

## MONDAY, MARCH 20

### GAE Public Hearing – 11:00 AM, Room 2A

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
<a href="#">S.J. 42</a>	RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING A RIGHT TO PRIVACY	SDO	<p>Recognizes a new constitutional right, “the right of individual privacy” and applies the “compelling state interest” standard for the government to infringe upon this newly acknowledged right. Specifically, the right to individual privacy includes, “the fundamental right to reproductive freedom [including] the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue or end one’s own pregnancy. The question posed to the voters reads, “Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to recognize a right to individual privacy and to prohibit the state from infringing such right without showing a compelling state interest?”</p> <p>This amendment has serious problems, including a very misleading question posed to the voters. It is a serious response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s overturning of Roe v. Wade. The interesting thing is that the morning after that ruling was overturned in Connecticut it was business as usual for our residents, nothing changed. This is solution in search of a problem and will have lasting negative consequences if passed.</p>
<a href="#">H.B. 5312</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS TO PARTICIPATING STATE-WIDE OFFICE CANDIDATES UNDER THE CITIZENS ‘ELECTIONS PROGRAM	HRO Caucus	Increases the maximum individual contribution that may be considered a qualifying contribution under the CEP for state-wide offices from the current \$290 up to \$1,000.
<a href="#">H.B. 5692</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF CONTRACTS TO THE	HRO Caucus	Permanently subjects the CT Port Authority to the authority of the State Contracting Standards Board. Requires the CT Port Authority to abide by competitive bidding requirements.

	CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY		
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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**

**Judiciary Public Hearing- 10:00 AM, Room 2C**

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
<a href="#">S.B. 3</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE PRIVACY, DATA AND SAFETY PROTECTIONS AND AN EMPLOYER'S DUTY TO DISCLOSE KNOWN INSTANCES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR ASSAULT COMMITTED BY AN EMPLOYEE WHEN MAKING EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.	SDO Caucus Proposal	This bill is a re-hash and expansion of Sen. Looney and Sen. Duff's failed data privacy bill from the past few legislative sessions. Among other things, it limits data that may be collected and shared related to healthcare data but specifically includes abortions and gender affirming care. Additionally prohibits data sharing, targeting advertising, and sales of the personal data of minors (under age 18.) The scope is vast and covers many businesses that do not engage in the business of data sharing or collection but collect data as a secondary aspect of their business. Allows the AGO to come after violators hitting them with a CUTPA violation (3X damages + costs + attorney fees.) It goes so far as to say that in certain circumstances, "the court shall not disclose the existence of [a] warrant ..." Creates a mandate that employers must disclose instances of sexual harassment to future employers. This could be a trap for employers who could face a lawsuit from two fronts: a sort of damned if you do, damned if you don't situation.
<a href="#">S.B. 5</a>	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTIONS AGAINST AND RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	SDO Caucus Proposal	The SDO bill makes two substantive changes and then spends the rest of time appropriating tens of millions of dollars to be used for victim's assistance grants, to the Office of Victim's Services, to DSS for purposes of addressing DV, and then requires a report by the JUD Branch.

			<p>The substantive changes include (1) expanding GPS monitoring for perpetrators of a crime of family violence (same language that we use in our caucus proposal) and (2) prohibiting a perpetrator of a crime of family violence from receiving alimony from his or her victim.</p> <p>If a final budget bill can support all of these items I think we'll have a hard time finding fault with them.</p>
<a href="#">H.B. 6918</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING ERASURE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS	Sen. Winfield	<p>Clean Slate Legislation Expansion bill that makes additional records subject to erasure and finds individuals for giving out records that are otherwise erased. There are some items republicans can find consensus on in this bill such as clarifying that the erasure of records under this bill does not eliminate a defendant's obligation to register for the sex offenders database, disregard a standing criminal protective order, or disregard paying any outstanding fines. Apart from these limited fixes though, this bill is more of the same out of the democrats playbook: in the name of equity and justice we must save convicted criminals from their pasts at the expense of the safety of the public at large.</p>
<a href="#">H.B. 5824</a>	AN ACT REFORMING THE BAIL SYSTEM	HRO Caucus Proposal	<p>HRO Caucus proposal that is a combination of proposals impacting the bail bondsmen licenses and strengthening our bond and PTA laws.</p> <p>It's not secret that a small amount of reoffenders are wreaking havoc upon our communities. This proposal seeks to address those reoffenders by limiting when they can be released on a promise to appear and making it harder for these individuals to post bond. Additionally, there are some bad actors in the bail bondsmen industry that have been posting bail without requiring the defendant contribute any amount. This has resulted in offenders being released very quickly back into the community, free to continue committing crimes. Our bill cleans up both sides of the bail system.</p>
<a href="#">H.J. 261</a>	RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO REVISE REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE OFFERING OF BAIL OR	Rep. Fishbein	<p>Current constitutional restrictions require judges to offer bail to an individual except in a capital offense (a death penalty case.) This change reflects our statutory elimination of capital offenses and replaces it with a provision that requires bail to be offered to all criminal defendants except if a judge determines that the court cannot be assured that the defendant will appear in court, to protect the safety of an individual or the public at large, or to prevent the</p>

