Republican FY 2018 FY2019 Biennial Budget Structural Changes and Other Policy Modifications

1. Mandatory Approval of Labor Contracts by the General Assembly
    - No limit on the number of rejections that can be made by the legislature.

2. Enact a Constitutional Spending Cap
    - Only allow for debt service and 100% federally funded programs to be excluded from the calculation of the spending cap.
    - Include in the calculation of the spending cap those items that were previously appropriated whose funding was moved to bonding, a non-appropriated account, or a revenue intercept.

3. Set in Statute an Annual Cap on Allocations that can be made by the State Bond Commission at $2.0 billion. Cap general obligation bond issuances made by the State Treasurer at $2.0 billion annually beginning January 1, 2020.

4. Enact the Republican Prioritize Progress.

5. Enact modifications to the State Employees Retirement System effective on July 1, 2027 as follows:
    - A moratorium on pension COLAs until the funded ratio hits 80%,
    - Eliminate overtime from the pension calculation,
    - Increase employee contributions to 6%.
    - Eliminate breakpoint (higher salaried employees receive pension benefits at a higher rate)

6. Limit future SEBAC terms to a maximum of four years.
    - Create a mechanism for review and certification of the 2017 SEBAC savings.

7. Encourage Urban Economic Growth through Brownfield Redevelopment with the 7/7 Program.

8. Enact a 90 day turn-around time for environmental and Department of Transportation reviews otherwise automatically approved.

9. Require that all waiver renewals for Medicaid services be approved by the committees of cognizance prior to their submission to the federal government. Require that agency commissioners submit annually to the committees of cognizance all possible waivers that the state can pursue that may save the state money.

10. Require that Results First be applied to all grant programs financed by the state including services for families and all employment programs.

11. Require UCHC to seek private partnerships.

12. Require public hearings in the committees of cognizance regarding audit report recommendations.

13. Establish a statutory definition of “Impairment of Contract.”

14. Define in statute under the State of Connecticut’s arbitration statutes the state’s “ability to pay.”

15. Regarding school construction – require the State Department of Education to submit a report to the General Assembly on three different prototype schools. If municipalities do not pick these schools then they will get a lower reimbursement rate and the municipality must pay all architectural and engineering costs as they will no longer be reimbursable.

16. Amend section 3-115 to require that the Comptroller analyze the Office of Policy and Management's monthly letter to the Comptroller in his or her monthly reporting of the state's financial position.

17. Delete section 4b-53 of the C.G.S. which requires that the state allocate an additional 1% for the total cost of construction or remodeling of any state building. The removal of this requirement will reduce bond allocations immediately and will produce long-term debt service savings.

18. Proposed bill 269 – require that if the cumulative monthly financial statements by the Comptroller for two consecutive months includes a general fund deficit, then the general assembly shall enact legislation as necessary to prevent such projected deficit.

19. Proposed bill 395 – Move consensus revenue estimates from November 10th to October 31st.

20. Eliminate Citizens' Election Program

21. Eliminate legislative commissions

22. Increase UConn professor workloads by one course

23. Establish constitutional ECS formula and new Special Education distribution

24. Increase Teachers' Pension Contribution from 6% to 8% - still below the national average

25. Establish an off-budget Marketing, Culture (arts) and Tourism account

26. Eliminate deputy commissioners in agencies that have more than one deputy

27. Consolidate agency human resource functions

28. Increase non-union contribution to the Other Post Employment Benefits account (OPEB)

29. Require consolidation of agencies:
    - Department of Aging into Dept. of Social Services
    - Office of Early Childhood into Department of Education
    - Department of Housing into Department of Economic and Community Development

30. Provide funding for Crumbling Foundations

31. Begin to phase out income tax on pensions

32. Begin to phase out income tax on social security