



CRCOG Weekly Legislative Report

2019 Legislative Session

January 17, 2019

Weekly Legislative Feature Issues:

Welcome back! After a full week of legislative activity, it is time for the first weekly update of the 2019 legislative session.

The Connecticut General Assembly's 2019 Legislative Session convened on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 and will conclude on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at midnight. Opening day included the inauguration of Ned Lamont as the 89th Governor of Connecticut and the swearing in of the state's Constitutional officers and ninety-one House Democrats, fifty-eight House Republicans, twenty Senate Democrats and thirteen Senate Republicans. There will be several special elections necessary to fill the seats of Senators and Representatives that have taken positions within the Governor's administration. The legislators-elect who were not sworn in today are Senator Beth Bye, Senator Terry Gerratana, Senator Tim Larson, Representative Christopher Soto, and Representative James Albis. We will keep you updated on the special election results, which are scheduled for February 26, 2019.

After being sworn-in as Governor of Connecticut, the governor gave his first State of the State address to the Joint Convention of the General Assembly. Highlights are included below:

- The governor emphasized Connecticut's history of entrepreneurship and inventiveness, particularly with respect to the defense industry. He stated that the state has the best teachers in the world and noted the productivity and education of the state's workforce.
- Turning to the budget, he pledged to work towards a budget that is on-time and honestly balanced. He indicated that he will be delivering his administration's budget to the General Assembly in six weeks.
- Governor Lamont pledged to make retirement security a reality for young and old workers alike. He declared his vision for an economy that works for everyone, and identified two key elements of a "21st Century Workplace" as Paid Family Leave for all families and a \$15 minimum wage.
- He stated that the Connecticut taxpayer can no longer subsidize inefficiencies, and declared a goal of ensuring that municipal back-office services are delivered on a regional, shared basis and identified the bulk purchasing of healthcare and technology as two areas of focus.

- He pledged to create the first all-digital government, creating a one-stop shop for online services, with the tagline “on-line, not in line.” He also stated that every local town square should have available internet access.
- He stated that Connecticut needs a 21st century transportation system, integrating road, rail, and water infrastructure, noting that gridlock costs the state jobs. He declared a 30-30-30 vision in which, travel between Hartford and New Haven, New Haven and Stamford, and Stamford and New York, can each be completed in 30 minutes.

Session Information:

The new General Assembly will spend the 2019 legislative session passing a biennial budget for fiscal years 2020-2021. The legislature will need to close a projected \$1.9 billion budget deficit for fiscal year 2020, followed by a projected \$2.5 billion deficit in 2021. Governor Lamont will be releasing his budget proposal to the General Assembly in February. Following that proposal, the Appropriations Committee will begin hearings and deliberations on the legislative budget package.

Additionally, the legislature has begun organizing its committees and working on developing proposed legislation. This work will continue through the end of each individual committee’s final deadlines, which are listed below:

Committee	2019	2020
Aging	3/12/19	3/12/19
Children	3/12/19	3/12/19
Housing	3/12/19	3/12/19
Veterans' Affairs	3/14/19	3/12/19
Banking	3/14/19	3/19/19
Commerce	3/19/19	3/19/19
Higher Education and Employment Advancement	3/19/19	3/17/19
Legislative Management	3/20/19	3/16/19
Public Safety and Security	3/21/19	3/17/19
Insurance and Real Estate	3/21/19	3/19/19
Energy and Technology	3/21/19	3/24/19
Transportation	3/25/19	3/20/19
General Law	3/26/19	3/17/19

Labor and Public Employees	3/26/19	3/24/19
Human Services	3/28/19	3/26/19
Environment	3/29/19	3/25/19
Education	4/1/19	3/23/19
Planning and Development	4/1/19	3/23/19
Public Health	4/3/19	3/27/19
Government Administration and Elections	4/3/19	3/25/19
Judiciary	4/12/19	3/30/19
Finance, Revenue and Bonding	5/2/19	4/2/19
Appropriations	5/3/19	4/3/19

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

Lamont: “Fix This Damn Budget, Once and for All”

Governor Ned Lamont has emphasized that he does not want to be defined by fiscal crisis. The governor has many ideas about how to improve Connecticut’s budget and spending. Lamont will present a new, “balanced” budget in about six weeks. Specifically, the governor plans to invest in an all-digital government. Also, in an effort to attract young people, the governor plans to make urban areas more attractive for families to live and work. So, Lamont wants to focus on schools, safety, and telecommunication.

The governor has many other plans for the future. First, Lamont has proposed tolling out-of-state-truckers. He has also focused on transportation. Lamont has discussed a 30/30/30 plan which would allow: 30 minutes from Hartford to New Haven; 30 minutes from New Haven to Stamford; and 30 minutes from Stamford to Manhattan.

Controversially, Lamont discussed paid medical leave and \$15 an hour minimum wage. This idea sparked criticism from Themis Klarides. Although Klarides thinks that the conversation is valid, she brought up the high cost for administration of about \$20 million. In addition, Republican Party Chairman JR Romano compared Lamonts ideas to Malloy and claimed that he is “trying to be everything to all the people...”

[CTNewsJunkie: Lamont: ‘Fix This Damn Budget, Once and for All!’](#)

Women's Caucus grows to 33% of General Assembly

On Tuesday, The Connecticut General Assembly's Women's Caucus picked its leaders. Out of 61 members, twenty are in their first terms. There are co-chairs from each party such as: Dorinda Borer (D), and Rose Rebimbas (R). Representative Kim Rose was reelected to the House but declined another term as caucus co-chair. The women in the House and Senate make up 33% of membership in General Assembly. This is an increase from 27% last year.

[CT Mirror: Women's Caucus Grows to 33% of General Assembly](#)

Tracked Bills:

There are a number of proposed bills that relate to CRCOG interests, which includes issues such as crumbling foundations and education cost-sharing. Proposed bills are just an idea that has been introduced by an individual or group of members of the House or Senate as opposed to a bill introduced by the chairs or a committee. We will be sure to keep you apprised as these issues develop further.