

2024 PRIMER ON HEALTH POLICY ADVOCACY IN CONNECTICUT

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PART 1: CONNECTICUT'S GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE –
IN BRIEF (pp. 2-17)

PART 2: CONNECTICUT'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND CALENDAR (pp. 17-25)

PART 3: MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS (pp.
25-37)

PART 4: SOME TOOLS TO HELP YOUR STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY (pp.
37-42)

PART 1: CONNECTICUT'S GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

Like the federal government, Connecticut has 3 branches – Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

A. EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Constitutional Officers. Connecticut's Executive branch includes the six “constitutional officers” who are elected in a statewide election every *four* years: the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of the State, the State Treasurer, the State Comptroller, and the Attorney General. For their roles, responsibilities, and various reports/studies generated by their offices see: <http://portal.ct.gov/Government/Departments-and-Agencies/Constitutional-Offices>.

In November 2018, all six constitutional offices were on the ballot and only the Secretary of the State and State Comptroller sought re-election. The other four offices were “open” with *many* potential candidates jockeying for their parties' nomination and most seeking the requisite number of small donations to qualify for *public* funding for their campaigns under Connecticut's Citizens' Election Program (<https://seec.ct.gov/Portal/CEP/CEPLanding>). In the end, all six Democratic candidates won.

In the November 2022 election the Secretary of the State, the State Comptroller, and the State Treasurer did not seek re-election while the other three statewide officeholders – Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General – *did* and all three were re-elected. Now, all six constitutional offices again are held by Democrats.

On health and healthcare-related issues, the primary “players” among the six current constitutional officers in 2024 are:

- The Governor (Ned Lamont) who – with the assistance of the Lieutenant Governor (Susan Bysiewicz) - prepares the proposed state budget, generates policy initiatives, and appoints the Commissioners of the state agencies (with legislative approval) and provides oversight of their work.
- The State Comptroller (Sean Scanlon) who manages the state's fiscal books and purchases health insurance for state employees and retirees. Past State Comptrollers have used that power to help reform health care and pharmaceutical pricing and delivery, www.osc.ct.gov. The “OpenConnecticut!” website (www.osc.ct.gov/openCT) provides public access to extensive data on all the state's public expenditures.
- The Attorney General (William Tong) who represents the state in litigation brought by and against the state including, now, litigation challenging pricing of generic pharmaceuticals, deception in marketing of opioids, Clean Air Act violations and more (<http://portal.ct.gov/ag>).

The Secretary of the State (Stephanie Thomas) maintains CT's eRegulations system (<https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/>) where one can find the regulations of all state agencies (<https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/RCSA>) as well as the proposed

regulations on which state agencies are seeking public comment (<https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/ProposedRegulations>).

For example, as of January 1, 2024, the CT Department of Public Health is seeking comment on its proposed regulation on nursing home staffing ratios, with its public comment period running from February 13, 2024 to March 14, 2024. See: <https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Search/RMRView/PR2022-032>.

In January 2022, the CT Department of Labor proposed regulations concerning the Connecticut Family and Medical Leave Act, with comments due by February 28, 2022. CT DOL then issued its Final Approved Regulation on August 3, 2022. See: <https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Search/RMRView/PR2021-041>.

The Secretary of the State's office also publishes the CT State Register and Manual (known as The Bluebook), a very comprehensive manual that provides extremely helpful background on all our current (and past) federal, state, and local elected and appointed officials, state politics and much more. For the most recent Manual (2023), see: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/2023-bluebook.pdf>

State Departments and Agencies. There are several dozen state departments and agencies. Those most important to health, healthcare and public health include:

- **Office of Policy and Management** (www.ct.gov/opm) - responsible for developing the Governor's budget and budget revisions and helping to develop and coordinate state policy across the state agencies. The work of the Health and Human Services Planning Division (<https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/PDPD/PDPD/Policy-Development-and-Planning-Division>) and the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (<https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/CJ-About/CJ-About/About-the-Division-Page-2019>) are of particular relevance to public health.
- **Office of Health Strategy** (<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS>) was established in 2018, merging in this one umbrella agency the staff, responsibilities, and resources of a variety of health-related planning, monitoring, and oversight initiatives, including the Healthcare Cabinet, the Health Enhancement Community Initiative, Health Systems Planning and the Certificate of Need Program, the Health Information Technology Office, and the All Payers Claims Database. OHS also is authorized by statute to collect certain health care data to carry out its mandates and to release such data to the public (including researchers, policy makers, and consumers) in usable formats (though sometimes with restrictions). In this way, OHS (which resides within CT DPH for administrative purposes only) provides the state with integrated, competent leadership in the state's efforts to promote equal access to healthcare while improving its quality and containing its costs.
- **Department of Public Health** (www.ct.gov/dph) - responsible for population health surveillance, licensing of health care professionals and facilities, safe drinking water, maternal and child health programs, immunization programs and more. Its

website's sections "Topics A to Z," "Statistics and Research" and "Publications" contain much useful information.

- **Department of Social Services** (www.ct.gov/dss) – responsible for the state's Medicaid/SCHIP programs [known as "HUSKY"], long-term care, and a wide range of safety net services including food, cash, and fuel assistance and much more.
- **Department of Children and Families** (<http://portal.ct.gov/DCF>) - responsible for providing services to children who have been abused or neglected or who have unaddressed behavioral health needs, as well as for providing needed preventive services.
- **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services** (www.ct.gov/dmhas) - responsible for publicly funded adult mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention services.
- **Office of the Healthcare Advocate** (www.ct.gov/oha) – an independent watchdog agency that helps healthcare consumers with health plan selection, assists Connecticut patients who are aggrieved by healthcare insurers in enforcing their health care rights, and identifies and works to address systemic problems in health care access.
- **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection** (www.ct.gov/deep) - responsible for improving and protecting the state's natural resources and environment (including by regulating air emissions, wastewater discharges, and hazardous wastes) and increasing the availability of cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy.
- **Department of Consumer Protection** (www.ct.gov/dcp) - responsible for protecting residents from fraud, unfair business practices, and physical injury from unsafe products and services, operation of the state's medical marijuana and prescription monitoring programs and more.
- **Department of Correction** (www.ct.gov/doc) – responsible for providing a safe custodial setting and health care to persons confined in the state's jails and prison, for discharge and re-entry programs and services, for MAT (medication-assisted treatment) programs, and more.
- **Department of Developmental Services** (www.ct.gov/dds) - responsible for assisting persons living with developmental disabilities with housing, day programs, employment services, and other programs and services that provide lifelong support to them, and their families
- **Department of Housing** (www.ct.gov/doh) - responsible for programs and services to reduce homelessness, affirmatively further fair housing, and improve the

supply of affordable, healthy, and safe housing including through the HOME Investment Partnership Program.

- **Office of the Child Advocate** (www.ct.gov/oca) – an independent watchdog agency responsible for investigating and reporting on child fatalities, monitoring and evaluating the quality of care being provided by all public and private agencies charged with the protection of children (in foster care, child care, juvenile justice, treatment), assessing the conditions of confinement in facilities in which children are placed, and reviewing state agency policies, procedures and practices to ensure they adequately protect and promote the best interests and rights of children, and particularly those children whose well-being is most at risk.
- **Office of Early Childhood** (www.ct.gov/oec) – established in 2013 to coordinate and improve the state’s early childhood programs (including the Birth-to-Three early intervention program, the early childhood special education program, licensing of child care providers, and the Care4Kids child care subsidy program). Its goal is creating and supporting a cohesive high-quality early childhood system.
- **Department of Administrative Services** (www.ct.gov/das) - responsible for all the business operations of state government, including procurement, personnel, state property and all IT.

The leaders of these departments (generally called Commissioners) are appointed by the Governor and approved by the General Assembly.

Also, a quasi-public agency important to health policy. work is Connecticut’s state Health Insurance Exchange - AccessHealth Connecticut (<https://www.accesshealthct.com>)

Making your voice heard in state agency policymaking. State agencies are responsible for implementing state laws and helping to assure compliance with them. Because the General Assembly enacts laws that can be fairly broadly worded, it grants state agencies the authority to adopt regulations that can provide far greater specificity about precisely what is required of those who are subject to the law and/or what is to be provided to those who are the law’s beneficiaries.

In adopting such regulations, state agencies must comply with the requirements of Connecticut’s Uniform Administrative Procedures Act (Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 4-166 *et seq.*). This process is one *key* tool for making your voice heard when regulations are proposed, for it:

- Requires the state agency – except in emergencies – to give at least 30 days advance notice of its proposed rulemaking through the state eRegulations system, <https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/>
- Requires that the notice include, among other details, the content of the proposed regulation and when, where, and how interested people can present their views about it
- Permits you – in this public comment period – to submit written comments on the proposed regulation (including such information as relevant research and data, your

views on the proposed regulation, and your proposed changes to its text). You can also request that the agency hold a public hearing on the proposed regulation

- Requires the agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed regulation if at least 15 persons, or one of the state's governmental subdivisions or agencies, requests it
- States the agency "shall consider fully all written and oral submissions respecting the proposed regulation." (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-168 (b))
- Requires the agency, at the close of the public comment period, to post on the eRegulations system a notice describing whether the agency has decided to move forward with the proposed regulation. If it decides to move forward, it also must post on the eRegulations system a "statement of the principal reasons in support of its intended action as well as its reasons for rejecting public statements of opposition to the regulation"
- Requires the agency to distribute its response to all comments on the proposed regulation to all those who submitted comments [Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-168 (e)]
- Requires the agency to submit the regulation to the Regulation Review Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, which must review and approve any regulation proposed by a state agency before it can become effective. This step helps assure that the regulations are consistent with the legislature's intent when it adopted the statute, and do not conflict with current state and federal statutes and constitutions.
- If approved by the Regulations Review Committee,¹ the proposed regulation takes effect only after it has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State and is posted upon on the eRegulations system.

In addition, Connecticut law allows you to *petition* a state agency to adopt a regulation, or to amend or repeal an existing regulation (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-174). Within 30 days, the agency then must either deny the petition in writing – stating in writing its reasons for the denial - or initiate the regulation-making process as outlined above in Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-168.

B. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Membership. Connecticut's legislature - the Connecticut General Assembly (www.cga.ct.gov) - has 187 members: 36 in the Senate and 151 in the House of Representatives. All members serve 2-year terms, so all were on the ballot in the November 2022 election and will be again this coming November 5, 2024. Because members' campaigning cannot begin until the Session ends, this places an additional time pressure on the current "short" legislative Session.

Unlike the ten states with legislatures that meet throughout the year (e.g., CA, MA, MI, NY, PA)², the Connecticut General Assembly is not in Session year-round – in odd-numbered years it meets from early January to early June and in even-numbered years from early

¹ Connecticut's "Regs Review" Committee is structurally bipartisan – with a membership of 14 (6 senators and 8 representatives, divided equally by party). Further, the chairmanship of the Committee changes every two years (alternating a Senate Democrat and House Republican as co-chairs with a Senate Republican and House Democrat as co-chairs).

² For some background on how different state legislatures operate, see: https://ballotpedia.org/States_with_a_full-time_legislature

February to early May. For this reason, its legislators are said to be “part-time” and most hold outside jobs.

For *two decades*, salaries for regular legislators were set at just \$28,000/year with small supplements for those in leadership positions and some funds for expenses. This limited *who* could afford to run for office.³ On January 4, 2023, pay for state legislators and statewide constitutional officers was finally increased. Now, the base annual pay for rank-and-file legislators is \$40,000 (up from \$28,000), \$52,000 for the House Speaker and Senate President pro tem, \$50,000 for majority and minority leaders, and \$44,000 for committee co-chairs and ranking members. Pay also is now pegged to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Employment Cost Index.

