



CRCOG Weekly Legislative Report

2018 Legislative Session

April 26, 2018

Weekly Legislative Feature Issues:

This week in at the Capitol has been an eventful one with both chambers holding sessions on a number of days. Additionally, the Appropriations Committee released a budget proposal last week. Of particular note, this budget proposal was only supported by the House members of the committee and passed out of the committee with only a House favorable report. Subsequently, Speaker of the House Aresimowicz reported that he and the House Democratic leadership have begun holding budget meetings with his caucus members, which will continue through the weekend.

In other news, on April 25, 2018, leaders from Bridgeport, Hamden, and Torrington rallied at the Capitol to call for a remaining \$5 million in car tax reimbursements to be released by the state. Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim remarked that the failure to release these reimbursements has really blown a hole in budgets. He reported that Bridgeport had received \$3 million in supplemental car tax reimbursement money from the state with an additional \$3 million outstanding. Meanwhile, Torrington is owed approximately \$700,000 and Hamden is owed about \$1.2 million. The leaders noted that the loss of this revenue has forced them to make cuts including those to education and public safety services. Moreover, they reported that these towns have called on the General Assembly to keep its promise and to make the adjustments so the three towns can be properly reimbursed. At the end of their statement, they reported that their legislative leaders would be addressing these concerns during budget meetings with Speaker Aresimowicz.

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

Parties Sharply Divided Over Higher Ed, Labor Costs, Transportation

Both Republicans and Democrats leaders in the General Assembly say that they can make amendments to a budget despite having just over two weeks left in the legislative session. With revenues \$1.09 billion higher than projected, the legislature is even less likely to pass tax increases. The Republican plan cuts spending by 0.7% while the Democrat plan increases it by 2.1% and exceeds the state's spending cap by \$31 million. Republicans argue that the Democrat's plan will lead to inevitable tax increases, most likely after this year's midterm elections. The Republican plan will cut labor spending while the Democrats argue that this is illegal. The Democratic budget would put \$26 million more in the transportation fund than Republicans proposed. The Republican budget would cut funding for UCONN and community colleges while the Democratic budget would maintain funding for UCONN and increase funding for community colleges. Both parties proposed additional funding to offset cuts to the Medicare Savings Plan and safeguards to prevent further cuts to municipalities.

[CT Mirror: Parties sharply divided over higher ed, labor costs, transportation - 4.23.18](#)

Hartford Recovery Plan Falls Into Deficit After Three Years, Despite State Debt Payments

According to the Municipal Accountability Review Board, Hartford is expected to run a \$2.5 million deficit by 2021, which is expected to grow to \$9.4 million by 2023, even with the bailout from the state. "The City of Hartford should be immediately classified as a Tier IV and should relook at going into bankruptcy," said Bart C. Shuldman, Chairman and CEO of Transact Technologies and member of the MARB. Luke Bronin, the Mayor of Hartford, maintains that Hartford can balance its budget with savings and economic growth. Malloy signed an agreement to pay \$550 million of Hartford's debt over the next 20 years, which has been denounced by both Republicans and Democrats in the General Assembly. Bronin said that Hartford filing for bankruptcy would be "bad for Connecticut." Hartford also wants to spend \$10 million on capital improvement projects but might not receive the money from the state or corporations to do so. Shuldman said that "clearly, once these payments end, the City of Hartford cannot fund their capital needs as the proposed 5-year plan goes into deficit in year four." He went on to add that the state might not have the "intent and wherewithal" to fund Hartford for five or more years.

[Yankee Institute for Public Policy: Hartford recovery plan falls into deficit after three years, despite state debt payments - 4.23.18](#)

CCM Trying to Protect Local Fund Balances in Final Two Weeks

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is trying hard to protect emergency funds for towns and cities. "Connecticut faces an unprecedented credit-rating crisis, with Moody's questioning the ratings of 26 additional cities and towns, adding to 25 already with negative outlooks," said Joseph DeLong, the Executive Director of CCM. They are lobbying for Senate Bill 421, which DeLong said "aims to protect the municipalities of Connecticut from passing the effects of these ratings down to the citizens of the state." The bill states that if a budget reserve 15% or less of the town's operating budget than it can not be used for an arbitration award. The planning and development committee already passed a bill which would prohibit arbitration panels from forcing municipalities use fund balances to pay for union agreements.

