

MALLOY & ASSOCIATES

189 GEORGETOWN DRIVE
GLASTONBURY, CT 06033

2016 Capital Highlights

Budget

State

SB 501 State Budget. Five things to know about the new budget plan:

1. It counts on a big reduction in the state workforce. A major source of savings – just over \$300 million – comes from cuts to salary accounts in state agencies.
2. Social service programs will be cut – but not by as much as in some proposals – and municipal aid will take a hit. The budget includes cuts to a wide range of social service programs, including grants for mental health and substance abuse treatment, cash assistance for poor state residents, independent living centers for people with disabilities, and school-based health centers.
3. Two major initiatives from last year got cut back. One is a plan to cap motor vehicle taxes in some municipalities, originally it was going to go down from 74.5 mills to 32 mills. In the new budget it goes down to 37 mills, which would be funded by giving cities and towns a portion of state sales tax receipts to offset the loss in property tax dollars. The budget deal would also reduce funds dedicated to transportation infrastructure projects, a major initiative of Malloy's second term.
4. Some of the cuts remain to be determined. Of the almost \$675 million in cuts, more than \$200 million comes from "lapses" – that is, money that doesn't get spent. In other words, the plan leaves it to the Malloy administration to find more than \$200 million in cuts that haven't yet been specified.
5. There's an even tougher budget challenge looming. The backdrop to this year's budget debate has been the question of what comes next: Nonpartisan analysts projected this spring that the 2017-2018 budget would be \$2.1 billion in deficit. That meant that legislators next winter would be grappling with a problem more than twice the size of this year's budget hole.

2016 is an election year for both the House and the Senate. As it stands now the House Democrats have 87 seats and the House Republicans have 64 seats. Senate Democrats have 21 seats and Senate Republicans have 17 seats. Given the close vote in both chambers these numbers may possibly change.

<https://webmail.east.cox.net/do/redirect?url=http%253A%252F%252Fctmirror.org%252F2016%252F05%252F12%252F5-things-to-know-about-the-new-state-budget-plan%252F>

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Hartford

SB 464 AA Establishing the Hartford Financial Sustainability Act. The city's delegation to the General Assembly refused to push the mayor's bill, and the City Council voted 8-1 on to reject a resolution supporting it. The measure died from inaction in the legislature's Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee when the panel declined to take it up at the last meeting before its deadline for reporting out legislation.

For FY 2016, Hartford Mayor Bronin's proposal to involve the state in a fiscal oversight board has failed. Now, he's looking to the unions for concessions.

"We are here today to state proudly and loudly to the public that we have said to the mayor all along that we are prepared to work hand in hand with the city to identify cost saving measures in order to protect the vital public services through the collective bargaining process," said Richard Holton, president of the city's police union.

With deficits that are projected to hit \$48.5 million in 2017, \$69 million in 2018, \$88 million in 2019 and \$97 million in 2020, Bronin says he will need to obtain more than \$12 million in concessions and will still have to shrink the workforce through layoffs. Hartford is in a financial crisis so big, Bronin said, that if both the Police and Fire departments were shut down, the city would still be in debt. The city has a budget of \$533 million, including \$284 million for schools. Its authorized non-education workforce for 2016 is 1,429 full-time positions, including 452 police officers and 356 firefighters.

Bronin has said the city has a structural deficit problem that his predecessors papered over with one-time fixes. But the fixes are all but gone.

At the press conference, State Representative Matt Ritter said Hartford's unions have put a few numbers forward to help the cause.

"I believe that just on preliminary data and conversations, an \$8 to \$12 million target per year is very real and very achievable," Ritter said. But, at a press conference later in the day, Bronin said that won't be enough. Bronin said he took labor leaders at their word that they are ready to negotiate.

Hartford Hospital, Trinity College, the University of Hartford and major non-profits objected to the new taxing authority, while labor leaders complained that Bronin was acting precipitously in seeking to free the city of its labor commitments.

He left little doubt he would be back at the General Assembly next year looking to define the state's financial relationship with its cities, particularly its capital city, where half the property is tax exempt.