Political Balance of Power. As shown in the table below, the balance of power within the General Assembly has shifted in recent years. Between the elections of 2008 and 2016, the Democrats lost 35 of their House seats and 5 of their Senate seats, bringing the Senate to an 18-18 tie (with the Democratic Lt. Governor then becoming the tie-breaker) and just a 7-vote margin in the House. The 2018 election restored both chambers of the General Assembly to Democratic control – with the Democrats winning 23 Senate seats of the 36, and 92 of the 151 House seats. In the 2020 election, the Democrats retained control of their Senate and House majorities but lacked *veto-proof* majorities (to override a Governor’s veto, one needs 101 votes in the House and 24 votes in the Senate). In the November 2022 election, the Democrats picked up an additional seat in both the House and the Senate.⁴

	Senate Seats	House Seats
2009-2010		
Democrat	24	114
Republican	12	37
2017-2018		
Democrat	18	79
Republican	18	72
2019-2020		
Democrat	22	92
Republican	14	59
2021-2022		
Democrat	23	97
Republican	13	54

³ In the words of Rep. Doug Dubitsky (one of the more conservative members): “It makes it incredibly difficult for regular people in a diversity of jobs to do this. That’s why we are over-representative of lawyers, independently rich people, retired people and adults living in their parents’ basement. And that’s what we’ve got here.” <https://ctmirror.org/2022/05/03/ct-house-approves-raises-for-lawmakers-statewide-officers/>

⁴ While there were 98 Democrats elected to the House in the November 2022 election, two did not take the oath of office (anticipating other jobs) and one (Rep. Quentin Williams) was tragically killed in a wrong-way driver accident returning from the Governor’s inaugural ball. Special elections were held to fill these three seats on February 23, 2023, and all three seats remained Democratic. On January 23, 2024, a special election to fill the seat vacated by a state representative from West Haven (who was elected Mayor in the November 2023 election) kept this seat in Democratic hands.

2023-2024		
Democrat	24	98
Republican	12	53

Turnover in House and Senate Membership. Although there has been relatively little change in party composition in each chamber in recent years, there *has* been some dramatic turnover in who is serving. The 2022 election is brought eight new Senators (5 Democrat, 3 Republican) and 28 new Representatives (17 Democrat, 11 Republican) into the General Assembly, continuing a trend of rapid turnover. Since 2018 more than half the House seats and nearly two-thirds of Senate seats have turned over, and in some cases more than once.

There also has been an increase in the number of women serving in the General Assembly. In 2021, 54 women served in the House and 9 in the Senate. In 2023, there were 57 women in the House (37 Democrat and 20 Republican) and 12 women in the Senate (10 Democrat and 2 Republican). Connecticut's national standing in the percentage of women serving in the state legislature has fallen from 8th highest to – in 2023 - 16th highest (at 37.4%).⁵

Committees. The General Assembly does much of its work through twenty-two joint standing Committees and three statutory Committees. They have jurisdiction over different subject matters and state agencies.

Important point: Unlike Congress, each General Assembly Committee is composed of *both* Senators and Representatives. As a result, testimony at a public hearing on a bill is heard simultaneously by both House and Senate members of the Committee. If the bill passes with a majority vote, it then comes out of its Committee as a “Joint Favorable” (JF) bill. This is a far more efficient process than that of Congress since it eliminates the need to reconcile the text of separate House and Senate bills.

Committee membership. The leadership of each party determines the membership of each of the Committees (e.g., Republican leadership in the House and Senate decide to which Committees the Republican members of the House and Senate are assigned and Democratic leadership does the same). There is no set limit on the number of Committees on which a Senator or Representative may sit. That said, because there are far fewer Senators than Representatives, Senators tend to serve on many more Committees than do Representatives, in some cases as many as six or seven.

Committee leadership. For all key Committees except the Legislative Regulations Review Committee (discussed earlier), there is a House and a Senate Co-Chair, each selected by the leadership of the party in power in that chamber. In addition, each Committee has a Ranking Member elected by the minority party's leadership. For the 2023-4 Sessions, the Committees' leadership and assignments can be found at:

- Senate Democrats: <http://senatedems.ct.gov/docshr/pdf/SD-23-Chair-Assignments-by-Committee-12-9-2022.pdf>.

⁵ <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/levels-office/state-legislature/women-state-legislatures-2024>

- Senate Republicans: <https://ctsenaterepublicans.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Committee-Assignments-2023-2024.pdf>.
- House Democrats: <https://www.housedems.ct.gov/leadership>
- House Republicans: <https://www.cthousegop.com/committees/>

The Co-Chairs carry much responsibility for managing and prioritizing the Committee's business. Reaching agreement on these matters was more difficult in the 2017-2018 Session – a Session in which – because of a 18-18 tie in Senate membership - the Committees had three co-chairs instead of two: a House Co-Chair, a Senate Republican Co-Chair, and a Senate Democratic Co-Chair. Subsequently, the Democratic party won control of both houses so could select both Co-Chairs. That remains the case in this 2024 Session.

Committees working on public health/health-related issues. The key committees related to public health and health are:

- **Public Health Committee** (www.cga.ct.gov/ph/) - oversees all programs and matters relating to the Department of Public Health, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Developmental Services, the Office of Health Care Access, as well as other matters relating to health, including emergency medical services, all licensing boards within the Department of Public Health, nursing homes, pure food and drugs, and controlled substances.
- **Human Services Committee** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/hs/>) - oversees all programs and matters relating to the Department of Social Services (DSS), including healthcare programs (such as Medicaid and CHIP) and the many other safety-net programs and services under DSS jurisdiction, as well as the Department of Aging and Disability Services.
- **Insurance and Real Estate Committee** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/ins/>) - oversees all programs and matters pertaining to the Insurance Department and to insurance of all types (including health insurance) and to real estate law.
- **Appropriations Committee** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/app/>) - oversees all programs and matters relating to state government spending (through appropriations) and the budgets of state agencies, the adoption or expansion of state mandates to local governments, as well as matters relating to state employees' salaries, benefits and retirement, teachers' retirement and veterans' pensions, and collective bargaining agreements for all state employees.

Other Committees that can often consider public health-related bills, including those that impact the social determinants of health. Listed in alphabetical order (not any order of particular importance), they include:

- **Aging Committee** (www.cga.ct.gov/age/) - cognizance of all programs and matters relating to senior citizens, including the Department of Aging.

- **Children's Committee** (www.cga.ct.gov/kid/) - all programs and matters relating to children, including the Department of Children and Families.
- **Education Committee** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/ed/>) – cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Education, the Office of Early Childhood and the Technical Education and Career System, and school building projects, local and regional boards of education, the substantive law of collective bargaining covering teachers and professional employees of such boards, vocational rehabilitation, and libraries, including the State Library, museums and historical and cultural associations.
- **Energy and Technology Committee** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/et/>) – cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection that pertain to energy planning and activities.
- **Environment Committee** (www.cga.ct.gov/env/) - cognizance of all programs of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection that pertain to conservation, recreation, pollution control, fisheries and game, state parks and forests, water resources and flood and erosion control; and matters relating to the Department of Agriculture, including farming, dairy products and domestic animals.
- **General Law Committee** (www.cga.ct.gov/gl/) - cognizance of all programs and matters relating to the Department of Consumer Protection, fair trade and sales practices, consumer protection, mobile homes, occupational licensing (except licensing done by the Department of Public Health) and all matters relating to alcoholic beverages.
- **Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/hed/>) - has cognizance of all matters relating to the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Office of Higher Education, and to public and independent institutions of higher education, private occupational schools, post-secondary education, job training institutions and programs, apprenticeship training programs and adult job training programs offered to the public by any state agency or funded in whole or in part by the state.
- **Housing Committee** (www.cga.ct.gov/hsg/) - cognizance of all programs and matters related to housing and housing programs, including the CT Department of Housing.
- **Judiciary Committee** (www.cga.ct.gov/jud/) - cognizance of all matters relating to the Judicial Department, the Department of Correction and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities; all matters relating to courts, judicial procedures, criminal law, probation, parole, wills, estates, adoption, divorce, bankruptcy, civil and corporate law, claims against the state, and more; all judicial nominations, nominations of workers' compensation commissioners, nominations of members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles; and all bills carrying civil penalties which exceed

the sum of, or which may exceed in the aggregate, five thousand dollars; and all bills carrying criminal penalties, other than infractions, that are favorably reported by any other committee.

- **Labor and Public Employees Committee** (www.cga.ct.gov/lab/) - cognizance of all programs and matters relating to the Labor Department, as well as workers' compensation, unemployment compensation; conditions of employment, hours of labor, minimum wages, industrial safety, occupational health and safety, labor unions and labor disputes; and all matters relating to conditions of employment of state and municipal employees, and the substantive law relating to state and municipal employees' collective bargaining.
- **Planning and Development** (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/pd/>) - cognizance of all programs and matters related to local governments, housing, urban renewal, fire, sewer and metropolitan districts, home rule, planning and zoning, regional planning and zoning, the State Plan of Conservation and Development, and economic development programs impacting local governments.
- **Public Safety and Security Committee** (www.cga.ct.gov/ps/) – cognizance of all programs and matters relating to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, civil preparedness and homeland security, state police, the state-wide organized crime investigative task force, municipal police training, fire marshals, the fire safety code, the state building code, and legalized gambling. Gun control bills often start in this Committee.

Other Committees: The other Committees in the General Assembly are: Banking; Commerce; Executive and Legislative Nominations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; Government Administration and Elections; Internship; Legislative Management; Regulation Review; Transportation, and Veterans Affairs. To see which Senators and Representatives serve on which Committees, see:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/bul/SupDoc/comassignment.htm>

Committee Scheduling. Because there are so many Committees, it is common for a State Senator to be in the leadership of several Committees (e.g., a Co-Chair, a Vice-Chair, or Ranking Member) and to also serve on *other* Committees.

For example, in one Session, Senator Saud Anwar has served on as many as *seven* Committees: Senate Co-Chair of the Children's Committee; Vice-Chair of the Housing, the Insurance & Real Estate, and the Public Health Committees; and a member of the Appropriations, the Judiciary and the Planning and Development Committees. Representatives also may serve on multiple committees. Since each Senator has just one staff person for all legislative and constituent work, and four Representatives must share a staff person, the legislators' workload is huge.

To manage the business of these Committees given these concurrent assignments, the "A" Committees schedule their meetings and hearings on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays, while the "B" Committees schedule their meetings and hearings on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- **“A” Committees:** Appropriations, Education, Environment, Finance/Revenue/Bonding, Government Administration & Elections, Judiciary, Planning and Development, Public Health, and Transportation.
- **“B” Committees:** Aging, Banking, Children, Commerce, Energy and Technology, General Law, Higher Ed, Housing, Human Services, Insurance, Labor, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs.

Rules and Deadlines. As mentioned earlier, the General Assembly operates on a two-year cycle (biennium). Each biennium, the House and Senate agree on rules for the biennium’s two Sessions, adopting rules for each chamber of the General Assembly as well as Joint Rules for the body as a whole. See: www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/rules.asp.

Also, deadlines for the Committees to complete their work in reporting out bills differ. They are set out in a chart adopted at the start of each Session. For Committee deadlines for this Session, see: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/lco/docs/Committee%20Deadlines%20Chart.pdf>

Where does the power lie when trying to get the CGA to pass a bill? The leadership of the House and the Senate, as well as the Co-Chairs of the various Committees, have significant say over which of the many proposed bills and issues are raised for a public hearing, which bills then are brought to a vote in Committee, and which bills – once placed on the House and Senate calendar – will be brought before the full bodies for a vote.

Having at least one “legislative champion” - someone who is highly respected within the General Assembly who views your bill as of highest priority – typically is critical to getting a bill passed into law. However, having a “champion” typically is not sufficient. One also needs the support of the relevant Committee chairs, House and Senate leadership, as well as – ultimately - sufficient support among members of the General Assembly to get a majority to vote “aye” on your bill and the Governor’s support to sign it (or, if the Governor vetoes the bill, the support of two-thirds of the members of the House and the Senate is needed to override the veto).

Other important entities in the General Assembly. The nonpartisan offices and the party caucuses also play important roles in legislative process.