	PRETRIAL RELEASE TO PERSONS ACCUSED OF A CRIME	obstruction of the criminal justice process. It also allows the legislature to set conditions of pretrial release and denial. This change is a necessary precursor to any meaningful bail reform.
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**Public Health Public Hearing – 11:00 AM, Room 1D**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Bill Title</b>	<b>Introducers</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<a href="#">S.B. 9</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS.	Senate Democratic Caucus	<p>This is the Senate Democratic Caucus proposal regarding public health issues in the state. It includes the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibits any person or entity from limiting or prohibiting any person from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ accessing assisted reproductive technology,</li> <li>○ continuing or completing an ongoing assisted reproductive technology treatment or procedure pursuant to a written plan or agreement with a health care provider, or</li> <li>○ retaining all rights regarding the use of reproductive genetic materials, including, but not limited to, gametes and embryos.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Prohibits any person or entity from limiting or prohibiting a health care provider who is authorized to perform assistive reproductive technology treatments or procedures from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ performing any such treatment or procedure or</li> <li>○ providing evidence-based information related to assisted reproductive technology.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Requires the DSS Commissioner to adjust Medicaid reimbursement criteria to provide funding for same day access to long-acting reversible contraceptives at federally qualified health centers (FQHC).</li> <li>• Creates new civil and criminal penalties for any person who does or attempts to injure, intimidate or interfere with any person who is or has been obtaining or providing reproductive health services or who does or attempts to damage or destroy the property of a facility because such facility provides reproductive health services.</li> <li>• Requires DMHAS, in consultation with DPH, to establish a pilot program to establish three harm reduction centers in three municipalities selected by the DMHAS Commissioner.</li> </ul>

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|  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishes a Harm Reduction Center Pilot Program Advisory Committee that advises DMHAS on issues concerning the establishment of the harm reduction center pilot program.</li><li>• Establishes an Opioid Antagonist Bulk Purchase Fund, which will be a separate nonlapsing account within the General Fund, to make grants to eligible entities for the purchase of large quantities of opioid antagonists in bulk at a discounted price.</li><li>• Requires any prescribing practitioner, who prescribes an opioid drug to an adult or minor patient, to prescribe an opioid antagonist when certain risks are present.</li><li>• Requires the Office of Emergency Medical Services, in collaboration with DMHAS, to develop a program for the provision of opioid antagonists and related information by emergency medical services personnel to certain members of the public.</li><li>• Allows a pharmacy, with a standing order from a prescribing practitioner, to dispense opioid antagonists to an emergency medical services organization.</li><li>• Requires the SDE Commissioner to establish a Health Care Career Advisory Council, which shall advise the Commissioner concerning the development of a health care career program.</li><li>• Requires the DPH Commissioner to convene a working group to develop recommendations for expanding the nursing workforce in the state.</li><li>• Requires each public institution of higher education to consider as a qualified applicant for an adjunct faculty position any health care provider who:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Has not less than ten years of clinical experience in their field, and</li><li>○ Applies for a position as an adjunct faculty member at such institution in their chosen field.</li></ul></li><li>• Requires the Office of Higher Education must establish an adjunct professor incentive grant program.</li><li>• Requires DPH to offer any competency evaluations for nurse's aides in both English and Spanish.</li><li>• Requires DSS to establish and administer a personal care attendants (PCAs) career pathways program to improve the quality of care offered by PCAs and incentivize the recruitment and retention of PCAs in the state.</li><li>• Prohibits any hospital from requiring, as part of its credentialing requirements for a physician, that such</li></ul> |
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			<p>physician provide credentials of any board certification in a particular specialty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibits any noncompete clauses in employment, partnership, or ownership contracts or agreements for physicians and APRNs.</li> <li>• Establishes a task force to study medical malpractice reform to incentivize physicians and other health care providers to practice in the state.</li> <li>• Enacts the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact into law and enters Connecticut into the compact with all the other jurisdictions that have already joined.</li> <li>• Requires the DPH Commissioner to establish a working group to advise DPH and relevant scope of practice review committees regarding the scope of practice of podiatrists as it relates to surgical procedures.</li> <li>• Allows any person who practices as an APRN or with a similar designation in another state with substantially similar or higher requirements to apply for a license in the state of Connecticut.</li> <li>• Requires the health care provider loan reimbursement grant program, established by the Office of Higher Education, to award at least ten percent of the grants to people employed full-time as health care providers in a rural community in the state.</li> <li>• Requires any owner or operator of each splash pad and spray park where water is recirculated must post a sign in a conspicuous location at or near the entryway stating that the water is recirculated and warning that there is a potential health risk to ingesting the water.</li> </ul> <p>This language is far from the final version, but we do have some concerns about two of the provisions. The first provision establishes the Harm Reduction Center Pilot Program which would create three harm reduction centers in the state. This is a major concern because these centers allow for drug users to use their illegal drugs in the presence of a licensed health care provider. This could promote the use of illegal drugs without consequence and take money away from programs that focus on treatment and prevention of substance use disorders. The second provision, prohibiting noncompete clauses for physicians and APRNs, interferes with contracts that are freely entered and negotiated by employers and their employees.</p>
<a href="#">S.B. 1067</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING ADEQUATE	PH Committee	This bill addresses ensuring adequate and safe staffing for health care workers. It includes the following provisions:

