



February 7, 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.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

On Wednesday, February 8, 2017, the governor will address a joint meeting of the General Assembly to present his budget for 2017/2018. He will offer his ideas, and for the next couple of months the four caucuses will discuss, through the Finance Committee and the Appropriations Committee, ways to move the budget forward. The proposed deficit, unless adjusted, stands around \$1.4 billion for 2017/2018 and \$1.6 billion in 2018/2019. There may be an \$8.7 million surplus for this year at this time.

The governor will be proposing to shift \$407 million, one-third of the cost of municipal teacher pensions, to the cities and towns next year. He will also be eliminating the \$200 tax credit for those making less than \$75,000 per year. This will have a \$105 million affect. This credit had recently been a \$500 credit and a \$300 credit for those making more; however, they were also eliminated in prior administrations.

In the past fiscal year, the state provided \$975.6 million into the retired teacher pension. In this upcoming fiscal year (7-1-17), the state is slated to spend \$1.3 billion.

Regarding pensions, there will be an attempt to share labor costs and union concessions will still be on the table for discussion.

The Connecticut Business and Industry Association suggests:

- Accelerating the transition of the elderly from nursing homes to home-based care
- Delivering more services by technology
- Rehabilitating more non-violent offenders in the community

THE SUPREMES

On February 1, the governor nominated Gregory D'Auria of Hebron to the vacant seat on the Connecticut Supreme Court left by the resignation of Justice Peter Zarella. For the past 23 years, Attorney D'Auria has worked in the Attorney General's Office as an associate attorney general. He worked under Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, heading the Special Litigation and Charities Department before becoming solicitor general under Attorney General George Jepsen.

Attorney D'Auria's hearing should be within the next two weeks. At a similar time, the hearing to reappoint the remaining ten judges, including Justice Palmer, who will be vetted for reappointment, will occur. And for the first time family court magistrates will come before the Judiciary Committee for approval.

IN SESSION

The General Assembly was in session on February 1 in order to approve a number of executive nominations. Nominations included the Republican Auditor and former State Senator Rob Kane, and new Public Utilities Regulatory Authority Chair Katie Dykes.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, February 6, 2017

10:30 a.m. - Public Health Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

11:00 a.m. - Commerce Committee Meeting

12:30 p.m. - Energy and Technology Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m. - Human Services Committee Meeting

1:15 p.m. - Housing Committee Meeting

2:00 p.m. - General Law Committee Meeting

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Monday, February 6, 2017

12:30 p.m. - [Transportation Committee](#) Public Hearing

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

- 10:00 a.m. - [Aging Committee](#) Public Hearing
- 10:00 a.m. - [Committee on Children](#) Public Hearing
- 10:00 a.m. - [Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee](#) Public Hearing
- 12:00 p.m. - [Insurance and Real Estate Committee](#) Public Hearing
- 1:00 p.m. - [Energy and Technology](#) Public Hearing
- 1:30 p.m. - [Housing Committee](#) Public Hearing
- 2:00 p.m. - [Human Services Committee](#) Public Hearing
- 2:30 p.m. - [General Law Committee](#) Public Hearing

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

- 2:00 p.m. - [Environment Committee](#) Public Hearing

Thursday, February 9, 2017

- 10:00 a.m. - [Committee on Children](#) Public Hearing
- 11:00 a.m. - [Public Safety and Security Committee](#) Public Hearing
- 12:00 p.m. - [Labor and Public Employees Committee](#) Public Hearing

Friday, February 10, 2017

- 10:30 a.m. - [Public Health Committee](#) Public Hearing