The General Assembly has several *nonpartisan* offices to assist members of the General Assembly in their work:

- ***Legislative Commissioners Office (LCO)***(www.cga.ct.gov/lco/) – serves as the legal counsel to the members and committees of the General Assembly. Staffed by attorneys admitted to practice law in Connecticut, it is responsible for: drafting the bills and amendments that express legislative intent in clear, concise and constitutionally-sound language; providing advice on statutes governing the General Assembly; issuing confidential opinions about legal issues to members and committees; and reviewing proposed state agency regulations. It also is responsible for publishing various legislative documents (e.g., the public and special acts of each session), revising the Connecticut General Statutes by codifying recently enacted Public Act language, preparing legislative histories, and other like services. The Office is under the supervision of two

Commissioners – one a Democrat and one a Republican, each appointed by the General Assembly for staggered four-year terms. Each LCO attorney is assigned to one or more legislative committees to provide advice on applicable federal and state laws and regulations, on case law impacting the committees’ jurisdiction, and on rules of procedure.

- **Office of Legislative Research (OLR)** (www.cga.ct.gov/olr/) - assists the General Assembly by providing accurate, timely and objective research, policy analysis and assistance in developing legislation. OLR assigns one or more researchers to each General Assembly Committee (except the Appropriations and Finance Committees). OLR staff help the Committee develop legislation, screen bills, brief legislators on issues, and answer questions. OLR also prepares research reports and answers questions when requested by individual legislators and legislative staff, writes plain language summaries of bills (and proposed amendments to them) once sent to the floor of the House and Senate, and of public acts once statutes are finally adopted. OLR also prepares:
 - End-of-session summaries of bills that were adopted, organized by original committee of cognizance⁶
 - “Major Issues” reports (e.g., its *2024 Major Issue* report previewing the upcoming 2024 Session)⁷
 - “Backgrounder” reports (e.g., *Connecticut’s Good Samaritan Law*,⁸ *Connecticut’s Opioid Drug Abuse Laws*,⁹ *State-Mandated Health Insurance Benefits*¹⁰) and
 - And much, much more.

Reports written by OLR since 1991 are archived on its site - www.cga.ct.gov/olr/ - which has a handy “OLR Document Search” box at its top.

- **Legislative Library** (<https://wp.cga.ct.gov/lib/>), a part of OLR, provides nonpartisan assistance to General Assembly members and staff by maintaining and providing training on legal and research tools, maintaining the library and its collection of current and historical legislative materials, federal statutes, Connecticut case law, legislative task force reports, OLR research reports and more. It has created multiple Subject Area Research Guides, arrayed by Committee, that provide links to very helpful policy research sources including OLR-produced reports, national sources, and more (<https://wp.cga.ct.gov/lib/research-guides/>), as well as links to publicly-accessible research databases. Its Twitter feed sends out links to newly released reports by national groups.
- **Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA)** (www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/) – provides General Assembly members with independent, accurate, and timely information to help them make budget

⁶ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/olrpasummarybookonline.asp>

⁷ www.cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/MI/2024MI-20240117_Major%20Issues%20for%202024.pdf

⁸ www.cga.ct.gov/2024/rpt/pdf/2024-R-0009.pdf

⁹ www.cga.state.ct.us/2023/rpt/pdf/2023-R-0235.pdf

¹⁰ www.cga.ct.gov/2023/rpt/pdf/2023-R-0246.pdf

decisions and understand the fiscal impacts on state and local governments of legislation that is under consideration. Its staff provides support to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the Appropriations Committee, as well as to state agencies but does *not* directly support other Committees (as OLR and OFA staff do). OFA staff also prepare analyses and reports on the Governor's proposed budget/budget revisions, and fiscal notes on all bills with fiscal impacts on state and/or municipal government that have been sent to the floor of the House or Senate. At the end of each Session, OFA publishes the OFA Budget Book which is the final budget/budget revisions as adopted by the General Assembly.¹¹ OFA also produces Fiscal Accountability Reports¹², the Connecticut Tax Expenditure Report¹³, reports on bonds and grants, revenue forecasts, data on historical state spending, and more.¹⁴

Other nonpartisan entities that are part of the General Assembly and support its work are:

- The ***Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity*** (<https://wp.cga.ct.gov/cwcseo/>) with its six sub-commissions:¹⁵ Women's, Children's, Senior's, African-American Affairs, Asian-Pacific American Affairs, and Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs. Its mission is to inform and engage policymakers about the needs of these communities, bringing a "data driven, cross-cultural approach to policy innovation" and being a source for best practices and trusted information.
- The ***Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health***, <https://wp.cga.ct.gov/creph/> was established by PA 21-35 in the 2021 Session to make recommendations to decrease the effect of racism on public health and create a strategic plan to eliminate diverse health disparities and inequities. It is a 28-member Commission with an Executive

¹¹ For the biennial budget passed in the 2023 Session: www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/BB/2023BB-20231005_FY%2024%20and%20FY%2025%20Connecticut%20Budget.pdf

¹² See, e.g., OFA. Fiscal Accountability Report FY24 -FY28 (November 20, 2023), https://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/FF/2024FF-20231120_Fiscal%20Accountability%20Report%20FY%2024%20-%20FY%2028.pdf

¹³ OFA, Connecticut Tax Expenditure Report (2022) (which shows the very substantial tax revenues *not* collected because of tax deductions, exclusions, rate reductions and tax credits), www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/TER/2022TER-20220201_Tax%20Expenditure%20Report%20FY%2022.pdf,

¹⁴ The CT Department of Revenue Services also produces revenue analyses at the direction of the CT General Assembly. For example, the CGA has directed DRS to do tax incidence analyses, i.e., look at the share of all state and local taxes paid by different types of taxpayers (by income/wealth; by family composition). The first tax incidence study (in 2014) found that the *share of income* the poorest households in the state paid in state and local taxes was *three times* the share paid by wealthier households.

<http://ctstatefinance.org/resources/uploads/files/Tax-Incidence-Report-2014.pdf>. A second report, in 2022, confirmed this finding. DRS is to do a third report to examine the combined impact of even more state and local taxes, focusing on the share of income paid in state and local tax by the very wealthiest to the share paid by families with children and the magnitude of Connecticut's "tax gap" – the difference between the tax due the state and the tax that is actually collected. See, <https://ctmirror.org/2023/07/14/ct-tax-fairness-study/>

¹⁵ There were once six *separate* Commissions with their own staffs and Boards of Directors. In 2019, bylaws establishing the framework for this new Commission with its six sub-commissions were adopted (<https://wp.cga.ct.gov/cwcseo/about/bylaws/>).

Director and very small staff. In December 2023 it issued a very powerful report: *Dismantling Structural Racism within Connecticut State Government*.¹⁶

- **The Connecticut Law Revision Commission** (<https://cga.ct.gov/lrc/>) assists the Judiciary Committee and other legislative and executive bodies on specific revision proposals and solicits the expertise of numerous state legal authorities in arriving at its consensus on recommendations.
- The **Auditors of Public Accounts** (<https://wp.cga.ct.gov/apa/>) serve as the “legislature’s eyes and ears in state and quasi-public agencies” determining “whether the agencies are following laws, regulations, internal policies or prudent business practices,” “whether they are following federal requirements on major federal programs” through its work on the Statewide Single Audit and “whether state programs or systems are operating efficiently and effectively through our performance audits and program reviews.” The office also receives and reviews whistleblower complaints from state employees and the public to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. The office is under the direction of two state auditors – one Republican, one Democrat – who are appointed by the General Assembly. It has a staff of more than one hundred including many certified public accountants, certified information system auditors, certified internal auditors, and certified fraud examiners. Its many audit reports of state agencies can be found at: <https://wp.cga.ct.gov/apa/audits/reports/>

From 1972 to 2017, there also was an Office of Program Review and Investigation in the General Assembly. It too was a non-partisan office with a full-time professional staff charged with reviewing and auditing state agency programs for their efficiency, effectiveness, performance and compliance with law. From 1972 through 2016 it issued multiple reports, and shared its findings with the PR&I Committee (a committee that no longer exists). This Committee would then make recommendations for administrative and/or statutory changes to improve the performance of any state agency(ies) under review. PRI’s many studies are immensely helpful for history on the agencies and topics studied and can be found at: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/pri/studies.asp>

Party Caucuses. There are four party caucuses: the Senate Democratic Caucus (www.senatedems.ct.gov), the Senate Republican Caucus (<http://ctsenaterepublicans.com>), the House Democratic Caucus (www.housedems.ct.gov), and the House Republican Caucus (www.cthousegop.com). The leadership of each Caucus hires *partisan* professional staff (“caucus staff”) to assist leadership and other Caucus members on substantive policy and legal issues, communications, and constituent casework. The partisan staff of each caucus includes some combination of: a chief of staff, chief legal counsel, senior policy director, director of legislative services, and communications director (although the precise titles may differ). At the start of the legislative session, the Caucuses may release their policy agendas setting out their legislative priorities. During the Session, each Caucus meets as a group periodically to discuss pending bills, legislative strategy, and other matters of importance to the Caucus.

¹⁶ <https://wp.cga.ct.gov/creph/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Dismantling-Structural-Racism-in-Connecticut-State-Government-CREPH-December-2023.pdf>

NOTE: Part 3 of this Guide provides much detail about how to make your voice heard in the CT General Assembly's legislative process.

C. JUDICIAL BRANCH

Connecticut's Judicial Branch. Connecticut's Judicial Branch (www.jud.ct.gov) includes its system of state courts which handle all civil and criminal cases: the Superior Courts (trial courts), its Appellate Court, and the Connecticut Supreme Court as well as the Probate Courts (which handle estates, and cases involving children, seniors, persons with mental illness and adults with intellectual disabilities). The Judicial Branch also has responsibility for children in the juvenile justice system (previously held by the Department of Children and Families). Its Court Support Services Division (CSSD), www.jud.ct.gov/CSSD/default.htm, oversees pretrial services, family services, probation supervision of adults and juveniles, as well as juvenile residential services including Juvenile Detention. It also administers a network of state-contracted community providers that deliver treatment and other support services to justice-involved persons.

The courts' role in making law. The primary way in which the Judicial Branch contributes to the evolution of state public health law is through the courts' interpretation of specific words in state and federal statutes, and its rulings on the constitutionality of state statutes, policies and practices. The written opinions in cases that come before our courts are also considered the law of the State of Connecticut. For example, the Connecticut Supreme Court in *Remington Arms v. Soto*, 202 A.3d 262 (Conn. 2019), decided that firearm manufacturers and distributors could be held liable for the harm done to the young children killed in Sandy Hook, CT, despite a federal law (the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Firearms Act) that had been adopted to preempt such suits. The Connecticut Supreme Court's decision was based on its interpretation of a narrow exception in that statute. The United States Supreme Court's decision *not* to review the Connecticut Supreme Court's ruling meant the litigation families brought against the firearm manufacturers and distributors could continue.

In a case involving state *constitutional* law, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996),¹⁷ that the existence of extreme racial and ethnic isolation in a Connecticut public school system deprives its school children of the substantially equal educational opportunity required by the Connecticut Constitution and requires the legislature to take affirmative responsibility to remedy this wrong. By comparison, in *CCJEF v. Rell*, 327 Conn. 650 (2018), that Court held that the resources distributed by our state's school financing system were sufficient to provide a requisite minimally-adequate education as required by the Connecticut Constitution, despite evidence of large gaps in educational achievement between students of different incomes and/or races/ethnicities. See: www.jud.ct.gov/external/supapp/Cases/AROCr/CR327/327CR19.pdf.

Making your voice heard in litigation. The most common ways in which the voices of public health professionals are heard in courts are as expert or lay witnesses (where they present testimony, under oath, to the trial court judge and/or a jury) or through the filing of

¹⁷ <https://cca-ct.org/sheff1996decision.pdf>

an “amicus curiae” (friend of the court) brief. An “amicus” brief is a legal document written by someone other than the “parties” to the litigation (i.e., persons directly involved in the litigation) and submitted to the court to offer important information, expertise, or insights that have a bearing on the issues in the case.

