

Memorandum

To: Justin Carbonella Scott Cochran Barbara Lockhart
Michelle Piccerillo Erica Bromley Mary Seidner
Kristin Mabrouk Kristina Baldwin

From: Jay Aronson

Date: May 7, 2021

Re: Legislative Update

This Week at The Capitol:

Budget negotiations are taking place behind closed doors between Legislative Leadership and the Governor's office. The Governor, in no uncertain terms, has stated that he will not sign the tax package as it was passed out of the Finance Committee. He has a hard time understanding why taxes should be raised on anyone when the state is currently flush with money. Democrats key on the word currently, as one of the reasons the state is in the black right now, is because of the influx of federal dollars. They say it will not last and are preparing for the not-so-distant future. For their part, Legislative Democrats are beginning to question the Governor's Democratic credentials. With regard to the budget, the Speaker says he believes everything will work itself out...however, it may get very bumpy between now and final passage before the June 9th Constitutional deadline.

On Monday, the Finance Committee amended SB 326, AA Prohibiting the Sale of Flavored Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products. LCO#7847 (not currently on the website) was a strike all amendment that places the Governor's original language from HB 6450, the Governor's Public Health recommendations bill and moves it into 326, which originally addressed banning vaping flavors but did not deal with flavored cigarettes and tobacco products as 326 *did*. The move was a matter of revenue. There would have been over \$100 million in tax revenue lost had the bill been passed without the change. The new fiscal note shows a much smaller revenue loss for the Governor's language. The bill now moves back to the Senate for further action.

Also, on Monday the Appropriations Committee dealt with a 67 bill agenda. Not all of the bills made it and died in Committee. However, SB 2, AAC Social Equity and the Health, Safety and Education of Children, did make it and was sent back to the Senate for further action.

The House was in session on Tuesday and went late into the night/morning. The first really late session of the year, it won't be the last. Of note, the House referred HB 6667, AAC the Recommendations of the JJPOC and HB 6669, AAA Juveniles and Motor Vehicle Theft Investigators of Certain Pending Juvenile Matters and Reporting of Requests to Detain Arrested Juveniles to the Appropriations Committee for further review. I expect the Committee to debate both bills on Monday.

Not to be outdone, the Senate went into session on Wednesday at 2pm (after an 11a.m. call (Senate time)) and adjourned at 4:30...a.m. They tackled five major issues and the last one of the night/morning was SB 2. The bill was brought out by Sen. Anwar who explained the bill and offered LCO #8095 and was designated Senate Amendment A. After about two hours of debate, the amendment passed on a roll call vote. You can find the amendment here: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/amd/S/pdf/2021SB-00002-R00SA-AMD.pdf> You can also read the OLR plain language summary of the amended bill here: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/BA/PDF/2021SB-00002-R01-BA.PDF> One of the key pieces of the legislation is that it requires the Office of Child Advocate to administer an evidence based youth suicide prevention training program in coordination with each local or regional health department. YSBs have been added as a participant.

The House was back in session on Thursday but did not act on anything of importance for YSBs.

As always, please contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or concerns about these or any other Legislative matters. Also, please share this information with your members as you see fit.