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- Sets specific nurse staffing standards requiring a certain ratio of registered nurses or assistive personnel to patients per corresponding patient care unit.
  - This would not be required until Jan. 1, 2028.
  - Assistive personnel are defined as: persons who are not licensed by DPH, but who work under the direct supervision of a registered nurse to implement specifically delegated patient care activities.
- Requires a representative of the collective bargaining unit for registered nurses to select the nurses to be members of the hospital staffing committee.
  - Hospital staffing committees are required in each hospital and they assist in the preparation of the nurse staffing plan for each hospital.
- Requires each hospital to post the nurse staffing plan on each patient care unit in a conspicuous location visible to everyone.
- Allows any registered nurse to object to or refuse to participate in any activity, policy, practice, or task assigned by a hospital, provided the nurse acts in good faith and reasonably believes:
  - Participation would violate the nurse staffing plan, or
  - They are not prepared by education, training, or experience to participate without compromising the safety of a patient or jeopardizing their license.
- Prohibits hospitals from taking any adverse action against the registered nurse for such objection or refusal.
- Prohibits any hospital from requiring a registered nurse to work overtime. Overtime is defined as working:
  - In excess of a predetermined work shift, regardless of the length, if such shift was determined within 48 hours of commencement,
  - More than 12 hours in a 24 hour period,
  - During the 10 hour period immediately following a work shift of 8 hours or more, or
  - More than 48 hours in any work week.
- Exceptions to the overtime rule are as follows:
  - participating in an ongoing surgical procedure,
  - working in a critical care unit until being relieved by another nurse who is starting a scheduled work shift, or
  - in the case of a public health or institutional emergency.

- Requires hospitals to make a good faith effort to have overtime hours covered on a voluntary basis before requiring a nurse to work overtime in the case of the aforementioned exceptions.

We have serious concerns about this legislation. On the one hand, it sets specific nurse staffing ratios for hospitals, requiring more nurses per patient; on the other hand, it prohibits any mandatory overtime, unless in very specific cases. In a time when we are seeing a serious lack of staffing in the nursing field in Connecticut, this proposal would take a top-down approach to the issue and inadvertently hurt patients in the long-run by reducing the ability of hospitals to have staff work overtime where it is needed and to set their own staffing requirements. While we are not against easing burdens on overworked staff, this issue should be dealt with by each individual hospital rather than the state government.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 24

### Appropriations Public Hearing – 11:00 AM, Room 2C

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer	Purpose
<a href="#">H.B. 5519</a>	AN ACT REQUIRING PERFORMANCE-INFORMED BUDGET REVIEW.	Rep. Candelora, Rep. Cheeseman, Rep. Nuccio	Republican caucus proposal that requires performance-informed budget review to be done. This is currently in statute but has not been done since its creation.
<a href="#">S.B. 109</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE STATE.	Sen. Kelly	Requires the CEO of each municipality receiving covid relief money to submit a report to OPM. OPM will then submit a report to the appropriations committee and post findings online. The goal of the bill is to increase transparency with federal relief money following the scandal in West Haven.



<a href="#">S.B. 787</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSTITUTIONAL SPENDING CAP AND EXEMPT EXPENDITURES.	Sen. Looney	Excludes funding towards distressed communities, funding to alliance districts, funding to bottom 1/3 test score school districts, and PILOT program payments from the spending cap calculation. This would drastically weaken the spending cap, allowing increased funding to be spent outside of the safeguards created in the 2017 budget cycle.
<a href="#">H.B. 6660</a>	AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT.	Governor	Enacts a large section of the Governor's budget.
<a href="#">H.B. 6898</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FROM THE JUUL LABS SETTLEMENT.	Approps	Requires the Attorney General to submit a report on the JUUL Labs settlement. The report will include the amount received, the date the state is expected to receive the funds, the settlement terms, and recommendations on spending the funds for smoking cessation. The JUUL settlement is one of the more well-known settlements over the past several years, putting bills related to it or smoking prevention as potentially noteworthy to the public.
<a href="#">S.B. 1213</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN FUND.	Approps	Changes the requirements for the distribution of funds to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund by requiring \$139.38M be transferred from the General Fund every year starting FY26. This transfer amount cannot be reduced without a 2/3 vote in the House and Senate. This could potentially provide increased grant funding to local municipalities while making it more difficult to reduce the transfer total. It is unclear what towns would benefit and by how much.
<a href="#">S.B. 1214</a>	AN ACT CONCERNING FULLY FUNDING PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES TO MUNICIPALITIES.	Approps	Creates a task force to examine the PILOT program payments to municipalities and the potential cost for fully funding the program.