In some cases, public health professionals may become a “party” in the litigation. For example, they may be plaintiffs who are suing to address a legal wrong or to enforce their public health powers (e.g., the director of the New Haven Department of Health seeking to enforce a public health order to abate a nuisance that is harming residents’ health). Or they may be defendants in litigation brought against them (e.g., in litigation brought by Connecticut residents quarantined after working in Africa to curb the Ebola epidemic, the Commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Public Health was sued for having issued the quarantine order without proper justification). Public health professionals may also see ways in which law is not being enforced, or being enforced unfairly, and reach out to those being harmed and to legal counsel to initiate needed litigation.

PART 2: CONNECTICUT’S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & CALENDAR

A Two-year Legislative Cycle

The Connecticut General Assembly has a two-year cycle. The Session right after state elections (i.e., in odd numbered years) is the “long” session. The 2023 “long” Session began on January 4, 2023 and ended on June 7, 2023. The long session is dedicated to adopting the biennial (2-year) budget, among other matters.

The following Session (in even numbered years) is the “short” session and focuses on needed budget and policy revisions. In 2024, it begins on February 7 and ends on May 8. Adjustments are be made to the state budget, among other matters.

In the long session, legislators can introduce as many proposed bills as they want on as many topics as they want. However, in the “short” session, the state constitution and the CGA’s rules limit the introduction of bills and resolutions to only: a) an individual legislator’s proposed bills *so long as* they relate to budgetary, revenue and financial matters; b) bills that are raised by the General Assembly’s different Committees; and c) bills relating to matters certified by the Senate President Pro Tempore and the House Speaker to be of an emergency nature (“*e-cert*” bills); and d) the Governor’s bills.

Important point: In Connecticut, *all bills die when each year’s Session ends.* That is, bills introduced in the long Session that fail to be enacted by midnight of its last day are not carried over to the short Session. Rather, they must begin the legislative process anew (hence the General Assembly’s nickname, the “Cinderella” legislature).

Bill Types

While all legislation starts out as a bill, bills have different names based on *how* they originated and their current status in the legislative process:

- **Proposed Bill.** A “proposed” bill is a bill written in informal, non-statutory language. Commonly introduced by an individual legislator, it expresses what the legislator would like the Committee to consider for legislation on a particular topic (e.g., “An Act to Ban Flavors in E-cigarettes”). Proposed bills on a particular topic may result in the Committee to which they are referred choosing to hold a “subject matter” public hearing to gather lots of information relevant to the topic from the public and subject matter experts. Proposed bills are *screened* by the Committee to decide which, if any, should be drafted into formal statutory language and become a Committee Bill (see below). Those that do not survive screening may just die, or the concept in the bill may be included in a Raised Bill or as an amendment to a related bill.
- **Committee Bill.** If the Committee to which a “proposed” bill is referred decides to draft the bill’s concept into formal statutory language, the bill – once drafted – is then called a “Committee Bill.” The Committee can incorporate ideas from one or more “proposed” bills into a single Committee bill.
- **Raised Bill.** A Committee can vote to have a bill on any subject within the Committee’s cognizance drafted into formal statutory language. It need not be based on any specific proposed bill. Because a Raised Bill has far greater detail than a proposed bill, the testimony at its public hearing will be more focused and complete and may well include suggested amendments to the bill as written.
- **Governor’s Bill.** The “Governor’s bills” are bills drafted in formal statutory language before their transmittal to the General Assembly. These bills, like all others, require public hearings to progress through the process. While nothing *requires* legislative/committee leadership to hold a public hearing on one of the Governor’s bills, most receive hearings as a matter of courtesy.¹⁸
- **Emergency Certified [“e-cert”] bill.** This special type of bill, drafted by LCO in formal statutory language, is certified by the Senate President Pro Tempore and House Speaker to be of an emergency nature. It does not go through the normal committee review process (public notice, public hearing, votes) but can proceed directly to the House and Senate floor for a vote.

Legislators may “sign on” to Proposed Bills as sponsors to indicate their support for the bill. That said, it is the Committee Bills, Raised Committee Bills, and the Governor’s Bills that have greater weight in the legislative process since they have the backing of a Committee and/or the Governor.

¹⁸ A 2001 study by the Office of Legislative Research found that 582 bills were introduced by the Governor in the 1993 through 2001 Sessions (1993 being the earliest date for which data were available) and the General Assembly committees failed to schedule public hearings on 51 of these bills. The number *not* scheduled ranged from 14 in 1993 to 0 in 1997 and 1998. OLR. Public Hearings on Governor’s Bills. Report 2001-R-0398 (April 5, 2001).

A bit more about “e-cert” bills. “E-cert” bills, historically, were typically budget-implementer bills. That is, once the state budget was adopted, this bill was presented quickly to the General Assembly for a vote since its language amended state law to be consistent with the changes made by the new budget. For example, if the newly-enacted state budget included state funds to expand Medicaid eligibility to a particular group of undocumented state residents, the state’s Medicaid statute would need to be amended to reflect this wholly state-funded expansion in Medicaid eligibility.

More recently, the e-cert process has been used for other purposes. For example, after the December 14, 2012 mass killing at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, an emergency certified bill – An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children’s Safety – was quickly passed. It made extensive changes to Connecticut’s state firearms law, enacted security measures for its schools, and expanded mental health services and insurance coverage (Public Act 13-3).

In the 2021 Session, in addition to the budget implementer bill (Public Act No. 21-2, June Special Session), there were six other emergency certified bills. They addressed topics as diverse as “incentives for qualified data centers to locate in the state” (HB 6514), “creating a respectful and open world for natural hair” (HB 6515), “a highway user fee” (HB 6688), and “medical assistance for children and adults without health care coverage” (HB 6687, which expanded eligibility for state-funded medical assistance to certain persons “regardless of immigrant status”).¹⁹

Moreover, there is increasing use of e-cert bills nick-named “aircraft carriers.” They include not only changes needed to conform state statutes to the new budget, but *many* other changes to state law, including some that are wholly unrelated to the budget as well as ideas that may have died in committee only to be resurrected in this bill. The bill also can include so-called “rats” (i.e., changes in law favored by particularly powerful special interests that may never have had a public hearing). Typically, e-cert bills are presented with just hours for legislators to read them before having to vote on. The 2021 budget implementer bill (P.A. No. 21-2, June Special Session) is an example of this:

EX: On June 15, 2021, in a specially-called June Session, the bill – all 790 pages of it – was presented to the House and approved that same day with three amendments. It was debated by the Senate the next day and approved June 17, 2021. OLR’s *summary* of this bill was 327 pages! (See: www.cga.ct.gov/2021/BA/PDF/2021SB-01202-R02SS1-BA.PDF).

Bill Components²⁰

Bills in the CT General Assembly typically have the following parts:

¹⁹ For a summary of the provisions of HB 6687, see: <https://cga.ct.gov/2021/sum/pdf/2021SUM00176-R02HB-06687-SUM.pdf>.

²⁰ For more detail see: CT Legislative Commissioners Office. About Bills: The Legislative Bill Process (undated), <https://www.cga.ct.gov/lco/resources-aboutbills.asp>

- **Bill number** – is assigned to each bill by the House or Senate Clerk after the Clerk of the committee of cognizance submits it for filing. Bills introduced by a Senator get a Senate bill number and bills introduced by a Representative a House bill number. Senate bill numbers run from Senate Bill (SB) 1 to SB 5000, while House bill numbers run from House Bill (HB) 5001 to HB 9999. This number *does not change* through the legislative process even though its substance may change.
- **LCO number** – is a unique computer-generated number placed on *any* legislative document that the Legislative Commissioners Office (LCO) produces (such as a proposed amendment to a bill, but not a Joint Favorable Substitute bill voted out of Committee). The *unique* LCO numbers help to distinguish between different versions of bills (as the bills retain their numbers through the review process) and help keep track of proposed or adopted amendments to bills (as each would have a unique LCO number).
- **Title** - a concise statement that puts readers on notice of the bill's subject. Since the content of a bill may change as it moves through the process, the title may change also. The bill number, however, will remain the same (unless the bill becomes an amendment to another related bill).
- **Enacting clause** - provides the legal authority under which the law is enacted. The specific wording is required by the state constitution: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened."
- **Statement of Purpose** – included in each bill while the bill is still in Committee. It cannot exceed 150 words, describes what the bill proposes to do, and appears at the bottom of the bill's text. Neither this statement of purpose nor the bill title is dispositive in questions of statutory interpretation; only the bill's text has such significance. The statement of purpose is removed from the bill when the bill is voted out of the committee to which it is first referred.

Short titles and **preambles** are *not* considered a part of Connecticut bills as they are in Congress, with rare exceptions.

Connecticut's Legislative Process.

As illustrated in the graphic How a Bill Becomes a Law (www.cga.ct.gov/html/bill.pdf), there are multiple steps through which a bill must successfully pass before it becomes a law. Indeed, many Capitol veterans will speak of there being "but one way to pass a bill, and dozens of ways to kill it." In 2021, for example, concepts and content from 168 bills were ultimately included in a total of 58 new Public Acts.²¹ By comparison, in 2020, because the pandemic brought the General Assembly to an early close, only 14 bills became law.

While many bills (hundreds in the long session) are proposed each Session, relatively few are enacted. They must survive the long process of public hearings, multiple committee votes

²¹ Office of Legislative Research. *Summary of 2021 Public Acts*, https://cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/PASUMBK/2021PASUMBK-20211025_Summary%20of%202021%20Public%20Acts.pdf. Office of Legislative Research. *Summary of 2022 Public Acts*, https://cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/PASUMBK/2022PASUMBK-20221006_Summary%20of%202022%20Public%20Acts.pdf.

and possible amendments in committee, and final compromises through amendment when on the floors of the House and Senate for a final vote. The basic steps in this process are as follows:

- ***Title and number.*** Bills are sent to the clerk of the chamber of the sponsoring legislator. Each is given a bill title and unique number. Senate bills are numbered from 1 to 5000 (i.e., SB 1 - SB 5000). House bills are numbered from 5001 to 9999.
- ***Bill publication.*** The bill title, number, and the names of all sponsors are printed in the House or Senate Journal (the printed daily record of House and Senate proceedings).
- ***Bill referral.*** The bill is referred to the joint standing committee that has primary jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill. Note, however, that the Committees' areas of "cognizance" are not clearly defined. There can be some substantial overlap, for example, between topics the Public Health Committee is to consider, and those considered by the Human Services and/or Environment Committees. While the Committee co-chairs generally dictate the Committee's review process for a bill, it is the role of screening committees (discussed more fully below) to determine the path each bill must take once it is voted out of its first committee.
- ***Committee action on the bill.*** As discussed earlier, the Committee, upon receiving a bill, may: a) vote to have a proposed bill drafted into legal language (with or without a subject matter public hearing); b) vote to combine a proposed bill with other bills; c) refer the bill to a different committee; or d) take no action, killing that bill. The Committee also can decide to write its own bill on a topic, or any other topic in its jurisdiction (a "raised committee bill," as discussed above). For more detail, see: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/lco/resources-aboutbills.asp>.
- ***Public hearings.*** In Connecticut, there is *only one public hearing* on each bill. Every Committee holds a public hearing on the bills that have been referred to it, or that the Committee has developed, and that – by majority vote of the Committee – it has decided merit a public hearing. At these hearings, state agency officials, municipal officials, and legislators typically testify first, and then representatives of business, non-profits, and the members of the public. One can get a good sense of the positions of those in favor and against a bill in the first several hours of a hearing.
 - Notice of the public hearing on a bill must be given in the Calendar at least five *calendar days* before the hearing. That is, for a hearing on a Tuesday, notice may be given as late as the Friday before because that Friday counts as day 1 and the hearing day as day 5.
 - Typically, individuals have just 3 minutes to present their oral testimony. One can provide lengthier written testimony to the Committee.
 - Witnesses may testify for or against the bill (in whole or in part) and may also propose changes to the bill.
 - Written transcripts of the hearing, as well as all written testimony that is submitted, are posted on the Committee's website and become part of the

bill's legislative history. Written testimony *from prior years' hearings* is archived and available through each Committee's website.