[Hartford Courant: CCM Trying to Protect Local Fund Balances in Final Two Weeks - 4.23.18](#)

Hospital Tax Could Complicate CT Deficit, But Income Tax Receipts Keep Rising

The deficit has almost doubled from \$198 million to \$363.5 million. This is because a new hospital taxing arrangement in which Connecticut is expected to receive \$150 million likely will not be decided until after the fiscal year ends on June 30th. Ben Barnes, Malloy's budget director said that if that's the case, "this will result in a shift of \$150 million from FY 2018 to FY 2019, making this issue budget-neutral across the biennium." He went on to add that "if federal approvals are not ultimately received, these hospital payments are subject to recovery by the state, thus mitigating any potential budgetary impact." Taxes on state hospitals are expected to increase from \$556 to \$900 million. However, it would produce

about \$200 million more in state payments. This year, Connecticut received \$665 million more in income tax revenues than expected. When all of the payments are received, it could receive up to \$1.03 billion ahead in revenues.

[CT Mirror: Hospital tax could complicate CT deficit, but income tax receipts keep rising - 4.20.18](#)

Hartford Bailout Maxes Out State's Credit Card—for Now

House Minority Leader Themis Klarides (R-Derby) wrote a letter to State Treasurer Denise Nappier saying that the state would exceed the statutory bond limit by \$522 million because of the \$534 million that the state is providing to Hartford to finance its debt. Legislators from both parties thought that they were only providing assistance to Hartford for two years. "We only agreed to a two-year lifeline," said Klarides. Legislators from both parties were surprised to learn that the legislation provides debt assistance to Hartford for the next 20-30 years. Klarides added that "this was a deal that was done in the dark of night." Chris McClure, a spokesperson for Governor Malloy, said that "the language the legislature drafted and passed, with the vote of Representative Klarides ... stated that contract assistance agreements would constitute a full faith and credit obligation of the state. This was not ambiguous then, and it is not now." The only three alternatives to exceeding the cap are "delay[ing] or cancelling planned bonding], raising taxes or revenues, vot[ing] to modify the debt limit statute and grant an exception for the emergency aid for Hartford." The first alternative is unpopular among Democrats, while the second and third alternatives are unpopular among Republicans. Klarides said that if projects have to be cancelled then those in Hartford should be cancelled. House Majority Leader Matt Ritter (D-Hartford) said that exempting the aid for his city from the statutory bond limit was the best solution.

[CT Mirror: Hartford bailout maxes out state's credit card — for now - 4.25.18](#)

Toll Vote Expected Next Week

House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz (D-Berlin) is proposing a vote on tolls next week. He understands that they will likely face unanimous opposition from Republicans. He said that they are the "party of no tolls and crumbling infrastructure that makes us not competitive with neighboring states" and that they're the party of "... sorry that that bridge collapsed." The Connecticut Republican Party issued a press release stating that "Connecticut Democrats are moving forward to add tolls to state roadways. As if the Democratic Party has not cost Connecticut's workers enough, they will be making the commute to work more expensive." Aresimowicz added that he's "no longer afraid of the toll argument at all" and that "he's willing to do the right thing for Connecticut and let the pieces fall where they may." Aresimowicz specifically mentioned that \$40 million has been spent to patch up a crumbling exit ramp off of Interstate 84 right by the Legislative Office Building's parking garage. Governor Malloy has proposed a 7 cent hike in the gas tax but this has not been discussed among legislative leaders. Aresimowicz added that leaders should be prepared to use money from the Rainy Day Fund to keep the Special Transportation Fund solvent.

