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Election Cycles



The entire General Assembly is up for election every two years, the next election will be in 2018.

The last election the Republicans picked up additional seats in the House and the Senate, forcing the Senate to adopt a new management structure to deal with the 18-18 tie.

The House is now compromised of 79 Democrats and 72 Republicans. Many believe the 2018 election will be very contentious with Republicans seeking to take the majority.

Legislators are looking for the opportunity to connect with constituents. They are especially interested in companies with a Connecticut presence, whether it be an office space, a manufacturing facility or a renewable project.

Commonly Used Abbreviations

JF Deadline- Joint Favorable Deadline- statutory time in which the committee must vote on a bill or it will die due to non-action

JFS- Joint Favorable Substitute- amendments to the bill while being voted out of committee

Committee Report- a brief summary of the public hearing testimony and previous committee action

Go List- list of bills approved by leadership for a vote on the House Floor

Strike All Amendment- almost all major pieces of legislation are substituted with a strike all amendment right before the vote on the floor in the appropriate Chamber

Pass Temporarily- the bill will likely be voted on that day, but not immediately, may indicate a large amendment is in progress

Pass Retain- The bill will retain its spot on the calendar without being called for a vote

Foot of the Calendar- requires a separate voice vote to be placed back on the Senate calendar, typical a message the bill needs work

OPM- Office of Policy & Management- the Governor's budget writing bureau

OLR – Office of Legislative Research

OFA- Office of Fiscal Analysis, Public Act 17-144 requires the inclusion of a ratepayer statement

LOB- Legislative Office Building



The General Assembly

The General Assembly's session coincides with the State's biennial budget, creating a long session and a short session

Long sessions are held between January and June, at this point any legislator may introduce a bill topic

Short sessions are held between February and May, bills are supposed to be limited to those that deal with the budget or committee proposals, short sessions coincide with election years

All Committees are designated either an A committee or B Committees, which signify their calendars

- A committees meet on Monday, Wednesday, Fridays
- B Committees meet on Tuesday and Thursday

Each Committee has a Senate and House Chair from the Majority Party, a Senate Chair from the Republican Party and a Ranking member from the House Republican Party

The Bulletin provides all the essential calendar information including public hearing dates and times, how to submit testimony, and when sign ups occur. The bulletin will also provide you with a daily calendar, it can be found online and hardcopies are available in the LOB concourse. The Bulletin serves as the necessary public notice for committee meetings and public hearings.

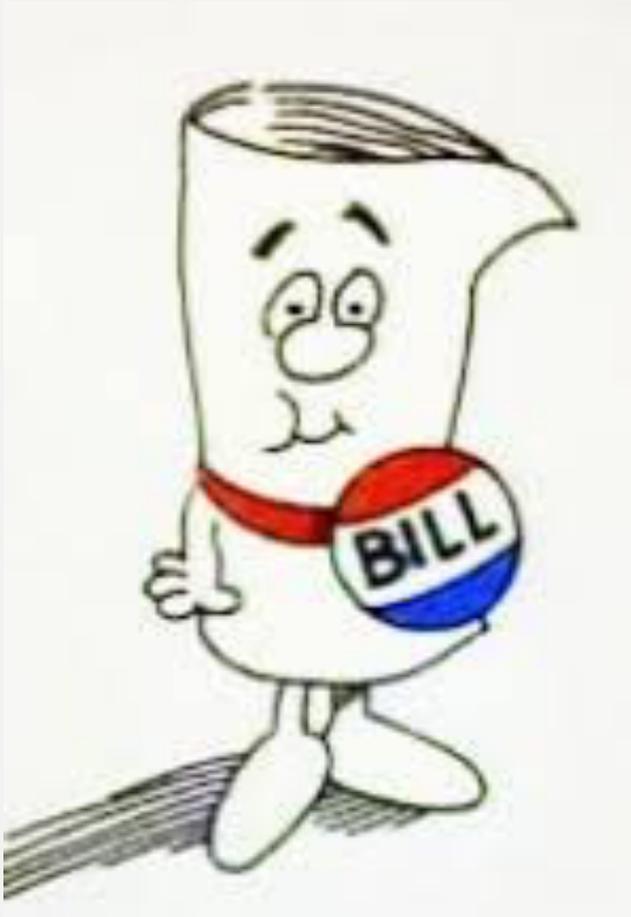
THE BULLETIN



CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
www.cga.ct.gov

2017 Regular Session
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How a Bill Becomes a Law



- ❖ Introducing the Bill
- ❖ Public Hearing
- ❖ JF Deadline/ Committee Vote
- ❖ Committee Referrals
- ❖ Floor Amendments
- ❖ House Procedural Rules
- ❖ Senate Procedural Rules

Introducing a Bill

Typically legislators have a few days after the start of session to introduce any individual proposals, they must submit these proposals to LCO using a provided form, the quick deadline highlights the need to speak to committee leaders before the start of session.

February 9th, is the proposed bill deadline for the 2018 session, the session begins Feb. 7th.

Committees have a few additional weeks to put together their proposals and can raise concepts as a place holder for priorities.