NOTE: The Committees differ in how they conduct the signup process for those who wish to testify, how they conduct their hearings (e.g., all testimony on one bill, then all testimony on the next bill OR testimony can be given on any bill in any order) and how and when written testimony is to be submitted. Each Committee's preferred procedure is described in the hearing's Bulletin announcement, **so be sure to read the Bulletin announcement so your testimony is properly submitted.**

- **Deciding which bills to bring to a vote.** Sometime after the public hearing, the Committee Co-Chairs meet with other Committee members to discuss the bills and decide which of the bills that had a public hearing they will bring to a vote in the committee.
 - If - based on testimony given at the hearing or otherwise received - Committee members believe that some substantive changes should be made in the text of the bill, substitute bill language will be prepared. OLR staff also help identify needed bill amendments based on their *legal* analysis of it. It is easier to amend a bill at this early stage, than later.
- **Committee vote.** Members of the Committee then vote. If the Committee, by majority vote, approves the bill as originally written, it issues a "JF" (Joint Favorable) report on the bill. If it approves the bill but with some substitute language, its report is a "JFS" (Joint Favorable Substitute) report. If there are too few votes to pass the bill, it dies in Committee (although some or all of the text *may* be offered later as an amendment to a bill on a related topic, and that remains under consideration in this, or other Committees).
 - NOTE: Substitute bill language can be a minor, technical change or a complete re-writing of the bill (a so-called "strike all" amendment, in which *all the text of the original bill is eliminated, and entirely new text substituted*). In either case, it is called a JFS.

When a bill is reported out of Committee, its Clerk prepares a JF (or JFS) Report that summarizes the Committee's actions, how Committee members voted, and provides a brief summary of testimony given in favor and against the proposed bill.

- **Next steps.** A bill that is JF'd or JFS'd can be sent straight to the floor of the General Assembly (to the House if a House bill and to the Senate if a Senate bill). Alternatively, it can be sent to another committee (a "change of reference").
 - Each caucus (Senate Democrats, Senate Republicans, House Democrats, House Republicans) has a "screening" committee²² that decides the course a

²² Leadership of each caucus appoint its screening committee members. There is no fixed size for the committee, its meetings are not public, and its members not listed publicly. Its meetings are staffed by the caucuses' staff.

bill must take through the legislative process, i.e., which committees must review and vote on the bill.²³

- Even if the first Committee to hear a bill sends it straight to the floor of the House or Senate, the responsible screening committee may decide instead that the bill should be referred to a different committee with subject matter jurisdiction, and the bill instead be referred to that committee (e.g., if the bill requires an expenditure of money, it could be sent to the Appropriations Committee if it had not already been voted on in that committee).
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Such referrals are one tool that leadership can use to kill a bill without asking caucus members to take politically difficult votes for (or against it). By referring the bill to multiple committees with an increasingly tenuous connection to its content, one can kill the bill by “running the clock,” since all bills die at midnight on the last day of the Session.
 - When such a bill is referred to a new committee, there is NO public hearing on it. Rather, committee members review the text of the bill as sent to them, read testimony for and against the bill that was provided at the bill’s sole public hearing and hear arguments for and against the bill through meetings and communications with lobbyists, advocates, constituents and others, and then decide whether to vote the bill out of their committee. Once again, the bill can be voted out as a JF/JFS, and then referred either to another Committee or the House/Senate floor
- ***Preparation of the File.*** A bill sent to the House/Senate, goes next to:
 - The Legislative Commissioner’s Office, to be checked for its constitutionality and consistency with other law.
 - The Office of Fiscal Analysis, for an estimate of the bill’s cost to state and local government (“the fiscal note”). Unfortunately for public health-related bills, the fiscal note considers *only* costs to state and local government and over *only two years*. Not considered are the bill’s social and economic impacts, nor any likely longer-term cost-savings. This is particularly a problem when a measure has a relatively large up-front cost, but substantially likely cost-savings, not only in the first two years, but thereafter (as can be common with public health-focused interventions).
 - The Office of Legislative Research, for a “plain language” explanation of the bill. This is particularly helpful for legislators who are not as familiar with its subject matter as are the members of the Committee to which it was first referred.

Within a week of these referrals, the text of the bill, along with OFA’s fiscal note and OLR’s summary, is published as a numbered “File.” With many bills being considered, OLR and OFA analyses are under substantial pressure as Committee deadlines approach to produce these analyses within just one week from the referral to them.

²³ For example, if the bill is a House bill and the Democrats hold the majority of seats in the House, the House Democrat’s screening committee’s recommendation to House Democratic leadership determines its course through the process.

- **Action by the House and Senate.** The clerk of the chamber that originated a bill assigns a calendar number for the bill (the calendar is the list of the bills that are ready for consideration by the House or Senate). However, this number does *not* dictate the order in which bills are voted. Rather the leadership of the House and Senate decide which bills will be debated and voted on, and in what order.

Amendments can be made to bills on the floor of the House or Senate. OLR is tasked with analyzing any proposed amendment; OFA must analyze only those amendments that are adopted.

Once a bill passes its chamber of origin (a House bill, the House; a Senate bill, the Senate), it then goes to the other chamber (as written, or as amended by the first chamber) for debate and a vote. If the bill is further amended in the second chamber, it must return to the first chamber for a vote on the bill as then amended.

Sometimes the bill is referred from the floor of the House or Senate to yet another Committee. For example, an amendment on the floor of one chamber may add new language that brings the bill under the jurisdiction of a committee that had not yet reviewed it. If this occurs, and if this new Committee votes the bill out (with no additional public hearing), a new “File” will be prepared by LCO and OLR (if the amendment was a Senate amendment) before it is transmitted to the other chamber (so long as there is sufficient time to do so).

NOTE: The Connecticut House and Senate have some significant differences in how they operate. Unlike Congress, neither chamber limits debate on a bill. Typically, the Connecticut House of Representatives votes as a full body *on every bill and on every amendment to that bill*, whether the amendment was initially adopted by the House or Senate. By comparison, when the Senate receives a bill from the House that has been amended by the House, it votes on the bill as the House amended it; no separate vote is needed on the amendment itself.

Further, the Senate often uses a Consent Calendar. Upon agreement of the Democratic and Republican caucuses, many bills can be placed on this Consent Calendar and approved in a single vote of the full Senate.

- **Transmittal to Governor.** Once both the House and Senate pass the bill it is sent to the Governor who can sign it, veto it, or take no action.
- **Overriding a Veto.** If the Governor vetoes the bill, the chambers can reconsider it, and override the veto with a 2/3 vote of each chamber’s membership.
- **Governor’s Inaction.** If the Governor declines to sign or veto the bill (i.e., takes no action on it) it becomes law nonetheless within 5 days (if the legislature is in Session) or 15 days (if the legislature has adjourned).
- **Assigning the Public Act Number.** If the bill becomes law (i.e., the Governor approves it, the Governor’s veto is overridden, or the Governor does not act), it is assigned a Public Act number with the first two numbers indicating the year of enactment (e.g., P.A. 21-132 was the 132nd law enacted in 2021).

- **Codification.** LCO attorneys then codify the public acts (i.e., incorporate their changes into the appropriate parts of the Connecticut General Statutes, where all Connecticut law is grouped by topic and section). The printed statute books are revised once every two years to incorporate changes made by Public Acts adopted during that biennium, so **one needs to read the “supplement” (on-line on the General Assembly website) to be sure you have the current law.**
 - One can read the Connecticut General Statutes at <https://cga.ct.gov/current/pub/titles.htm> and search the statutes at: <https://search.cga.state.ct.us/r/statute/>
 - The index to the Connecticut General Statutes is at: <https://cga.ct.gov/lco/statutes-index.asp>

NOTE: As the end of the Session nears and time runs short, the “must pass” bills become vehicles for amendments that enable concepts in bills that would otherwise die to become law. In the 2023 Session, for example “content or concepts originating in 197 bills ended up being incorporated into other legislation that was enacted in 39 public acts and one resolution act.”²⁴

The Office of Legislative Research, after each Session, publishes a “Bill Tracking” report that helps you trace the ideas for change in bills you’ve been following through to the end of Session to see if they really died, or managed to stay live through amendments. As described by OLR, “Table 1 organizes the bills by the committee of origin (generally), lists them in numerical order based on the bill number, identifies the relevant public acts, and briefly summarizes the final content in the acts. Table 2 lists all the bills in numerical order. In many instances, the bills and acts are broken out by specific section numbers. Consequently, some bills have multiple entries.”

PART 3: HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Whether you represent an organization or want to express your personal views on possible legislation, there are multiple ways to make your voice heard, including by:

- a) Testifying on proposed bills
- b) Formal meetings with legislators and staff before the Session (to offer suggestions for bills, brief them on issues) as well as during the Session
- c) Other communications with legislators (e.g., legislative breakfasts, lobby days, e-mails, phone calls, letters, fact sheets)
- d) Outreach to the press (e.g., press conferences, letters to the editor).

²⁴ See Frame MH, Chen D. 2023 Bill Tracking Report (OLR August 15, 2023), https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/special/2023BT-20230815_2023%20Bill%20Tracking.pdf

A. PRESENTING TESTIMONY

You can share your opinion about a proposed bill (and offer suggestions for amendments to improve it) by presenting oral testimony during the required public hearing on the bill and/or submitting written testimony to the Committee holding the hearing.

In deciding which option(s) to choose, consider the advantages and disadvantages of presenting oral testimony during the bill's public hearing:

Some advantages: Provides a “real time” opportunity to present your views and to hear and address the views of others (either during your testimony or later through communications with Committee members). If you are testifying *in person*, while waiting to testify you can distribute fact sheets and meet informally with legislators on the Committee and others who might be enlisted to help support your position. Reporters covering the Capitol may interview you or otherwise report on your testimony. You can demonstrate support for (or opposition to) a bill by packing the hearing room (ideally with supporters wearing something that readily identifies them as a group – like brightly colored tee-shirts or buttons with the bill number or topic printed on them).

So long as General Assembly Committees continue “hybrid” hearings – through Zoom or in person - you can still testify “in person” without going to Hartford. While this can save you time (in the drive to Hartford, in waiting for your name to be called), you lose the opportunities described above to speak to legislators and others to build support for your position on a bill.

Some of the basics about hearings can be found at “Your Voice Matters at the CT General Assembly” – www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoice.asp.

Some disadvantages: Committees hear many bills at each public hearing, so you can wait for a *long* time to testify (although this gives you the chance to hear the viewpoints of others). Further, because multiple Committees may hold hearings concurrently and legislators serve on multiple Committees, you may well end up testifying to just a few legislators rather than to the full Committee. Know, however, that the transcript of your testimony becomes part of the public record that is available to all legislators.

NOTE: You have just three minutes to present oral testimony. However, if a legislator asks you a question, you can take as much time as you need to answer the question and also make your points you did not get to in those three minutes.

All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is considered public information under Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act. It is posted on the Connecticut General Assembly's website (www.cga.ct.gov) on the page of the Committee that heard the testimony. Written testimony also is shared with the Committee's non-partisan staff (LCO, OLR, OFA) who use it to inform their work and the Committee. A short summary of all testimony presented at the public hearing on a bill is included in the bill's JF/JFS report.

TESTIFYING ON A BILL WHEN IT HAS ITS PUBLIC HEARING

IMPORTANT NOTE: At this time of hybrid public hearings, it is essential that you consult The Bulletin announcement for the hearing at which you seek to be heard. Notice of the public hearing on a bill must be printed at least five *calendar* days in advance of the hearing in the daily General Assembly Bulletin. It will provide details about how to sign up to testify, how to submit written testimony, and how the hearing will be conducted (www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABulletin/Bulletin.asp). Note that typically there are *many* bills scheduled for a public hearing by each Committee on any given day.

