

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - MAY 3, 2024**

**SENATE DEMOCRATS' PRIORITY BILLS ADVANCE:** On Thursday, the Senate passed SB 1 - An Act Concerning the Health and Safety of Connecticut Residents as amended by [Senate Amendment Schedule "B" \(LCO 5369\)](#). The legislation creates a framework for health care systems to have resiliency when dealing with cyber-attacks; creates a NASH (nonalcoholic steatohepatitis) task force to address those individuals with the disease; requires certain insurance policies to cover coronary calcium scans; establishes working groups to examine pediatric hospice services and staff safety issues for home health agencies; and requires the Department of Public Health to operate and maintain a Parkinson's disease registry. The bill passed with a vote of 34-1.

Senate Bill 5 - An Act Concerning School Resources, as amended by [Senate Amendment Schedule "A" \(LCO 5277\)](#) was passed unanimously on Thursday. The bill, among other things: expands eligibility for the Care 4 Kids program to include parents or guardians of children who are enrolled in Medicaid; permits the Department of Social Services and Office of Early Childhood to enter into a memorandum of understanding for the purpose of cross sharing certain Medicaid enrollment data; authorizes the Department of Education to administer a wholesome school meals pilot program to improve the quality of school meals; and creates a working group to examine and make recommendations related to HVAC systems in schools.

Both pieces of legislation proceed to the House for its consideration.

**HOUSE DEMOCRATS' PRIORITY BILLS ADVANCE:** On Monday, the House of Representatives passed HB 5001 - An Act Supporting Connecticut Seniors and the Improvement of Nursing and Home-Based Care, as amended by [House Amendment Schedule "A" \(LCO 4772\)](#). Among other things, the bill evaluates and expands supports and services for seniors by establishing a Department of Social Services home care provider registry and data processing system; and expands the scope of Department of Education family resource centers and Department of Children and Families parent education and support centers to include resources, programs, and services for nonparent caretaker relatives/legal guardians. The legislation passed in a vote of 143-3.

HB 5003 - An Act Concerning Child and Family Nutrition, as amended by [House Amendment Schedule "A" \(LCO 4968\)](#) was passed unanimously on Tuesday. The bill ensures that children and families have increased access to all available nutrition programs in the state. The bill requires multi-state agency collaboration to develop a plan to streamline cross enrollment of children receiving HUSKY A in WIC, SNAP, and the CT Farmers' Market WIC; permits the Department of Education and Office of Early Childhood to share data to increase participation in various federal food programs; and requires the Department of Social Services to update its SNAP benefit administration system to allow for staggering of benefits.

On Wednesday, HB 5004 - An Act Concerning the Implementation of Certain Climate Change Measures, as amended by [House Amendment Schedule "A" \(LCO 4989\)](#) was passed with a vote of 94-56. Among other things, the bill declares there is a climate crisis in the state; establishes greenhouse gas emissions reduction/zero carbon goals; and requires PURA to electronically

publish publicly available data regarding certain energy programs, energy storage projects in the state and metrics related to the affordability of electric distribution companies' services.

All pieces of legislation advance to the Senate for further action.

**SESSION - ITEMS PASSED BY THE SENATE:** The Senate has passed various pieces of legislation thus far this week including SB 202 - An Act Concerning the Department of Consumer Protection's Recommendation Regarding Prescription Drug Control; SB 416 - An Act Concerning the Conversion of Commercial Real Property for Residential Use; SB 183 - An Act Implementing the Recommendation of the Department of Motor Vehicles; SB - An Act Concerning Illegally Passing a School Bus; and SB 292 - An Act Concerning the use of PFAS in Certain Products.

**SESSION - ITEMS PASSED BY THE HOUSE:** The House of Representatives has also passed numerous bills including HB 5458 - An Act Concerning Homelessness; HB 5198 - An Act Concerning Telehealth; HB 5320 - An Act Concerning Hospital Financial Assistance; HB 5150 - An Act Concerning Cannabis and Hemp Regulation; HB 5235 - An Act Concerning the Department of Consumer Protection's Recommendations Regarding Cannabis Regulation; HB 5422 - An Act Concerning Hate and Bias Crimes; HB 5508 - An Act Concerning Recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee; SB 395 - An Act Concerning the Reporting of Medical Debt; SB 181 - An Act Concerning Emergency Department Crowding; and SB 222 - An Act Concerning Changes to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Statutes.

Both chambers are considering legislation today and will likely convene tomorrow.

**CONSENSUS REVENUE UPDATE:** On Tuesday, the Office of Policy and Management ("OPM") and the Office of Fiscal Analysis ("OFA") provided their consensus revenue estimates for the current biennium budget and for the following three years. Please see [OPM/OFA Consensus Revenue Figures](#) and [OFA Budget Projections](#). In a statement from State Comptroller Sean Scanlon (found [here](#)), the current figures provide for a \$256.7M General Fund surplus and a \$280.6M Special Transportation Fund surplus which is an increase of \$170.3M from the previous month's estimation. "The April consensus revenue forecast further demonstrates our state remains in strong fiscal shape", said Mr. Scanlon.

**NEXT WEEK:** The House of Representatives and Senate will convene Monday through Wednesday next week.