<http://ctmirror.org/2016/04/07/in-hartford-mayor-and-unions-step-back-from-the-brink/>
<http://www.courant.com/community/hartford/hc-hartford-capitol-hearing-bronin-bill-0329-20160328-story.html>

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Public Safety

Body cameras will soon be standard operating equipment for all police officers in Connecticut, according to a group of law enforcement and freedom of information experts who participated in a Southern Connecticut State University forum.

While state legislators have said they are willing to revisit a law passed in 2015 encouraging Connecticut police departments to equip officers with body cameras after several police chiefs said the cost of equipping their officers was too prohibitive, no extra money is coming to help with the effort in the near future.

No extra state funds are coming this legislative session to help municipal police use body camera, which are not mandatory but if used will be regulated under a new state law effective July 1. They are relying on financial help to use the body cameras at a loss, mainly because of the cost of storing and retrieving the hours of digital data each camera generates daily recording officers' interactions with the public. Municipalities are claiming that they cannot afford to use body cameras because of the cost and staffing needed to store and retrieve data produced after an officer activates the portable device.

http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/archives/entry/body_cameras_will_become_standard_but_finding_funding_is_still_difficult/

SB 467 AA Concerning Municipal Implementation of Criminal Justice Reforms. This bill prohibits a police officer's use of body-worn recording equipment (body cameras) as required by the statutes from being a subject of collective bargaining. By law, beginning July 1, 2016, body cameras must be used by sworn members of the State Police, UConn and state university system police, and municipal police departments that receive state grants for body cameras. Among other things, the law establishes (1) how officers must wear body cameras and what they must and may not record, (2) procedures to ensure properly functioning equipment, and (3) requirements for retaining data from the cameras. HPU opposed this bill and testified against it in the Judiciary Committee. This bill died in the Senate.

HB 5237 AA Concerning Fair Chance Employment. The state legislature approved a bill that will prohibit most employers from asking about an applicant's criminal history on a job application. Senators voted 35 to 1 to pass the proposal, which had been approved last week by the state House of Representatives. Sen. Rob Kane (R-Watertown) was the only legislator to oppose the bill. The new law, known as "Ban the Box," will prevent employers from inquiring about a candidate's prior arrests, criminal charges or convictions before an interview process begins. Employers such as school districts and law-enforcement agencies, which are required by law to check every applicant's criminal background, would be exempt.

<http://m.ctpost.com/local/article/State-senate-passes-ban-the-box-proposal-7394853.php>

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New Haven is preparing to outfit nearly everyone of its cops with body cameras. But that means figuring out an unintended challenge – how to handle an unexpected flood of Freedom of Information requests for footage. With this new challenge comes a need for new employees to handle the footage, maintenance of the cameras, and the training of officers.

http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/foi_body_cam/

SB 210 concerning Police PTSD was amended to create a fund for police officers who suffer from PTSD from something they witnessed while on the job. This bill died in the House.

HB 5547 AA Concerning the Training Curriculum and Education of Police Officers. Section 1. There is established a task force to examine the education and training of law enforcement officers in the state relative to recognized national best practices.

HB 5411 AA Concerning a DOT highway work zone bill. HPU and the police coalition were able to remove the following requirement concerning the camera recording and monitoring of police officers working a private duty road job by January 1, 2017, the bill requires DOT to establish a pilot program that monitors automated speed enforcement in highway work zones in two or more locations. DOT must report to the Transportation Committee, by January 1, 2018, on its findings, including (1) speed rates and accidents in highway work zones and (2) any recommendations.

Social Issues

HB 5054 AA Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence. The Connecticut Senate voted 23 to 13 for final passage of a bill proposed by Malloy that will require gun owners to surrender their firearms within 24 hours of being served with a temporary restraining order in domestic violence cases. The bill, was passed in the House on a vote of 104 to 42, would enact the same safeguards found in many other states: Firearms also would have to be given up during the pendency of a temporary restraining order. Firearms owners would be entitled to a hearing within seven days. The weapons would be returned if a judge concluded there were no grounds for a permanent order. Opponents said even temporary confiscation of firearms was a violation of due process and Second Amendment rights.

