



January 16, 2017

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CAPITOL UPDATE NEWS

Check your inbox every Monday for your **Capitol Update** in the CBA's *Weekly Docket* during this year's legislative session (January 4 - June 7). Visit ctbar.org/capitolupdate to view the latest newsletters and videos.

Capitol Update Newsletter

Each week, the Capitol Update Newsletter you have come to know and love will provide a recap of the past week at the Capitol and the Legislative Office Building as well as what to expect during the coming week.

Capitol Update Video Series - New

Stay current as the CBA's legislative lobbyist, Bill Chapman, guides you through the 2017 legislative session with latest news, interviews, CBA position updates, and more in a brief video each week.

THE LONG SESSION

The Legislative Session commenced on January 4, 2017 and will end at midnight on June 7, 2017. With an approximate \$1.4 billion deficit that changes weekly, the session will focus attention on state employee contracts, pension, transportation, education funding, municipal costs and funding with questions of regionalization, and economic incentives. The CBA will continue to watch funding for the judicial branch.

CHANGES FOR THE 2017 LEGISLATURE

Three of the caucus leaders remain the same with Sen. Martin Looney (D-New Haven) as the president pro tempore, Sen. Len Fasano (R-North Haven) as the Republican president pro tempore, and Rep. Themis Klarides (R-Derby) as the House minority leader. The House Democratic leadership includes the new Speaker of the House, Joe Aresimowicz (D-Berlin) and new Majority Leader, Rep. Matt Ritter (D-Hartford). Only the speaker is not an attorney.

There have been changes in both chambers. With the first session day, resignations of Sen. Eric Coleman (for a probable judicial appointment) and Sen. Rob Kane (for republican state auditor), there is no majority but rather a 17-17 standoff until the February 28 special elections for those two Senate seats. Most likely we will have an 18-18 standoff after those special elections. In the

House, the majority has again lessened with Republicans gaining seats over the past few elections from 36 seats to 44 to 64 and now at 72 Republican seats to the majority's 78 seats. Rep. Steve Dargan handed in his resignation for a state appointment on the parole board. His West Haven replacement will also be elected on February 28.

Each legislative committee has increased its leadership by adding a Republican senate co-chair and a senate vice chair. Each committee now has an equal number of senate members from each caucus. There will be a strong suggestion to each caucus member to be present at committee meetings and especially to meetings when the Senate and House are in session. In the House it is only necessary to flip four votes.

Of the 36 senate members, seven are attorneys. In the 152-member House, there are ten Democrats who are attorneys, and 15 Republican attorney legislators. Not all of them are full-time practitioners.

JUDICIAL REAPPOINTMENTS

This past week was active with the initial public hearings for judicial reappointment. Each judge who has been approved by the legislature for an eight-year term, and if reappointed by the governor, returns to a vetting process before the Judiciary Committee. If that judge is approved by the committee, their appointment is brought to the House and the Senate for their approval. In 2017, there are 34 judges for reappointment. A ten-hour hearing for 14 judges was held on January 11, followed by a three-and-a-half hour hearing for 12 judges on January 13, 2017. All judges, including senior judges, were approved by the committee. They will be presented to both chambers for approval on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. There will be another hearing for the remaining ten judges very shortly. There is speculation that the governor will be appointing a number of new judges.

The judges being presented to the Legislature for approval are:

To be a Superior Court Judge:

Hon. Salvatore Agati
Hon. Elizabeth Bozzuto
Hon. Mary-Margaret Burgdorff
Hon. Robert Devlin
Hon. Kevin Dubay
Hon. Bruce Hudock
Hon. Corinne Klatt
Hon. Douglas Mintz
Hon. Jose Suarez
Hon. Vernon Oliver
Hon. Sheila Ozalis
Hon. Philip Scarpellino
Hon. William Wnezel
Hon. Dawne Westbrook

Hon. Glenn Woods

To be a Senior Judge:

Hon. Gerard Adelman

Hon. Joseph Flynn

Hon. Richard Gilardi

Hon. Flemming Norcross

Hon. William Sullivan

Hon. Stanley Fuger

Hon. Susan Handy

Hon. Kevin McMahan

Hon. Patty Jenkins Pittman

Hon. Jane Scholl

Hon. Patricia Swords

CBA LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (LPRC)

The LPRC is meeting weekly (if necessary) through the end of the session to discuss section requests for legislative positions for possible recommendations for CBA authorization. Jonathan Shapiro is the LPRC chair and the LPRC consists of another 12 CBA members.