AN ACT CONCERNING THE TESTING OF NATURAL GRAVEL AGGREGATES FOR THE PRESENCE OF PYRRHOTITE.	1		10-May-2017 REF. BY HOUSE TO COMMITTEE ON APP 04-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER	File#: 395Hse Cal#: 290
SB00002	AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE EQUITABLE EDUCATION COST-SHARING GRANT FORMULA.	1		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 11-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 273	File#: 517Sen Cal#: 273
SB00905	AN ACT CONCERNING FAILING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS.	1		04-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 04-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 218	File#: 413Sen Cal#: 218

HJ00041	RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION LIMITING THE USE OF MONEYS IN THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND.	2		10-Apr-2017 NO NEW FILE BY COMM. ON GAE 10-Apr-2017 TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR	File#: 297Hse Cal#: 227
HJ00100	RESOLUTION APPROVING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT TRANSPORTATION FUNDS.	2		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR 11-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 356	File#: 516Hse Cal#: 356
SJ00005	RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND.	2		29-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 29-Mar-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 165	File#: 311Sen Cal#: 165
HB05278	AN ACT CONCERNING PAID SICK LEAVE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHERS AND CALL RECEIVING OPERATORS.	3		10-May-2017 REF. BY HOUSE TO COMMITTEE ON APP 16-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR	File#: 65Hse Cal#: 77
HB05298	AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND PATIENTS DURING EMERGENCIES.	3		29-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR 29-Mar-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 208	File#: 278Hse Cal#: 208
HB05445	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL BUDGET RESERVE BALANCES.	3		10-May-2017 REF. BY HOUSE TO COMMITTEE ON APP 11-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO	File#: 250Hse Cal#: 190
HB05554	AN ACT CONCERNING THE POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL POLITICAL BODIES.	3		25-Apr-2017 RPTD. OUT OF LCO 25-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO	File#: 488Hse Cal#: 329
HB05592	AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS.	3		10-May-2017 REF. BY HOUSE TO COMMITTEE ON APP 11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR	File#: 489Hse Cal#: 330
HB05755	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES' LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN.	3		22-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR 22-Mar-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 110	File#: 115Hse Cal#: 110
HB06051	AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE HARTFORD-NEW BRITAIN BUSWAY.	3		04-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR 04-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 281	File#: 386Hse Cal#: 281
HB06221	AN ACT CONCERNING RECOVERY OF PAYMENTS FROM COLLATERAL SOURCES BY A MUNICIPALITY WITH A SELF-INSURED HEALTH PLAN.	3		12-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR 12-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 359	File#: 544Hse Cal#: 359
HB06356	AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC NOTICE OF TREE REMOVAL ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY.	3		10-May-2017 HOUSE ADOPTED HOUSE AMEND. SCH. A 682610-May-2017 HOUSE PASSED, HOUSE AMEND. SCH. A	File#: 45Hse Cal#: 63
HB06482	AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE.	3		04-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 04-May-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 405	File#: 718File#: 581Hse Cal#: 383Sen Cal#: 405
HB06675	AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL OPTION FOR PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS FOR ARTS AND CULTURE.	3		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR 11-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 338	File#: 497Hse Cal#: 338
HB06941	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL GRANT PORTAL.	3		21-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 21-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 374	File#: 500Hse Cal#: 341Sen Cal#: 374