[CT News Junkie: Toll Vote Expected Next Week - 4.25.18](#)

Tracked Bills:

BILL STATUS LIST						
Bill Number	Priority	BA	Title & Synopsis	Sponsors	Status	Note
HB 5045	3	Link	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: Senate Calendar Number 420 (4/26)	
HB 5046	3	Link	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: File Number 635 (4/23)	

<p>HB 5150</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Link</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>Public Health Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PH; PD</p> <p>Status: Referred by House to Committee on Planning and Development (4/18)</p>	<p>Senator Somers introduced it and indicated that she still has some concerns with the language because it takes away some of the local control. She is supporting today with the understanding that it will continue to be worked on and that she would not support it on the floor if that isn't addressed. Representative Staneski expressed her opposition to the bill stating that she believes the authority to hire should rest with municipality and that this is the first step to regionalization of health districts. Rep McCarty expressed similar concerns, but indicated that she would vote for it today. The bill was voted on favorably with</p>
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						Representatives Candelora, Klarides-Ditria, Petit and Staneski voting no of those present and voting at the meeting.
HB 5167	3	Link	<p>An Act Increasing The Amount A Town 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>	Education Committee	<p>Committees: ED</p> <p>Status: Senate Calendar Number 273 (4/12)</p>	

<p>HB 5171</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Link</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>Education Committee</p>	<p>Committees: ED</p> <p>Status: File Number 142 (4/3)</p>	
<p>HB 5184</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Link</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>Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PD</p> <p>Status: Senate Calendar Number 274 (4/12)</p>	
<p>HB 5229</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Link</p>	<p>An Act Concerning Reimbursement For The Purchase Of Dashboard Cameras With A Remote Recorder And Digital Data Storage Devices Or Services.To expand a grant program that reimburses a</p>	<p>Public Safety and Security Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PSStatus:House Passed (4/25)</p>	

			<p>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>HB 5283</p>		<p>Link</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>Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PD; APP</p> <p>Status: Senate Calendar Number 431 (4/26)</p>	
<p>HB 5285</p>		<p>Link</p>	<p>An Act Permitting 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: File Number 235 (4/5)</p>	

<p>HB 5286</p>		<p>Link</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: File Number 236 (4/5)</p>	
<p>HB 5317</p>		<p>Link</p>	<p>An Act Concerning Municipal Veterans' Representatives.</p> <p>To change references from "veterans' service contact person" to "municipal veterans' representative" and to permit volunteers to serve as such representatives.</p>	<p>Veterans' Affairs Committee</p>	<p>Committees: VA</p> <p>Status: File Number 43 (3/26)</p>	
<p>HB 5339</p>		<p>Link</p>	<p>An Act Concerning Public Schools.</p> <p>To require the Department of Education to study issues affecting public schools.</p>	<p>Education Committee</p>	<p>Committees: ED</p> <p>Status: File Number 128 (3/29)</p>	

<p>HB 5355</p>		<p>Link</p>	<p>An Act Establishing Standards For The Adequacy Of Dog Shelter During Extreme Weather Conditions.</p> <p>To establish certain requirements for what constitutes adequate shelter for a dog during adverse weather conditions.</p>	<p>Environment Committee</p>	<p>Committees: ENV</p> <p>Status: File Number 77 (3/28)</p>	
<p>HB 5391</p>		<p>Link</p>	<p>An Act Concerning The Preparation Of A Tolling Proposal And Support For Transportation Infrastructure.</p> <p>To require the Commissioner of Transportation to conduct studies and satisfy other requirements pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act for the purposes of developing electronic tolling systems on the highways of this state.</p>	<p>Transportation Committee</p>	<p>Committees: TRA</p> <p>Status: File Number 366 (4/10)</p>	

<p><u>HB 5483</u></p>		<p><u>Link</u></p>	<p>An Act Authorizing A Study Of The Creation Of A Land Bank Authority.To require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to conduct a study regarding the creation of a land bank authority.</p>	<p>Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PDStatus:File Number 376 (4/10)</p>	
<p><u>HB 5509</u></p>		<p><u>Link</u></p>	<p>An Act Concerning Municipal Ordinances For Interest Rates On Delinquent Sewer Assessments.</p> <p>To protect consumers from unfair and abusive water pollution control authority proceedings and charges.</p>	<p>Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PD Status: File Number 380 (4/10)</p>	
<p><u>HB 5510</u></p>		<p><u>Link</u></p>	<p>An Act Concerning The Zoning Of Group Homes.</p> <p>To limit the ability of municipalities to prohibit group homes that house disabled persons and individuals recovering from substance abuse.</p>	<p>Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PD Status: File Number 381 (4/10)</p>	