For example, the January 30, 2023 Bulletin included this announcement of the Public Health Committee's first public hearing in last year's long Session:

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

The Public Health Committee will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. in Room 2B** of the LOB and via **Zoom**. The committee meeting can be viewed via **YouTube Live**. The committee meeting can be viewed via YouTube Live. In addition, the public hearing may be recorded and broadcast live on **CT-N.com**. Individuals who wish to testify must register using the **On-Line Testimony Registration Form**. The registration form must contain the name of the person who will be testifying. A unique email address must be provided for each person registered to speak. Registration will close on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. Speaker order of approved registrants will be listed in a randomized order and posted on the Public Health Committee website on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. under Public Hearing Testimony. If you do not have internet access, you may provide testimony via telephone. To register to testify by phone, call the Phone Registrant Line at 860-240-0569 to leave your contact information. Please submit written testimony using the On-line Testimony Submission form. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Legislators, Constitutional Officers, State Agency Heads and Chief Elected Municipal Officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

SUBJECT MATTER: Public Health Related Bills

S.B. No. 897 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A PATIENT'S DIRECTIONS REGARDING LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS.

S.B. No. 898 (RAISED) AN ACT ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE PROBATE COURT ISSUE AN ORDER ALLOWING A PATIENT WHO IS INCAPABLE OF GIVING INFORMED CONSENT TO RECEIVE SHOCK THERAPY.

S.B. No. 899 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING TITLE PROTECTION FOR PHYSICIANS.

S.B. No. 919 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY CHILDHOOD AND ADULT PSYCHOSIS.

Proposed H.B. No. 5246 AN ACT ALLOWING FOR THE DISPOSAL OF DEAD HUMAN BODIES THROUGH NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.

H.B. No. 6488 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CIGARETTES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS

NOTE: This Public Health Committee hearing notice is illustrative of the Bulletin's hearing notices. Typically, every Committees' public hearings seek testimony on *multiple* bills.

Occasionally, however, there will be a hearing on a *single* bill, particularly if it is expected to be contentious. In the 2022 Session, SB 88, An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients, was an example of this. The hearing, held on February 23, 2022, was *exclusively* on this one bill. Close to 300 people testified in support of, or opposition to, the bill.

Below are some tips about preparing and delivering oral and written testimony, and a few examples. But before you start reading these, check out the very helpful guide written by the CGA's Office of Legislative Management - *Your Voice Matters at the Connecticut General Assembly*, www.cga.ct.gov/olm/docs/YourVoiceMatters.pdf.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY

- 1) Be sure to *read* the full text of the bill carefully. Use the “bill search” function on the CGA website to find the current version of the bill (for advanced bill search see: <https://search.cga.state.ct.us/r/adv/>)
- 2) If the bill (or a section) of a bill starts with the word “NEW” that means the bill is not proposing to amend existing law but to create new law. However, if the bill or a section of a bill says certain language “is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof,” then only the language that is underlined (or is in blue on the “doc” version of the bill proposed new law) is being changed.
 - a. EX: See Raised Bill 6599, An Act Concerning Intimate Partner Violence and Other Domestic Violence, considered in the 2023 Session. You’ll see that section 1(h) of the bill proposes to amend current law (the underlined text) and section two proposes new law. See: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06599-R00-HB.PDF>
- 3) Identify relevant current data and research on the topic, including regarding evidence-informed policy options.
- 4) Sketch out your testimony so your position on the bill and your reasoning are clear and supported whenever possible by evidence (ask for my help if you want it!).

Some thoughts on writing and presenting persuasive testimony

As public health students, you have special insight into the population health impacts (positive as well as negative) of proposed legislation. Bringing such insight to state legislators is critical, given how short-staffed they are and how quickly bills that are introduced can come up for a public hearing.

Before writing your testimony, do some research. Identify key articles and recent reports on the bill’s topic so you are citing current data and research findings. When referring in your testimony to data you’ve found and research findings you’ve identified, always include citations for your sources (you can use endnotes) and include URLs whenever possible. If a journal you cite is not open source, attach a pdf of it.

Start your testimony with a values statement.

EX: For a bill proposing expansion of HUSKY/Medicaid to children and youth age 25 and younger, regardless of immigrant status, you could start with a statement like - “No one should have to choose between paying for healthcare for their ill child and

putting for food on the table...” Then you’d explain how the bill would address the need you’ve identified and provide the data/research to back it.

If *you* have relevant personal experience relevant to the bill, and feel comfortable sharing it, *do* include it in your testimony. It will make your testimony even more impactful. Know that some of the most persuasive testimony is based on personal experience: someone who has experienced the problem that is to be addressed by the bill describes the experience and makes convincing arguments about how the solution proposed through the bill could address that problem, or what amendments to the bill could do so.

If *your* State Senator or Representative is on the Committee, e-mail them a copy of your testimony. Constituents who would benefit from the passage of a bill are especially good messengers when reaching out to their *own* legislators. While data and strong arguments are necessary to move legislators’ minds, they are too often not sufficient. It is personal stories, particularly from constituents, that can often move legislators’ hearts.

Know that you can urge the Committee to amend the language of a bill to make it even more effective. If you have identified such improvements, say at the start of your testimony that you support the bill and also want to share some thoughts about how it could be strengthened. Include specific language that you’d like to see included or if you don’t feel comfortable doing that, include at least specific actions/ideas to include

MORE ABOUT ORAL TESTIMONY

- **Read the Bulletin’s notice of the public hearing *carefully*** so you know when and how to sign up to testify and the Committee’s procedure for hearing testimony.
 - **Important point:** Committees differ in how they conduct their hearings; this can impact the timing of when you will be called to give your oral testimony. Most now use random assignment to decide the order of testimony and you can learn what number you are among those who have signed up by going to the Committee’s website for that hearing.
- **Begin your testimony** by acknowledging the Committee co-chair who is presiding (there will be a name plate in front of him/her) and others on the Committee and then stating your name, your organizational affiliation (if any), and your position on the specific bill (support, partial support, oppose).
 - EX: “Senator X and other members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Y, and I am testifying today on behalf of (organization, myself) in support/partial support/opposition to Senate/House Bill #, An Act Concerning”
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** when you are testifying on a bill as a student, be sure to state that the testimony reflects your personal position and not the position of your college or school. If you are testifying on behalf of your placement, you may say you are a student from your specific school, and then make clear you are testifying on behalf of your placement.

- Because most Committees allow you just **three minutes** to present your oral testimony, **hit your key points quickly**. Practice and time your oral testimony **before** the hearing; three minutes goes really quickly!
- **Do not read your testimony**. Speak directly to the Committee members, maintaining eye contact. End by thanking the Committee for permitting you to testify and say you'd be happy to answer any questions.
 - Because the time for oral testimony is so limited, it is helpful to share your testimony **in advance of the hearing** with a legislator supportive of your issue. Then, if you are unable to finish your testimony, this legislator can ask you questions about the parts you were unable to cover. As the time for answering questions is *not* limited, this allows you the time to more fully explain your position.
- **If you testify late in a hearing**, and those who have already testified have made some or all of the points in your own testimony, feel free to simply state this at the outset, emphasizing the particular points mentioned with which you agree. **Then, use your remaining time to address questions or concerns that legislators may have raised earlier in the hearing.**
- **If you are asked a question and are not *totally certain* of the answer, tell the legislator you will get back to him/her.**
 - **It is imperative that you convey accurate information.** In addition, this allows you to have an additional contact with Committee members. When you send the answer to the legislator who asked you the question, you can and should copy all the other Committee members so this, and any other useful, information is conveyed to them all.
- Because there are multiple concurrent hearings on dozens of bills, particularly in the short session, **many members of the committee may not be physically present in the hearing room at any given time. Don't get discouraged.** Everything you say is transcribed and taped on each committee's YouTube channel so available to committee members. Your written testimony is made part of the official Committee hearing record.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The number of people making the *extra effort* to testify in person for, or against, a bill does matter. Testimony through Zoom, though not as compelling as being in the hearing room itself, remains more compelling than written testimony.

MORE ABOUT WRITTEN TESTIMONY

If you cannot spare the time to testify in real time on a bill (in person or through Zoom) you can submit written testimony to the Committee hearing the bill.

Copies of your testimony will be provided to every Committee member, will be posted on the Committee's website, and – if the bill is voted out of the Committee – may be summarized in the Committee's Joint Favorable (JF) or Joint Favorable Substitute (JFS) report.

Here are some key points about written testimony:

- **The title of your testimony should indicate which bill (or bills) you are testifying on, and your position on each bill: if you are for the bill, against the bill, or partially in favor of the bill, but with some suggested changes.**
 - EX: Testimony in Support of H.B. [insert bill #], An Act Concerning Aid-in-Dying for Terminally Ill Patients
- You should next **include a header with your name, the Committee before which you are testifying, and the date of the hearing.**
 - EX: Shelley Geballe, JD, MPH
Joint Committee on Public Health
[date of hearing]
- Then, **begin your written testimony by addressing it to the Co-chairs and Ranking Members of the Committee before which you are testifying, and its members.**
 - EX (if testifying before the 2024 Public Health Committee): – “Senator Anwar, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Somers, Rep. Klarides-Ditria and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee.”
- **If testifying on behalf of an organization**, put your written testimony on letterhead and at the start of your written testimony very briefly state the mission of your organization and your role that organization.
 - EX: “My name is X, and I am the Policy Director of organization Y that advocates for xxxx” or “a member of the Advocacy Committee of organization Z” etc.
- **If testifying for yourself, explain the nature of your interest in the bill**
 - EX: “My name is X, and I would greatly benefit by the passage of this bill because I have been fighting cancer for many years and.....”
- **The body of your testimony should start with a statement of the position you are taking on the bill in bolded text.**
 - EX: “I am here to testify today in strong support of/against/partial support of House Bill #, An Act Concerning.....” and a values statement about why
- **Next explain the basis for your position** by providing:
 - Key background about the bill’s topic and why this topic is important, citing to relevant data and studies through footnotes or endnotes.
 - An explanation for why you are taking the position you are taking.
 - If you partially support the bill, say what parts you support and why. They state why you oppose other parts of the bill and how these parts would need to be changed for you to support it (you can suggest specific substitute language that addresses your concerns).
- Conclude your written testimony by **thanking the Committee** for the opportunity to testify, **offering to answer the Committee’s questions** or to provide additional information, and **including your contact information** (e.g., e-mail address or phone number) in case a legislator would like to contact you.

While you should be thorough and persuasive in your written testimony, know that legislators are far more likely to read it and retain your key points if it is as short as possible. **No more than 1-2 pages of text is a goal (references can go on an additional page as needed).**

- Use **bullets** and **bolded text** to highlight your key points

- A graph, map, or table on page 1 can grab a legislator's attention
- Consider making copies of your testimony on colored paper (again, to stand out) if you will be attending the hearing at the LOB. Bring multiple copies.
- As noted above, Committees may have different rules about submitting written testimony. The Committee's public hearing notice (in the Bulletin) will have these rules and the deadline for submitting written testimony before a hearing. Know that if you cannot make this deadline, the Committee will still accept your testimony and make it part of the record of the hearing, but the Committee members will likely not have access to it during the hearing.

Examples of Written Testimony

Written testimony on House Bill 6425 (2021 Session), Senate Bill 88 (2022 Session), and Senate Bill 1076 (2023 Session) – all bills concerning aid-in-dying for the terminally ill - illustrate the diverse perspectives expressed and diverse styles of presenting positions.²⁵ As you read them, think which you find most persuasive, and – importantly – *why* this is the case.