It can take several days for a bill to be fully drafted by LCO and released. There usually is a week period where many of the proposals are released.



Public Hearings

Each Committee has the opportunity to dictate their own rules for public hearings, all hearings must be noticed five days before the hearing in the bulletin.

Sign ups rules for each committee can differ, some use first come first serve, some hear by bill order, and others conduct a lottery. All committees request written testimony to be provided either before sign ups or during sign ups.

Most committees reserve the first hour of the hearing to Public Officials.

All committees limit speakers to 3 minutes of testimony, followed by an unlimited question and answer period, some additional time may be provided to Public Officials.

Legislators will have written testimony in front of them during the hearing, the 3 minutes is an opportunity to cover new ground or reinforce specific points of the written testimony.



***EDUCATION COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017**

The Education Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 10:30 A.M. in Room 2C** of the LOB. Please submit 45 copies of written testimony to the Committee staff at the time of sign-up in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB. Public speakers will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB. Public speakers will be allowed to pick up to three lottery numbers at a time if they wish to sign up more than one person to testify. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery should report to Room 3100 of the LOB; and, will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. Written testimony must be submitted no later than 9:30 A.M. on Thursday, March 16, 2017 to the Committee Staff. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please submit written testimony in Word or PDF format to EDtestimony@cga.ct.gov. Testimony should clearly state testifier name and related Bills. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Elected Officials, State Agency Heads and Students. The time period from 5:30 P.M. until 6:30 P.M. is reserved for School Superintendents. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. Bills will be heard in the order listed in the Bulletin. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

SUBJECT MATTER: Education Bills

*H.B. No. 7255 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL EDUCATION PREDICTABLE COST COOPERATIVE.

*S.B. No. 1008 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION RESULTING FROM RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.

*H.B. No. 7252 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADJUDICATION PROCESS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND THE RIGHT OF PARENTS TO OBSERVE THEIR CHILD AT SCHOOL.

*S.B. No. 1007 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF DATA RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES AND THE INTENTIONAL UNDERBUDGETING OF SPECIAL EDUCATION.

*H.B. No. 7251 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REFORM DISTRICT TURNAROUND PLANS.

*S.B. No. 1009 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION HEARING OFFICERS AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS REGARDING THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION.

*H.B. No. 7254 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS TO COMPLETE A PROGRAM OF STUDY IN EVIDENCE-BASED STRUCTURED LITERACY INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA.

*H.B. No. 7253 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

Committee Vote



After the Public Hearing a bill is eligible for committee vote, there is no specific waiting period.

Some committees may wait till their JF deadline and vote on all their proposed bills in one meeting, other committees have reduced this practice due to the fear of filibusters.

During the committee vote a bill will receive a JF or JFS vote to the floor or as a referral to a different committee.

It is extremely rare for a committee to vote down a proposal, more often the committee will take no action and let the proposal die.

If the committee votes a bill out as a JFS, the substitute language will be made available on the committee's website or a copy may be obtained upon request from the committee clerk. However, the official text of the bill will not appear until it is released as a File Copy, which includes any technical revisions made by LCO, a bill analysis by OLR, and a fiscal note by OFA.

Connecticut General Assembly 2017 Legislative Session -- Deadlines in Joint Rules

