



CRCOG Weekly Legislative Report

2017 Legislative Session

May 25, 2017

Weekly Legislative Feature Issues:

There are only two weeks remaining in the legislative session and the Connecticut General Assembly continues to convene almost daily to take action on legislation. The House continues to be productive, while strife in the Senate has kept the upper chamber's efficiency very low. Meanwhile, the recent announcement of a tentative deal between Governor Malloy and the state employee unions provides some positive progress in addressing the massive budget deficit projected for the upcoming biennium. Additionally, the Senate Republicans have offered an alternative deficit mitigation proposal that would remove cuts to municipalities, hospitals, and parks that were included in the governor's plan. Despite these developments, the mood regarding the budget remains guarded.

2017 Legislative Session in the News:

It's Official: Malloy, Unions have Tentative Concessions Framework

On Tuesday, May 23, 2017, Governor Malloy and the state employee union's leaders announced an agreement to recommend a \$1.5 billion concessions framework to member bargaining units. The State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) voted to engage in formal discussion with the Malloy administration, which is a legal requirement to any tentative deal.

The proposed framework reportedly would save the state \$708 million next fiscal year and \$845 million in 2018-19, which nearly matches the \$1.57 billion, two-year savings target that the governor set in his initial budget proposal released in February. Additionally, the plan would freeze wages for each of the next two fiscal years. Employees who are working under contracts that expired last June will also forfeit any retroactive pay increase. This cumulative three-year wage freeze would provide nearly half of the total projected savings, after which, workers would receive 3.5 percent base pay raises in 2020 and 2021 and would also be eligible for step increases. They would also be required to take three furlough days per year.

This framework would double pension contributions for most workers, create a hybrid pension/defined-contributions plan for future workers, increase health care benefits, and curtail healthcare benefits for existing retirees.

In exchange for these concessions, the state will extend its worker benefits contract, set to expire in 2022, through 2027. The unions that grant wage concessions would also be largely exempt from layoffs through the 2021-22 fiscal year.

It is noteworthy that the Administrative and Residual Employees Union is not expected to vote on this deal until mid-July, which would be several weeks after the end of the current fiscal year.

[CT Mirror: It's Official: Malloy, Unions have Tentative Concessions Framework 5-23-2017.](#)

Time Dwindling to Ease Current CT Budget Deficit

While Governor Malloy urged legislators to act quickly on his deficit mitigation plan that was released two weeks ago, Senate Republicans unveiled a plan to avert proposed cuts to municipalities, hospitals, and state parks. There is still time to at least reduce the growing budget deficit for the current fiscal year that ends on June 30 and the Malloy administration is reminding legislators that the clock is ticking. Office of Policy and Management Secretary Ben Barnes said that “[l]egislative actions to mitigate the deficit must take place this spring” in a letter to the members of the Appropriations and Finance, Revenue, & Bonding Committees. He went on to say, “[w]e have a mutual obligation to balance the budget each fiscal year and less than six weeks to do so for FY17.”

The substance of the Senate Republican proposal includes a proposal to realize \$23.4 million in budget-balancing alternative to avert cuts to municipal aid, hospitals, and parks. It also restores \$1 million to support programs for the developmentally disabled that were trimmed by the governor. Additionally, the alternative deficit mitigation proposal would transfer:

- \$4 million each from the Banking and Insurance funds.
- \$3 million from auto emissions; and
- \$2 million from a program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Senator Witkos remarked, “We believe it is unfair to ask towns and cities to absorb such drastic financial hits in the last few months of the fiscal year.” He went on, “that leaves them no time to make adjustments and could lead to property tax increases or significant shortfalls in funding for core services such as education.”