- By a pediatrician, speaking personally
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/phdata/TMY/2023SB-01076-R000227-Beris%20MD,%20Susan,%20Doctor-Citizen-Supports-TMY.PDF>
- By a widower husband, speaking personally
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/phdata/TMY/2023SB-01076-R000227-Diaz,%20Dan,%20Brittany%20Maynards%20Husband-TheBrittanyFund.org-Supports-TMY.PDF>
- By a AP-MPH student at YSPH (and Board-certified Emergency Physician):
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2022/PHdata/Tmy/2022SB-00088-R000223-Steinman,%20MD,%20Stuart-TMY.PDF>
- By the State Comptroller, in support:
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/phdata/tmy/2021HB-06425-R000226-Lembo,%20Kevin,%20State%20Comptroller-State%20of%20Connecticut-TMY.PDF>
- By a State Representative, in support:
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2022/PHdata/Tmy/2022SB-00088-R000223-Dathan,%20Lucy,%20State%20Representative-TMY.PDF>

²⁵ For links to all written testimony on the 2021 bill see:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmy.asp?comm_code=ph&date=02/26/2021

For links to all written testimony on the 2022 bill see:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmyBillAllComm.asp?bill=SB-00088&doc_year=2022

For a links to all written testimony on the 2023 bill see:

www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGADisplayTestimonies/CGADisplayTestimony.aspx?bill=SB-01076&doc_year=2023

- By a State Senator, in opposition:
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2022/PHdata/Tmy/2022SB-00088-R000223-Kissel,%20John,%20State%20Senator-TMY.PDF>
- By a representative of a civil rights group (CT ACLU), in support but recommending changes to the bill:
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2022/PHdata/Tmy/2022SB-00088-R000223-McGuire,%20David,%20Executive%20Director-ACLU-CT-TMY.PDF>
- By a civil rights lawyer with a history of representing persons with disabilities, in opposition:
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2022/PHdata/Tmy/2022SB-00088-R000223-Alisberg,%20Nancy-TMY.PDF>
- By a representative of a health care provider organization (CT Nurses Association) in support: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/phdata/tmy/2021HB-06425-R000226-Williams,%20Mary%20Jane,%20PhD,%20RN,%20Senior%20Policy%20Advisor,%20Professor-Connecticut%20Nurses%20Association-TMY.PDF>
- By a representative of the health care industry (Trinity Health of New England) in opposition: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/phdata/tmy/2021HB-06425-R000226-Grey,%20Michael,%20MD-Trinity%20Health%20of%20New%20England-TMY.PDF>
- By a representative of the health care industry (Day Kimball Healthcare at Home) in support: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/phdata/tmy/2021HB-06425-R000226-Alexander,%20Erica,%20Hospice%20and%20Palliative%20Care%20Program%20Manager-Day%20Kimball%20Healthcare%20At%20Home-TMY.PDF>

B. MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS AND LEGISLATIVE STAFF

In-person communication with legislators and legislative staff is invaluable. Not only can you share your ideas and communicate your position on an issue, but also you can learn about the *legislators'* questions and concerns (as has been said, “People have two ears and one mouth, and should be used in the same ratio.”). Some quick tips:

- **Time.** Ours is a part-time legislature, so be respectful of the legislator’s time and plan for no more than a 5-to-15-minute meeting.
- **The legislator.** Before your meeting, take the time to learn about the legislator – e.g., his/her position on your issue, the relevance of your issue to his/her district, the committees on which the person serves - and shape your message accordingly. Each legislator has his/her own page on the General Assembly website, with a biography, list of committees on which the legislator serves, press releases and more (for Representatives, see: <https://cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/house.asp> and for Senators, see: <https://cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/senate.asp>)

- **Your group.** If in a group, try to include at least one constituent of the legislator in the group. Decide in advance which members of the group will conduct each part of the meeting. Have one person lead the discussion.
- **The meeting.** Once in the meeting, introduce yourself. If possible, start with a thank-you for something the legislator has done that is related to your issue. Establish yourself as a resource on the topic by: starting with the basics, discussing why the issue is important to you and to the legislator's district (when possible), and giving the key reasons why a particular bill is needed/is important. Make your "ask" (e.g., to introduce, or support, or co-sponsor a bill on your agenda).
- **Listen!!!!** Listen closely to what the legislator says! Meetings are not just about trying to convince a legislator but about learning about their concerns and questions. You need to understand and address these as best you can to earn his/her support.
- **Do not guess.** Know your subject matter, but do not guess if you are not totally sure of the answer to a question the legislator asks. Say you'll get back to them with the information.
- **Fact sheets.** Leave a fact sheet with the legislator that includes your key points and your contact information. Use bullets and bolding to highlight the most critical information.
- **Follow-up.** Thank the legislator again for the meeting and promptly provide any promised follow-up information.
- **Be respectful, to all and always!** Understand that everyone who serves and works in the General Assembly merits your respect – the legislator (even when they disagree with you), the scheduler, legislative aides, and legislative staff.
 - If a legislator is busy and asks that you meet with his/her aide, treat that person with the same respect you would give the legislator.

C. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS WITH LEGISLATORS

There are many other ways to raise the public profile of your issue, advocate for it with individual legislators, and identify the issue's "legislative champions" (the legislators who will place it at the top of their own legislative agendas).

As is true in life generally, *personal* communication is the best tool since one can learn about others' perspectives as you seek to inform and persuade. **A constituent's personal communication to his/her legislator is the very best.** Here are some other ways to make your voice heard:

- **Written materials:** It is helpful to have a variety of written materials on your topic/bill. All should include some identification of the group/individual who produced them, and your contact information (phone, e-mail) for follow-up. Carry a supply with you whenever you are at the Legislative Office Building; you never know when you will need them! These materials can include:
 - **A more in-depth piece** that minimally: a) outlines the problem to be addressed and the extent of that problem in Connecticut (and ideally, in each legislator's district or town); b) shares what is known from research about solutions and how other states are addressing the problem; c) proposes a solution for

Connecticut; and d) includes draft bill language, if possible. This piece should include references to the sources on which you rely.

- **Fact sheets** that highlight the key points of your longer piece in a page or less. It's helpful to use bullets to make reading easier and to use bolded text to highlight the points you most want emphasized. Graphics or tables that summarize data are helpful.
- **A table or map with town-by-town data** about the problem you are seeking to address. Legislators always are interested in how a problem or proposal impacts those who elected them!
- **Written testimony.** Copies of testimony that is especially persuasive or written by an organization or person who is particularly respected in the legislature is also helpful as your bill moves through the legislative process. While this testimony is all online, handing it directly to a legislator makes it far more likely the legislator will read it.
- **Lobby days:** When working with a coalition of groups, or a single large group, a lobby day can be an effective tool. A day is identified on which members will come to the Legislative Office Building to meet with their own legislators, share their support for the issue and get a sense of the legislators' questions and position on the issue. Often groups wear a common shirt, nametags and/or stickers to identify themselves as part of the group. Group members each call their own legislators to set up meetings on that particular day.
 - The organizer(s) of a lobby day must contact the Office of Legislative Management to request a Facilities Use Application to reserve any area in the LOB, the State Capitol Police to let them know the event is occurring, and either an outside caterer or the state-contracted caterer if food is to be served.
 - The organizer(s) also should prepare packets of written information for distribution to each person participating in the lobby day. Typically, this includes day's agenda, information about how to lobby and where to find your legislator, a walk-in message form (to leave with aides if your legislator is unavailable), a fact sheet and other written materials to leave with the legislator, and a feedback form to provide the organizer with feedback about each legislative visit.
 - At the start of the lobby day, the group assembles in the space the organizer has reserved in the Legislative Office Building to hear from leaders of the organization(s) involved about the issues to be lobbied, and from supportive legislators about how members can be most effective in the short meetings they will have with their own legislators.
 - Group members get instructions on how to find their legislators, are given fact sheets to share in the meetings with legislators, then disperse to meet with their legislators. Members are instructed to return to a pre-identified place – the lobby-day headquarters – to report on what they learned in their meetings with legislators before they leave Hartford.
- **Legislative breakfasts:** Individual groups and coalitions of groups may host a legislative breakfast to reach out to legislators and provide information about the groups' legislative agenda. One must: a) reserve the legislative dining room (typically from 8:30-10:00 am and ideally on a morning early in the Session); b) invite legislators individually (through e-mails or invitations mailed to their homes or distributed through the LOB mail room); c) invite members of your group and others who might be interested in the

issue; and d) have a constituent or other person who knows each legislator follow-up to encourage attendance. At the event, it is helpful to have nametags, a sign-in sheet, a packet of written information for legislators, and a short presentation around 9 am. Be sure to acknowledge the legislators in attendance and introduce them to any constituents in your group. Send a thank you to all who attend. If an invited legislator did not attend, send a note saying you missed seeing them, and enclose the packet of information distributed at the breakfast.

- ***Contacting legislators through phone calls, notes/letters, petitions, texts, and/or e-mails.*** Groups can send out action alerts at key moments in the legislative process (before a public hearing, before a committee vote and before votes in the full House and Senate) urging that group members contact their own legislators to ask personally for their support of a bill or issue important to the group. **Phone calls and personal notes/letters are more effective than e-mails.**

D. MEDIA OUTREACH

A strategy to work with the media also is important – to gain support of the public as well as to raise the profile of the issue among elected officials. This task has become harder in some ways, and easier in others, as our preferred forms of communication have evolved. While Connecticut has seen a sharp decline in newspaper coverage, the consolidation of media ownership, and a reduction in the number of reporters covering the State Capitol, on-line news sites and social media in its many forms have emerged.

That said, some basic tools remain: a) press conferences at the Legislative Office Building or some other relevant site, ideally with supportive legislators, affected individuals who can tell personal stories, as well as coalition partners; b) radio and television interviews; c) press releases or other outreach to local, state and national news media including online-only sites like www.ctmirror.org; d) op-eds and letters to the editor on your topic; e) meetings with the editorial boards of major newspapers to seek their public support for your agenda; and f) employing all forms of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube).

E. WHEN MUST YOU REGISTER AS A LOBBYIST IN CONNECTICUT?

In general, if you receive/expect to receive or if you spend/expect to spend \$3,000 or more in a calendar year seeking to influence legislative or administrative action or taking any other action “in furtherance” of lobbying activities you must register with the Connecticut Office of State Ethics as a lobbyist (see: <https://portal.ct.gov/Ethics/F/FAO/FAO-Lobbyist>)

Connecticut’s definition of lobbying is quite broad:

- ***Legislative Lobbying*** is any lobbying that seeks to affect legislation, including any matter within the cognizance of the legislature, even if you are contacting an executive branch official as part of your efforts.
- ***Administrative Lobbying*** is any lobbying to affect the rules or regulations of an executive agency or any other matter within the official cognizance of that agency, and also includes lobbying to affect the actions of an executive or quasi-public agency regarding a contract, grant, award, purchasing agreement, etc.

- ***Activities in Furtherance of Lobbying*** are expenditures for research, reports, polls, media buys, activities fostering good will, office expenses, secretarial or paralegal salaries, and other expenses that support the actual lobbying effort.

One registers with the Office of State Ethics (OSE) as either a client lobbyist (you are paying *for* the lobbying services) or a communicator lobbyist (you are being *paid to do* the lobbying). You are subject to a Code of Ethics that defines, among other things, what expenditures you may make and what gifts you may give to the targets of your lobbying, what political activity and contributions are allowable and when, what reports you must file about your lobbying activities and when, and that you must wear a badge that identifies you as a lobbyist. Far more detail is provided at OSE's website for lobbyists:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Ethics/Lobbyist-Filings/Lobbyist-Filings/Lobbyist-Main-Page>

Non-profit organizations that are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code sometimes think that their tax-exempt status *bars them* from lobbying – whether through direct lobbying (communicating directly with a legislator to influence a vote) or grassroots lobbying (contacting interested individuals about specific legislation with a “call to action” urging them to contact their own legislators). **This is not the case.** *Some* lobbying *is* allowable. Lobbying simply may not be a “substantial part” of that organization’s work. Further, lobbying - as defined under federal law - is narrower in scope than under Connecticut’s definition. Federal lobbying is defined solely as actions to persuade a legislator to support a *particular piece* of legislation, policy or rule. For more information, see: <https://independentsector.org/resource/lobbying-guidelines-for-public-charities/>

PART 4: TOOLS TO HELP YOUR STATE LEGISLATIVE WORK

The Connecticut General Assembly website – www.cga.ct.gov - is one of your very best friends as you do legislative work in Connecticut. It can help you in many ways, including, but certainly not limited to: a) doing research on various topics; b) understanding what bills on a topic have been considered by the General Assembly in the past and how they fared, as well as who supported and opposed them and some of the reasons why; c) providing background on legislators before you meet or work with them; and d) tracking key bills through the legislative process.