<p><u>HB 5517</u></p>		<p><u>Link</u></p>	<p>An Act Concerning Executive Branch Data Management And Processes.</p> <p>To increase access to data by executive branch agencies by codifying the provisions of Executive Order 39, to create a Connecticut Board of Data Analysis Technology Advisory Board, to require the Office of Policy and Management to establish and oversee a state-wide process improvement initiative, to require towns to transmit certain property assess</p>	<p>Government Administration and Elections Committee</p>	<p>Committees: GAE</p> <p>Status: File Number 489 (4/12)</p>	
<p><u>HB 5561</u></p>		<p><u>Link</u></p>	<p>An Act Concerning The Imposition Of Penalties For Repeated Violations Of Municipal Regulations And Ordinances.</p> <p>To permit a municipality to issue on-site citations in order to improve the municipality's code enforcement process and reduce</p>	<p>Judiciary Committee</p>	<p>Committees: JUD; PD</p> <p>Status: Tabled for the Calendar, House (4/25)</p>	

			the rate of repeat offenders.			
HB 5580		Link	<p>An Act Concerning The Recommendations Of The Commission On Fiscal Stability And Economic Growth.</p> <p>To require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to conduct an analysis of the recommendations made by the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth.</p>	Appropriations Committee	<p>Committees: APP</p> <p>Status: File Number 509 (4/16)</p>	
HB 5585		Link	<p>An Act Concerning Enterprise Zones.</p> <p>To (1) require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to develop specific benchmarks to assess enterprise zone benefits recipients, and (2) allow said commissioner to negotiate certain</p>	Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee	<p>Committees: FIN</p> <p>Status: File Number 601 (4/19)</p>	

			property tax exemptions with a business seeking enterprise zone benefits and the chief elected official of the municipality in which such enterprise			
HB 5589		Link	An Act Concerning A Study Of Finance Policies To Improve The Economic Competitiveness Of The State.To require the Commissioners of Economic and Community Development and Revenue Services to study the finance policies of surrounding states.	Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee	Committees: FINStatus:File Number 384 (4/10)	
HB 5591		Link	An Act Concerning The Machinery Rental Surcharge Rate, Certain Municipal Filing Fees, The Property Tax Exemption For Certain Paint Mixing Machinery And Equipment And Certain Residential Property Under Common Ownership And Requiring A Study Of Existing Property Tax Exemptions. To diversify municipal revenue options and phase	Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee	Committees: FIN Status: File Number 602 (4/19)	

			out the motor vehicle property tax.			
SB 11		Link	<p>An Act Concerning Connecticut's Response To Federal Tax Reform.</p> <p>To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.</p>	Rep. Joe Aresimowicz (30); Sen. Bob Duff (S25); Sen. Martin M. Looney (S11); Rep. Matthew Ritter (1)	<p>Committees: FIN</p> <p>Status: File Number 624 (4/23)</p>	
SB 182	3	Link	<p>An Act Concerning Municipal Tax Appeals And Contingency Agreements.</p> <p>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 from entering into contingency fee</p>	Planning and Development Committee	<p>Committees: PD</p> <p>Status: File Number 462 (4/12)</p>	

			agreements in such appeals.			
SB 184	3	Link	<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: File Number 418 (4/11)</p>	
SB 263		Link	<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 manufacturing facility tax credit for facilities located in an enterprise zone.</p>	Commerce Committee	<p>Committees: CE</p> <p>Status: File Number 572 (4/18)</p>	
SB 264		Link	An Act Eliminating The Regional Tourism Districts.	Commerce Committee	<p>Committees: CE</p> <p>Status: File Number 465 (4/12)</p>	