<http://ctmirror.org/2016/05/02/domestic-violence-bill-wins-final-passage-in-senate/>

<http://ctmirror.org/2016/04/28/house-conservatives-lose-battle-to-block-domestic-violence-law/>

Senate Bill 18, part of Gov. Malloy's "Second Chance Society" initiative, would raise the age at which a person is eligible for prosecution as a juvenile from 17 to 20. It would also extend "youthful offender" status — which allows different penalties for young people convicted of certain crimes — to many 18- to 20-year-olds. This bill recognizes that young adults are still developing good judgment and can make remarkably poor decisions. It also avoids "an adult punishment that is very often the first step on a path toward a lifetime of crime and incarceration," Malloy said. This bill did not get a floor vote.

<http://www.courant.com/opinion/editorials/hc-ed-legislature-wrap-0508-20160506-story.html>

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Expansion of Casino Gambling. Casino Study Bill Rejected in Legislative Committee.

<http://www.courant.com/business/hc-commerce-casino-study-bill-20160317-story.html>

SB 447 AA Establishing A Tax Credit for Businesses That Hire Promise Zone Residents or are Located In A Promise Zone. This bill would provide a tax credit for businesses located in, or that hire residents who live in designated Promise Zone neighborhoods. North Hartford received the designation in 2015 and the city of New Haven has applied for 2016 Promise Zone designation.

Under the bill, businesses in the area would receive a corporate tax credit. Employers who hire Promise Zone residents would receive a \$2,500 credit for each new employee.

HB 5270 AA Concerning Right to Try Experimental Drugs. Under specified conditions, this bill allows certain terminally ill patients to access medications not approved for general use by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The bill applies to investigational drugs, biological products, or devices (hereinafter "investigational drugs") that have completed Phase 1 of an FDA-approved clinical trial and are still part of the clinical trial. To qualify, patients must complete a detailed informed consent document and meet other eligibility criteria. Even if a patient is eligible, manufacturers of investigational drugs are allowed but not required to provide them.

Transportation

House Joint Resolution 1 failed, which would have put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November to guarantee that money set aside for transportation funding remains in a "lockbox." A constitutional amendment would have made it much more difficult for legislators to raid the Special Transportation Fund for filling budget holes. Given the deteriorating state of Connecticut's roads and bridges, a secure fund is needed; repairs can't wait. The bill got off to a good start, with favorable reports from committees, but it never made it to a vote in the House, dooming it. This bill died.

House Bill 5514 AA The DMV and Automatic Voter Registration, which authorizes a study on how to get the state Department of Motor Vehicles to register residents to vote when applying for licenses and — here's the hard part — transmit that information to local registrars of voters, hopefully by Jan. 1, 2018. Why is that so hard? Because the DMV is having so much trouble managing its current motor voter program (among other things) that it's under investigation by the Justice Department for noncompliance with federal laws. It's sad that the best the state can hope for is that by 2018, the DMV will have its computer problems worked out so that it can perform this civic duty.

Michael Bzdyra is the new Commissioner of the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

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Bottle Bill

SB 326 was amended to say, (d) In addition to the refund value of a beverage container, a distributor shall pay to any dealer or operator of a redemption center a handling fee of at least [one] three and one-half cents for each beverage container of beer or other malt beverage, [and two cents for each beverage container of] mineral [waters] water, soda water and similar carbonated soft drinks or noncarbonated beverage returned for redemption. A distributor shall not be required to pay to a manufacturer the refund value of a nonrefillable beverage container. "

<https://webmail.east.cox.net/do/redirect?url=https%253A%252F%252Fwww.cga.ct.gov%252F2016%252Ficoamd%252F2016LCO06141-R00-AMD.htm>

Senate Bill 422, grew out of harsh reaction to a plan by the Metropolitan District to sell up to 1.8 million gallons of water a day to Niagara Bottling, a California-based company building a plant in Bloomfield. The bill passed the Senate last week in a 24-11 bipartisan vote but faced an uphill battle in the House amid heavy lobbying and was never brought to a vote there.

The bill would have limited the amount of water that commercial bottling companies can withdraw from Connecticut sources for sale out of state and regulate what those companies are charged for the water and sewage treatment.

Rep. Baram, a co-sponsor to the bill, said the work done this spring will yield results down the line, saying, "This is going to propel us to a comprehensive policy".

<http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-niagara-water-bill-dead-0429-20160428-story.htm>