[CT Mirror: Time Dwindling to Ease Current CT Budget Deficit 5-24-2017.](#)

New Census Estimates: Most CT Cities Losing Residents

Most of the cities in CT have lost populations in the 2015 – 2016 period, per the U.S. Census Bureau. Southwest CT fared the best with their 4 cities listed having small gains but the other 15 cities in the state have lost residents. The Census Bureau defines large cities as in excess of 50,000 in population. Bridgeport, Hartford and Waterbury saw the greatest loss. Even the rest of the state’s 169 towns have seen their resident count decline in the same time period. Connecticut is third in the nation based on population loss. The state is 29th in the nation for overall population. Here is a chart:

City	Number of residents lost (2015 to 2016)	Total number of residents (2016)	Percent lost (2015 to 2016)
Bridgeport	1,154	145,936	0.78%
Hartford	626	123,243	0.51%
Waterbury	508	108,272	0.47%
New Britain	370	72,558	0.51%
Meriden	358	59,622	0.60%
Stratford	296	52,148	0.56%
East Hartford	268	50,237	0.53%
West Haven	266	54,516	0.49%
Hamden	252	61,125	0.41%
Bristol	249	60,147	0.41%
Fairfield	158	61,160	0.26%
Greenwich	125	62,359	0.20%
West Hartford	106	62,903	0.17%
New Haven	80	129,934	0.06%
Manchester	56	57,873	0.10%

US CENSUS BUREAU

[CT Mirror: New Census Estimates: Most CT Cities Losing Residents 5-25-2017.](#)

Tracked Bills:

Bill	Title	Priority	Comment	History	Misc
HB07175	AN ACT CONCERNING THE TESTING OF NATURAL GRAVEL AGGREGATES FOR THE PRESENCE OF PYRRHOTITE.	1		15-May-2017 NO NEW FILE BY COMM. ON APP 15-May-2017 TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDAR	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 MONIES 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 AUTHORIZING THE WESTPORT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TO BORROW FUNDS OR OBTAIN LOANS OR GRANTS.	3		22-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 22-May-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 488	File#: 783File#: 488Hse Cal#: 329Sen Cal#: 488
HB05592	AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS.	3		12-May-2017 MOTION FAILED JF 10-May-2017 REF. BY HOUSE TO COMMITTEE ON APP	File#: 489Hse Cal#: 330
HB05755	AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES' LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN.	3		24-May-2017 HOUSE PASSED 22-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., Tabled for House Calendar	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		25-May-2017 REF. BY SEN. TO COMM. ON JUD 12-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN.	File#: 756File#: 45Hse Cal#: 63Sen Cal#: 452
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 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		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 ESTABLISHING THE MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD AND DESIGNATED TIERS.	3		15-May-2017 FILE NO. 764 15-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER	File#: 764Hse Cal#: 509
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		11-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN. 11-May-2017 SENATE CALENDAR NUMBER 441	File#: 754File#: 560Hse Cal#: 373Sen Cal#: 441
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	3		25-May-2017 SEN. ADOPTED SEN. AMEND. SCH. A 778525-May-2017 SEN. PASSED, SEN. AMEND. SCH. A	File#: 399Sen Cal#: 221

	MILEAGE TAX STUDY WITH STATE FUNDS.				
SB00501	AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNELS FOR INTERSTATE ROUTES 84 AND 91 IN THE HARTFORD REGION.	3		23-May-2017 FILED WITH LCO 23-May-2017 RPTD. OUT OF LCO	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		15-May-2017 FILE NO. 760 15-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN.	File#: 760Sen Cal#: 463
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		17-May-2017 SEN. ADOPTED SEN. AMEND. SCH. A 683217-May-2017 REF. BY SEN. TO COMM. ON FIN	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		19-May-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER 19-May-2017 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 539	File#: 529Hse Cal#: 539Sen Cal#: 293
SB00923	AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSSESSIONS OF DECEASED TENANTS.	3		23-May-2017 HOUSE PASSED 23-May-2017 IN CONCURRENCE	File#: 372Hse Cal#: 540Sen 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		23-May-2017 RPTD. OUT OF LCO 23-May-2017 NO NEW FILE BY COMM. ON JUD	File#: 572Sen Cal#: 309

SB01035	AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES.	3		25-May-2017 MOVED TO FOOT OF CAL., SENATE 11-Apr-2017 FAV. RPT., TAB. FOR CAL., SEN.	File#: 541Sen Cal#: 288
SB01036	AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF MUNICIPAL TAXES ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS.	3		08-May-2017 MOTION FAILED JF 03-May-2017 REF. BY SEN. TO COMM. ON APP	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		10-May-2017 REF. BY HOUSE TO COMMITTEE ON APP 23-Mar-2017 FAV. RPT., TABLED FOR HOUSE CALENDER	File#: 176Hse Cal#: 145