What follows are elements of the website that can be most helpful as you first start out²⁶:

²⁶ A one-stop guide to the CT General Assembly used to be the Connecticut Legislative Guide (www.cga.ct.gov/olm/guides/guide.asp). For many years it was updated each biennium and provided: a) names, addresses, phone numbers, and district descriptions for each House and Senate member; b) background on those in House and Senate leadership; c) background on each Committee (which Representatives/Senators were assigned to it, who staffed it, where its office was); d) personnel in all the legislative staff offices, including LCO, OLR, OFA, and the Caucus staffs; e) a description of all support services; and f) staffing of other legislatively-affiliated agencies. However, as of February 2, 2024, the 2017-2018 Guide still had not been updated, so does not include all new legislators and committee assignments but some other parts remain relevant, including for the historian within you.

A. Getting There

- Directions to the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building (LOB)- www.cga.ct.gov/olm/directions.asp
- Knowing where you are in the Capitol, and some of its history – the Capitol Picture Book - www.cga.ct.gov/html/citizen/capitolpicturebook.pdf
- State Capitol FAQs - www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/FAQs.asp

B. Learning the Language and Legislative Process

- Terms and Definitions - www.cga.ct.gov/asp/content/Terms.asp
- Abbreviations and Acronyms - www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/Acronyms.asp
- How a Bill Becomes a Law - www.cga.ct.gov/html/bill.pdf
- House, Senate, and Joint Rules - www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/rules.asp

C. Making Your Voice Heard – Why, How, and When to Testify

- Guide for Reaching State Legislators and Testifying at a Public Hearing - www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoice.asp
- *Terrific* Short Video -- Step-to-Step Guide about Testifying - <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/citizen.asp>

D. The Very Helpful Top Rail of the CGA Home Page

- **“Representation”** - Includes:
 - *Members.* Alphabetical list of all House and Senate Members with links to their individual webpages (which include biographies, committees on which they serve, contact information, press releases). All this is helpful for doing research on a legislator before you meet with them. Also includes links to Connecticut’s Congressional delegation: 2 Senators, and 5 Representatives
 - *Caucuses.* Links to the four caucuses (House Republican, House Democratic, and Senate Republican, Senate Democratic) – helpful in understanding the priorities of the caucuses, getting additional information on members, seeing photographs of members.
- **“Committees”** – links to pages for all standing legislative committees with “on the record” information about: Committee membership and contact information; the Committee’s bill record book (all bills referred to the Committee with all action taken on them); all bills reported out of the Committee; Committee meetings with their agendas, minutes and substitute bill language; Committee public hearings with their agendas, testimony, and transcripts; vote tallies and more. These pages also include links toward the bottom of the Committee’s webpage to the work of its all task forces, working groups, and other ad hoc legislative initiatives that are under the jurisdiction of that particular Committee. For example, the Public Health Committees site has links to the work of 13 Task Forces, 4 “related websites and links,” and links to multiple other materials related to Committee work.
- **“Offices”** – links to the pages of the key non-partisan legislative offices for your work:
 - **Office of Legislative Research (OLR)** (www.cga.ct.gov/olr/)
 - **Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA)** (www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/)
 - **Legislative Commissioners Office (LCO)** (www.cga.ct.gov/lco/)

- ***Program Review and Investigations (PR&I)***
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/pri/index.asp>- This bi-partisan office opened in 1972 and closed in January 2017 due to budget cuts. Its specifically dedicated fulltime, professional, nonpartisan did research and produced reports about state programs and systems, assessing their efficiency, effectiveness, compliance with legislative purposes, and whether corrective actions, modification, or elimination were necessary. Reports written from 1973 through 2016 are archived at www.cga.ct.gov/pri/studies.asp and - because they were so well done – are a wealth of historic and (in some cases) still fairly current information about health and public health, children, economic development, elder care, health, the environment, criminal justice and the courts, public safety, taxes, education and workforce development, state government administration and more.
 There also is information here about the Legislative Library (www.cga.ct.gov/lib/) that is located on the 5th floor of the LOB and open from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The librarians can be very helpful!
- **“Commissions”** – links to Commissions that assist the General Assembly in its work (as discussed earlier):
 - ***The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity***
[\(https://wp.cga.ct.gov/cwcseo/\)](https://wp.cga.ct.gov/cwcseo/). This Commission represents a consolidation over the past several years of six formerly independent commissions: Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Children, the Commission on Aging, the African American Affairs Commission, the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, and the Asian Pacific-American Affairs Commission. With each consolidation, staffing has been cut to the point that there are now just eight persons on staff (with each of the six “Sub-Commissions” having a single staff person) resulting in markedly reduced capacity despite continuing broad statutory mandates.
 - ***Connecticut Law Revision Commission*** - assists the Judiciary Committee and other legislative and executive bodies on specific law revision proposals and solicits the expertise of numerous state legal authorities in arriving at its consensus on recommendations.
- **“Session Items”** – for both the House and Senate, includes their calendars, their Journals (of their proceedings), list of bills, transcripts, and “go” lists (list of bills ready to be voted on). Also includes Committee action reports, assignments and deadlines, as well as the Daily Bulletins and the Session calendar.
- **“Statutes”** – links to the Connecticut General Statutes (Connecticut’s state law), with an index and the tools to search or browse the statutes and the CT Constitution.
- **“Bill Info”** - includes a list and links to all “file” copies of bills and Public and Special Acts, as well as tools to find bills on a particular subject, to sign up for a free bill tracking service (you register, input the bill numbers in which you’re interested and you receive notification whenever there is a change in the progress of the bill) and to do basic and advanced document searches.
 - The “advanced document search” is a VERY helpful tool!
- **“Associated”** – has links to the Secretary of the State’s *eRegulations* system with all current state agency regulations and the proposed regulations on which agencies are seeking public comment, as well as Connecticut Television Network (Connecticut’s C-span).

E. Context For Your Work This Session

Because so many issues remain unresolved at the end of a Session, and other issues emerge, getting some context on what happened in the most recent Session is important.

Here are some key summaries of the 2023 Session by the Office of Legislative Research (OLR):

- OLR, *Major Public Acts: 2023 Legislative Session* (June 20, 2023), https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/MA/2023MA-20230620_Major%20Acts%20for%202023.pdf
- OLR, *2023 Acts Affecting*, www.cga.ct.gov/olr/actsaffecting.asp (includes links to separate reports on Acts affecting diverse topics, e.g., first responders, children, health professions, persons with disabilities, children, seniors, insurance)

OLR also does a pre-Session look at the Session's likely major issues. In 2024 it is called *Major Issues: 2024 Session* (January 17, 2024), www.cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/MI/2024MI-20240117_Major%20Issues%20for%202024.pdf

OLR produces *many* Backgrounders and Issue Briefs, which can be found on its website (www.cga.ct.gov/olr/publications.asp)

Also useful is the Legislative Library's, OLR Research Guides, by Committee subject area: <https://wp.cga.ct.gov/lib/research-guides/>

- Public Health Research Guide: <https://wp.cga.ct.gov/lib/public-health-research-guide/>
- Human Services Research Guide: <https://wp.cga.ct.gov/lib/human-services-research-guide/>
- Insurance Research Guide: <https://wp.cga.ct.gov/lib/insurance-and-real-estate-research-guide/>

F. Keeping Abreast of What's Happening in Connecticut State Policy

- **The Daily Bulletin** (found on the main General Assembly webpage on the left side under the photo of the State Capitol building, and under "Session Items"). It is published daily during the Session with notices of upcoming meetings, forums & public hearings (and what bills will be heard at each). Last Session's Bulletins are in the Archive in "Session Items" in top bar. Since public hearings on a bill only need five *calendar days'* notice, checking the Bulletin daily is important!
- **CGA Schedule of Events** (www.cga.ct.gov/calendarofevents.asp) on main page of General Assembly website under the State Capitol photo. Provides notice of hearings, meetings, and forums in the LOB (Legislative Office Building) each week.

- **CT Mirror** (www.ctmirror.org) - online news site with reporting by some of the state's most experienced journalists, covering health, state budget, education, politics and more. You can sign up to get daily e-mail updates on new articles. Past articles (since its start in January 2010) **are all archived on the site** so you can get a decade's history on an issue. This is a KEY resource for keeping track of policy issues under active discussion in the state. Its *Viewpoints* section publishes opinion pieces by Connecticut residents (including public health students!); this is another way to make your voice heard!
- **Connecticut Television Network** (www.ctn.state.ct.us) - CT's C-Span, covering events each day at State Capitol (hearings, press conferences, etc.) as well as other meetings/forums of public interest. Video is archived – so you can search on the site to find all video archived on topic. You can sign up to receive a daily schedule.
- **The Hartford Courant** (www.courant.com) - the nation's oldest continuously printed newspaper and Connecticut's newspaper of record (until it started laying off many reporters).
- **CT NewsJunkie** (www.ctnewsjunkie.com) - an on-line news site that covers the state Capitol. Has morning e-mail to which you can subscribe that includes a list of Capitol events.
- **CT Public** (<https://ctpublic.org>) – Connecticut's public television (CPTV) and radio (WNPR) stations. WNPR produces an engaging talk show: Where We Live (www.wnpr.org/programs/where-we-live). It runs from 9-10 am and again in the evening at 7 pm. One can search on the site for shows, as well as news broadcasts, on a topic.

G. A Few Other Resources to Help Your Research Efforts

- StatNews (you can subscribe for free to multiple helpful e-newsletters – *Morning Rounds*, *Daily Recap*, *Weekend Reads* and more), www.statnews.com
- CDC's Public Health Law News, www.cdc.gov/phlp
- National Conference of State Legislatures (extremely helpful for tracking state legislative actions across all states), www.ncsl.org
- National Governors' Association, www.nga.org
- The Council on State Governments (materials on diverse issues impacting all branches of state government including resources on health/public health), www.csg.org
- American Public Health Association (variety of facts sheets and other educational materials, as well as a Public Health Newswire to which you can subscribe for free at: www.publichealthnewswire.org/), www.apha.org
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (variety of relevant resources), www.astho.org
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (with a variety of relevant resources), www.naccho.org
- dNetwork for Public Health Law, www.networkforphl.org/topics_resources/
- National Health Law Project, www.healthlaw.org
- The Commonwealth Fund, www.commonwealthfund.org/
- Kaiser Family Foundation, www.kff.org

- Pew Trusts – very helpful and free e-mail newsletters on a variety of public health topics, e.g., State Policy Update (every two weeks), Pew Weekly (weekly summary of latest facts, survey results), Stateline Daily (original reporting on state policy and the day's top 5 reads from around the Web), Stateline Weekly (news team's top coverage of health care, demographics, business of government, fiscal issues), Antibiotic Resistance Project (monthly), www.pewtrusts.org (see bottom of page to subscribe)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (focus areas include Public and Community Health, Healthy Communities, Social Determinants of Health, Built Environment and Health), www.rwjf.org
- Trust for America's Health, www.healthyamericans.org
- Center for Public Health Law Research at Temple Law School (<http://phlr.org>). The Center uses scientific tools and methods to map and evaluate the impact of law on health. It has a Policy Surveillance Program and Law Atlas (<http://lawatlas.org>), as well as a Learning Library that has self-guided training modules to teach policy surveillance research methods, details about monthly training webinars and a June Summer Institute.

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Please send corrections or suggestions to shelley.geballe@yale.edu