HB06948	AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.	3		09-May-2017 RPTD. OUT OF LCO 09-May-2017 NO NEW FILE BY COMM. ON FIN	File#: 501Hse Cal#: 342
HB07034	AN ACT TRANSFORMING THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.	3		25-Apr-2017 RPTD. OUT OF LCO 25-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO	File#: 502Hse Cal#: 343
HB07035	AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION.	3		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 11-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 344	File#: 503Hse Cal#: 344
HB07050	AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCEMENTS TO MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.	3		08-May-2017 REFERRED TO OLR, OFA 05/15/17 10:00 AM28-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO	
HB07138	AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF MAJOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PLANNING.	3		05-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 05-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 303	File#: 430Hse Cal#: 303
HB07218	AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.	3		09-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 09-May-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 494	File#: 733Hse Cal#: 494
HB07219	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT.	3		27-Mar-2017 RPTD. OUT OF LCO 27-Mar-2017 FAV. CHG. OF REF. HOUSE TO COMM.ON FIN	
HB07269	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL REGULATION.	3		12-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 12-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 369	File#: 554Hse Cal#: 369
HB07275	AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT.	3		12-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 12-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 372	File#: 557Hse Cal#: 372
HB07276	AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF.	3		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 11-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 352	File#: 512Hse Cal#: 352
HB07278	AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND.	3		13-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 13-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 400	File#: 598Hse Cal#: 400
HB07294	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL FINANCE.	3		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 11-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 354	File#: 514Hse Cal#: 354
HB07296	AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF UNFUNDED ACCRUED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM LIABILITIES BY MUNICIPALITIES.	3		09-May-2017 HOUSE ADOPTED HOUSE AMEND. SCH. A 667609-May-2017 HOUSE PASSED, HOUSE AMEND. SCH. A	File#: 560Hse Cal#: 373
HB07317	AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TOLL DISCOUNT PLAN FOR MOTORISTS RESIDING IN THE STATE.	3		10-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 10-May-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 500	File#: 743Hse Cal#: 500
SB00076	AN ACT CONCERNING THE POWER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A MILEAGE TAX STUDY WITH STATE FUNDS.	3		04-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 04-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 221	File#: 399Sen Cal#: 221
SB00501	AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNELS FOR INTERSTATE ROUTES 84 AND 91 IN THE HARTFORD REGION.	3		04-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 04-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 224	File#: 403Sen Cal#: 224

SB00655	AN ACT INCREASING FEES REMITTED TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR MOVING VIOLATIONS.	3		05-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 05-May-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 469	File#: 338Hse Cal#: 469Sen Cal#: 187
SB00786	AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF AND THE TRANSPARENCY OF ENDOWED ACADEMIES.	3		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 11-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 274	File#: 525Sen Cal#: 274
SB00788	AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.	3		08-May-2017 REFERRED TO OLR, OFA 05/15/17 10:00 AM28-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO	
SB00805	AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION ISSUES.	3		03-May-2017 MOVED TO FOOT OF CAL., SENATE 04-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN.	File#: 407Sen Cal#: 225
SB00806	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRUMBLING FOUNDATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND ASSISTING HOMEOWNERS WITH CRUMBLING FOUNDATIONS.	3		29-Mar-2017 RPTD. OUT OF LCO 29-Mar-2017 FILE NO. 301	File#: 301Sen Cal#: 174
SB00885	AN ACT CONCERNING RECOVERY OF PAYMENTS FROM COLLATERAL SOURCES BY A MUNICIPALITY WITH A SELF-INSURED HEALTH PLAN.	3		25-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 25-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 388	File#: 709Sen Cal#: 388
SB00907	AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF A THREE-YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE IN THE CALCULATION OF SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT REIMBURSEMENT PERCENTAGES.	3		12-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 12-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 299	File#: 564Sen Cal#: 299
SB00922	AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY HEALTH CARE STRUCTURES.	3		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 11-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 293	File#: 529Sen Cal#: 293
SB00923	AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSSESSIONS OF DECEASED TENANTS.	3		03-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 03-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 202	File#: 372Sen Cal#: 202
SB00941	AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REVISIONS TO LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PLANS.	3		13-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 13-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 335	File#: 616Sen Cal#: 335
SB01026	AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.	3		05-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 05-May-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 489	File#: 540Hse Cal#: 489Sen Cal#: 284
SB01033	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL FORECLOSURE ACTIONS ON TAX LIENS AND LIENS ON BLIGHTED REAL ESTATE.	3		12-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 12-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 309	File#: 572Sen Cal#: 309
SB01035	AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES.	3		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 11-Apr-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 288	File#: 541Sen Cal#: 288
HB06608	AN ACT EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF TIME FOR REQUIRING CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES TO WAIVE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX PAYMENTS FROM A HOUSING AUTHORITY.	4		10-May-2017 REF. BY HOUSE TO COMMITTEE ON APP 23-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER	File#: 176Hse Cal#: 145