			To eliminate tourism districts in an effort to concentrate on state-wide tourism funding.			
SB 272		Link	An Act Concerning The Approval Of Certain New Municipal Construction Projects.To require municipalities to hold public hearings on proposed construction projects with a value of more than twenty-five million dollars.	Planning and Development Committee	Committees: PDStatus:File Number 271 (4/5)	
SB 334		Link	An Act Concerning Municipal And State Competitive Procurement Of Electricity, Natural Gas, Renewable Energy And Other Energy-related Products By Nonprofit Energy Buying Consortia. To permit certain municipalities, the state, and state entities to purchase electricity, natural gas, renewable energy, telecommunications services and other energy-related products using	Energy and Technology Committee	Committees: ET Status: File Number 517 (4/16)	

			nonprofit energy buying consortia.			
SB 343		Link	<p>An Act Concerning The Effects Of Climate Change On The Safety Plans Of Certain Chemical Facilities In The State.</p> <p>To require the updating of safety plans for certain chemical facilities in the state that are at risk of flooding and other severe weather events as reflected in updated sea level rise projections and to establish a Climate Justice Working Group within the Governor's Council on Climate Change.</p>	Environment Committee	<p>Committees: ENV</p> <p>Status: File Number 287 (4/5)</p>	
SB 349		Link	<p>An Act Concerning Regional Animal Shelters.</p> <p>To provide funding for part of the cost of operating</p>	Environment Committee	<p>Committees: ENV; APP</p> <p>Status: Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis</p>	

			regional animal shelters.		04/30/18 10:00 AM (4/23)	
SB 356		Link	<p>An Act Concerning Licensing And Registration Requirements For Operators Of Certain Short-term Rental Properties.</p> <p>To require each municipality to adopt an ordinance or regulation concerning operators of certain short-term rental properties, and to require such operators to obtain a license.</p>	Housing Committee	<p>Committees: HSG</p> <p>Status: File Number 119 (3/28)</p>	
SB 364		Link	<p>An Act Requiring Reports Concerning Special Education Expenditures.</p> <p>To lower the excess cost threshold from four and one-half times to two times the average per pupil educational costs of a board of education.</p>	Education Committee	<p>Committees: ED; APP</p> <p>Status: Referred by Senate to Committee on Appropriations (4/24)</p>	

SB 377	2	Link	<p>An Act Authorizing Agency Captive Insurance Companies.</p> <p>To authorize agency captive insurance companies.</p>	Insurance and Real Estate Committee	<p>Committees: INS</p> <p>Status: File Number 336 (4/9)</p>	
SB 389		Link	<p>An Act Establishing The Connecticut Transportation Authority.To establish the Connecticut Transportation Authority to develop and implement electronic tolling systems.</p>	Transportation Committee	<p>Committees: TRAS</p> <p>Status:File Number 392 (4/10)</p>	
SB 421	3	Link	<p>An Act Concerning Municipal Budget Reserves For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2019.</p> <p>To revise municipal budget reserve language that was passed as part of the state budget for the biennium ending June 30, 2019.</p>	Planning and Development Committee	<p>Committees: PD</p> <p>Status: File Number 393 (4/10)</p>	
SB 423		Link	<p>An Act Eliminating The Municipal Spending Cap.</p> <p>To eliminate the</p>	Planning and Development Committee	<p>Committees: PD</p> <p>Status: File Number 394 (4/10)</p>	

			municipal spending cap.			
SB 445		Link	<p>An Act Concerning An Analysis Of The Recommendations Of The Commission On Fiscal Stability And Economic Growth.</p> <p>To require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to conduct an analysis of the recommendations made by the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth.</p>	Commerce Committee	<p>Committees: CE</p> <p>Status: File Number 400 (4/10)</p>	
SB 450		Link	<p>An Act Concerning Municipal Volunteer Services.</p> <p>To prohibit municipalities from entering into collective bargaining agreements that limit the ability of municipalities to permit volunteer services for the benefit of municipalities.</p>	Planning and Development Committee	<p>Committees: PD</p> <p>Status: File Number 403 (4/10)</p>	

<p>SB 490</p>		<p>Link An Act Concerning Local Governments, Shared Municipal Services And Regional Financing Options.</p> <p>To make certain changes to the composition and duties of the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations; specify that the chief executive officer of a municipality shall provide for the manner in which zoning regulations are enforced; specify that a committee established pursuant to a cooperative arrangement agreed to by two or</p>	<p>Planning and Development Committee</p>	<p>Committees: PD; FIN</p> <p>Status: Favorable Report, Tabled for the Calendar, Senate (4/24)</p>	
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