



CRCOG Weekly Legislative Report

2017 Legislative Session

May 4, 2017

Weekly Legislative Feature Issues:

It has been another unique week in Hartford. Monday saw the release of a new consensus revenue estimate that confirmed early reports of significantly lower income tax receipts. The total, \$2.2 billion, is 11% lower than revenues in previous years. As a result, the legislative caucuses were scrambling to adjust their respective budget proposals. Governor Malloy announced that he would be presenting a revised budget proposal of his own to the General Assembly on Friday, May 12th. This would allow him to account for the new deficit forecast that nears \$5.1 billion for the next two fiscal years.

Meanwhile, the House convened for session on Tuesday and Wednesday to debate and take action on a number of bills and the Senate convened for a single session on Wednesday. At the end of the day on Wednesday, there were only three bills that had been approved for final passage by the Senate—the first of the entire legislative session. This decrease in production may be taken to signal continuing strife between the caucuses moving forward.

2017 Legislative Session in the News:

CT's Tax Revenue Plunge Bottoms Out At \$1.5 B

The numbers came out on Monday and they were not good. Mostly due to declining income tax receipts, the projected shortfall in revenue puts the state at 11.3% below current service funding levels. The deficit for the coming biennium could approach \$5 billion. Additionally, the state is over \$400 million in the red for the current budget year which ends June 30th. Senate Republicans immediately pounced on years of failed policies the state has engaged in. While it was a big hit to income taxes, the more troubling detail was that it was not that of the rank and file taxpayers, but a drop in what top earners usually post for dividends and capital gains on investments. The top 100 taxpayers paid 45% less this year than last. This year even sales tax revenue, the second largest stream, was down slightly. Just the week before the news broke, the tax writing Finance Committee at the legislature has considered raising the sales tax from 6.35% to 6.99%. They considered but failed to enact.

[CT Mirror: CT's Tax Revenue Plunge Bottoms Out at \\$1.5 B 5-1-2017.](#)

Lawmakers Go Through Stages of Grief as They Try to Figure Out How to Fill Hole

House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz commented that “[t]he budget is sucking a lot of oxygen out of the room,” during a press conference in his office on Wednesday. Aresimowicz was referring to the recently released consensus revenue estimate that forecasts an even larger budget deficit than originally anticipated at \$5.1 billion for the next two fiscal years. Based on these new numbers, Governor Malloy announced that he would be submitting a revised budget proposal to lawmakers on Friday, May 12th. This leaves rank-and-file lawmakers to work on their own budgets while going through the stages of grief. House Co-Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Rep. Toni Walker responded to the query of what stage of grief she was at on Wednesday, she replied “anger” after being told “to find another \$1 billion in cuts.”

Moving forward, the legislative leaders remain committed to a productive close to the legislative session. House Majority Leader, Rep. Matt Ritter remarked that the legislature “still [has] to pass legislation” even if those bills don’t carry fiscal notes. Senate Democratic Co-Chair of the Appropriations Committee commented that the “legislature can walk and chew gum at the same time.” She said that the legislators will need “to be conscious of what types of legislation they’re pushing in light of the budget crisis.”

[CT NewsJunkie: Lawmakers Go Through Stages of Grief as They Try to Figure Out How to Fill Hole 5-3-2017.](#)

Hartford Teeters as the State Struggles for a Budget

Senator Douglas McCrory, Representative Matt Ritter, and Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin all listened to Governor Dannel P. Malloy as he spoke about transportation improvements in the north end of the city. The venue was the lawn of the Hartford Public Library branch on Albany Avenue. A question came up from a reporter about state aid to help the city with their own fiscal problems. The Governor referred to past statements he had made about increased support for urban environments. While there are multiple budget proposals in play, the players all seem to agree that bankruptcy for the capitol city would be worse for the state than Hartford itself. Still, solutions at the local level remain elusive. Property tax increases are not feasible for a host of reasons. Mayor Bronin has obtained some concessions from municipal employees and has been seeking \$40 million from the state. He has pitched the necessity of having a strong central CT core as fundamental to the economic vitality of the region. He has support from legislative leadership but that support may come attached to an oversight panel. The clock is ticking towards adjournment of the legislative session on June 7th.

[CT Mirror: Hartford Teeters as the State Struggles for a Budget 5-4-2017.](#)

Tracked Bills:

Bill	Title	Priority	Comment	History	Misc
HB07175	AN ACT CONCERNING THE TESTING OF NATURAL GRAVEL AGGREGATES FOR THE PRESENCE OF PYRRHOTITE.	1		04-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 04-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 290	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 CALENDER 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		16-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 16-Mar-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 77	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 CALENDER 29-Mar-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 208	File#: 278Hse Cal#: 208
HB05445	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL BUDGET RESERVE BALANCES.	3		11-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO 11-Apr-2017 RPTD. OUT OF 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		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 11-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 330	File#: 489Hse Cal#: 330
HB05755	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES' LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN.	3		22-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 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 CALENDER 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 CALENDER 12-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 359	File#: 544Hse Cal#: 359
HB06356	AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC NOTICE OF TREE REMOVAL ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY.	3		03-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO 03-Apr-2017 RPTD. OUT OF LCO	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#: 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 CALENDER 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		11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 11-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 342	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		28-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO 27-Apr-2017 Joint Favorable Substitute	
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		03-May-2017 REFERRED TO OLR, OFA 05/08/17 5:00 PM28-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO	
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		12-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 12-Apr-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 373	File#: 560Hse Cal#: 373
HB07317	AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC TOLLS AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN LOAN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.	3		28-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO 27-Apr-2017 Joint Favorable Substitute	
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		03-May-2017 SENATE PASSED 30-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN.	File#: 338Sen 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		28-Apr-2017 FILED WITH LCO 27-Apr-2017 Joint Favorable Substitute	
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		03-May-2017 SEN. PASSED, SEN. AMEND. SCH. A 03-May-2017 SEN. ADOPTED SEN. AMEND. SCH. A 6430	File#: 540Sen Cal#: 284
SB01033	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL FORECLOSURE ACTIONS ON TAX LIENS AND LIENS ON BLIGHTED REAL ESTATE.	3		03-May-2017 SENATE PASSED 03-May-2017 ON CONSENT CALENDAR	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
SB01036	AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF MUNICIPAL TAXES ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS.	3		03-May-2017 REF. BY SEN. TO COMM. ON APP 12-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN.	File#: 573Sen Cal#: 310
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		23-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 23-Mar-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 145	File#: 176Hse Cal#: 145