 Committee	1	2	3	4	5	6	6a	7	8	9
	Proposed Bill Deadline	Committee Bill Deadline (if no Subject matter PH)	Petition Committee to Draft PB into CB (if no Subject Matter PH)	Raised Bill Deadline	Subject Matter Public Hearing on PB	* Committee Bill Deadline (Subject Matter PH held on PB) (But see Col. 6a)	* Column 6 Adjusted for "A" & "B" Committee Dates	Petition Committee to Draft PB into CB (Subj. Matter PH held on PB)	JF Deadline	Petition Committee to Report Out Bill
A or B	JR 8(a) (Absolute)	JR 9(a)(2)(A) (Absolute)	JR 11 (Col. 2 + 7 days)	JR 9(b)(2)(A) (Absolute)	JR 6(a) (Col. 8 - 21 days)	JR 9(a)(2)(B) (Col. 8 - 17 days)		JR 11 (Col. 8 - 7 days)	JR 15(a) (Absolute)	JR 19, par.1 (Col. 8 + 7 days)
B Aging	01/13/17	01/31/17	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/14/17	02/18/17	02/16/17	02/28/17	03/07/17	03/14/17
A Appropriations	01/13/17	02/15/17	02/22/17	02/15/17	04/06/17	04/10/17	04/10/17	04/20/17	04/27/17	05/04/17
B Banking	01/13/17	01/31/17	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/16/17	02/20/17	** 02/16/17	03/02/17	03/09/17	03/16/17
B Children	01/13/17	01/31/17	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/14/17	02/18/17	02/16/17	02/28/17	03/07/17	03/14/17
B Commerce	01/13/17	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/14/17	02/28/17	03/04/17	03/02/17	03/14/17	03/21/17	03/28/17
A Education	01/13/17	02/08/17	02/15/17	02/15/17	03/06/17	03/10/17	03/10/17	03/20/17	03/27/17	04/03/17
B Energy & Tech	01/13/17	02/02/17	02/09/17	02/14/17	03/02/17	03/06/17	03/02/17	03/16/17	03/23/17	03/30/17
A Environment	01/13/17	02/08/17	02/15/17	02/15/17	03/03/17	03/07/17	03/06/17	03/17/17	03/24/17	03/31/17
A Finance R & B	01/13/17	02/15/17	02/22/17	02/15/17	04/07/17	04/11/17	04/11/17	04/21/17	04/28/17	05/05/17
A GAE	01/13/17	02/15/17	02/22/17	02/15/17	03/08/17	03/12/17	03/10/17	03/22/17	03/29/17	04/05/17
B General Law	01/13/17	02/02/17	02/09/17	02/14/17	02/21/17	02/25/17	02/23/17	03/07/17	03/14/17	03/21/17
B Higher Ed & E.A.	01/13/17	02/02/17	02/09/17	02/14/17	02/28/17	03/04/17	03/02/17	03/14/17	03/21/17	03/28/17
B Housing	01/13/17	01/31/17	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/16/17	02/20/17	** 02/16/17	03/02/17	03/09/17	03/16/17
B Human Services	01/13/17	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/14/17	03/02/17	03/06/17	03/02/17	03/16/17	03/23/17	03/30/17
B Insurance & R.E.	01/13/17	02/02/17	02/09/17	02/14/17	02/23/17	02/27/17	02/23/17	03/09/17	03/16/17	03/23/17
A Judiciary	01/13/17	02/15/17	02/22/17	02/15/17	03/17/17	03/21/17	03/20/17	03/31/17	04/07/17	*** 04/13/17
B Labor & P.E.	01/13/17	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/14/17	02/21/17	02/25/17	02/23/17	03/07/17	03/14/17	03/21/17
Legis. Management	01/13/17	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/14/17	02/22/17	02/26/17	02/24/17	03/08/17	03/15/17	03/22/17
A Planning & Dev.	01/13/17	02/08/17	02/15/17	02/15/17	03/06/17	03/10/17	03/10/17	03/20/17	03/27/17	04/03/17
A Public Health	01/13/17	02/08/17	02/15/17	02/15/17	03/08/17	03/12/17	03/10/17	03/22/17	03/29/17	04/05/17
B Public Safety & Sec.	01/13/17	02/02/17	02/09/17	02/14/17	02/23/17	02/27/17	02/23/17	03/09/17	03/16/17	03/23/17
A Transportation	01/13/17	02/08/17	02/15/17	02/15/17	02/27/17	03/03/17	03/03/17	03/13/17	03/20/17	03/27/17
B Veterans Affairs	01/13/17	01/31/17	02/07/17	02/14/17	02/14/17	02/18/17	02/16/17	02/28/17	03/07/17	03/14/17

* Columns 6 and 6a: Joint Rule 9(a)(2)(B) provides that the Committee Bill Deadline is the JF deadline minus 17 days. As a result, Column 6 needs to be adjusted to reflect that "A" Committees may typically meet only on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, and "B" Committees on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Column 6a makes this adjustment and has the correct dates.
 ** Adjusted due to Washington's Birthday. *** Adjusted due to Good Friday.

The Chamber Vote

The House- In order for a bill to get called in the House it must be include in the GO List, often the Go List will indicate if there is amendment filed.

A bill that has bipartisan support has an easier chance of getting on the Go List.

House Bills start at 7000

The Senate- At the start of each session, the senate marks the calendar, this list of markings is developed with Republicans and Democrats.

The Senate often uses the consent list to quickly address non controversial bills. This is typical for agency proposals and technical changes to a statute.

Senate Bills start at 1

Each Chamber may also refer a bill to another committee



How to Participate in the Process

Bill Proposal- If you have concepts you would like to see raised you should begin the initial outreach before the legislative session begins.

Commenting during public hearings is important, if you can not attend you should try to submit testimony regardless of whether you have a concern or would like to support the proposal.

All written testimony will be available to the public on the CGA website.



After the public hearing there is still an opportunity to influence the bill. Follow up with your local legislators, speak to them about your concerns and provide them with your written testimony.

The Committee then will take action on the bill either amending the bill, approving or killing it.

After the Committee takes action the bill may get referred to other committees of cognizance or be amended on a chamber floor. Even if the committee vote isn't positive there are still opportunities to influence the legislation before the final approval in both Chambers.



How to Prepare for Coming to the Capitol



Know the bill number, title, and where the bill is in the process.

If the bill has already come up for a committee vote, try to keep the vote count handy and determine if it was along party lines.

Bring handouts, they give legislators an opportunity to do more research when they have down time in a committee or while their in Chambers.

Know who your legislator is as well as who represents your employees, these will serve as key people you should initially reach out to, they will have a vested interest in your success.

Remember you can provide key insight to your business, often you may speak with legislators that would have no background knowledge in your field, they will defer to your expertise.

Questions