

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Judiciary Public Hearing – 9:00 AM, Room 2C

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
H.B. 6667	AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE	Gov's Bill	<p>Gov's omnibus firearms bill. That makes many significant changes impacting gun owners across the industry spectrum including, manufacturers, retailers, and owners. Some of these provisions have been found unconstitutional in other states, some have withstood constitutional challenges, some I don't think are enacted anywhere. Below I listed the many changes the bill makes. One of the more egregious: being charged with a Class D felony if a minor breaks into your house, steals your gun, and commits a crime with it. That provision turns a victim into an offender. Picture a young mother living alone with her children in a bad neighborhood who keeps a small pistol by the bed. Her home is burglarized, she's tied up and tossed into the closet by a group of teens. The perps steal her gun and decide to do a drive-by on a rival gang, under this she could be charged with a Class D felony because her gun wasn't locked up? Really poor form from the Governor here. Here is the exhaustive list of the bill's contents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bans open carry of a firearm.• Bans ghost guns.• Restricts firearms purchases to 1 gun per month.• Creates a two new licenses for firearms dealers, a local license and a state license (this is in addition to the already existing federal license.)• Requires a 10 day waiting period to take possession of a purchased firearm.• Requires guns stored at home to be locked in safes or carried on the person.• Opens the certificate of possession period for assault weapons that were previously exempt and mandates that owners of previously exempt assault weapons obtain a certificate of possession for such firearms.• Expands the crime of criminally negligent storage of a firearm to include instances when a homeowners gun is stolen by a minor that unlawfully entered the home.• Includes rimfire rifles in the assault weapons ban

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises the age to obtain a long gun permit and an ammunition permit to 21 from 18. Prohibits someone from obtaining one of these permits if they were ever had a misdemeanor violation of a crime of family violence. Requires NRA training courses to obtain these permits. • Creates a database for crimes of family violence. • Prohibits the sale of any pistol or revolver that does not have a loaded chamber indicator or if it accepts a detachable magazine, a magazine disconnect lockout. • Mandates all guns be sold with trigger locks. • Prohibits the possession of a loaded long gun in a vehicle or on a snowmobile. • Appropriates \$2.5M in APRA funds to DPH to fund community gun violence prevention and intervention activities • Repeals the 1993 Pre-ban exemption for assault weapons.
H.B. 6834	AN ACT CONCERNING SERIOUS FIREARM OFFENSES BY REPEAT OFFENDERS.	Unknown	Creates a new crime of “serious firearm offense” for which a person is guilty if they possess a large capacity magazine, a ghost gun, or a defaced gun, or brandishing or shoot a firearm while threatening another person. This bill creates a separate judicial docket for these individuals with specific bail and PTA rules. At first glance it looks like a tough on crime bill but I have this feeling that it’s a lion in sheep’s clothing. I am not sure whose bill this is so I will need to watch the public hearing for helpful context.
H.B. 6816	AN ACT CONCERNING MICROSTAMPING-ENABLED PISTOLS, RAISING THE AGE TO PURCHASE AMMUNITION AND RESTRICTING THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF BODY ARMOR.	Rep. Stafstrom	This bill prohibits firearms from being sold in CT that are not equipped with microstamping technology – this is technology that puts an individual identifier on a cartridge when it is hit by the hammer. This technology is not in use by any major firearm manufacturer and is a de facto ban on commonly owned firearms. In addition this raises the age to possess a gun or ammunition from 18 to 21 and bans the sale of body armor to everyone but cops and military personnel.

<p>H.B. 6817</p>	<p>AN ACT CONCERNING AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS TO OWN, POSSESS OR CARRY A FIREARM.</p>	<p>Rep. Fishbein</p>	<p>This is the black sheep of the 4 item agenda on Monday. This bill seeks to return some of our individual rights that have stripped away over the years by democrats. There are multiple republican-backed provisions that we have been unable to raise in the past contained in this bill including the Castle Doctrine, removal of the suitability requirement, reciprocity of out-of-state pistol permits, tax credits for gun safes, the list goes on. Here is what the bill contains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating the suitability requirement • Mandatory issuance of permit after 8 weeks or express denial • Eliminates fees on permits beyond cost to pay for the background check • Olympic Pistols exemption to assault weapons ban • Procedures for DESPP response to a Mass Shooting Event • LEOs possession of a firearm on school grounds while off duty • Pistols allowed in state parks (currently DEEP prohibits this) • Reciprocity for pistol permits in states with similar requirements to CTs • No permit to buy ammo if you purchase from and use immediately at a gun range • Notice of individual rights at a police station • DESPP Data expansion • Castle Doctrine • \$150 tax credit for gun safe • Transfer of AWS/LCM among those who already possess an exempt AW/LCM • Lifetime ammo permit • Lifetime long gun permit • Repeals fees for eligibility permits
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GAE Public Hearing – 11:00 AM, Room 2A

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
H.B. 5704	AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATORY VOTING.	Reps Elliott, Chafee, D’Agostino, Hughes, and Reyes and Sen. Anwar	This bill mandates that electors vote, explain to the government why they didn’t vote, or pay a fine. This is clearly an unconstitutional violation on free speech. The Dems had the gusto to actually defend this bill when challenged on it in committee. (Also see companion bill H.B. 5717 that doe the same thing but without the fine.)
H.B. 5714	AN ACT CONCERNING INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS AND VOTING.	Rep. McCarthy-Vahey	Allows individuals, while incarcerated, to become electors and vote. (Sidenote: no word on how the fines will be paid by inmate electors who neglect to vote or respond to government inquiry if both H.B. 5704 and 5714 become law.)

Public Health Public Hearing – 11:00 AM, Room 1E

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducers	Purpose
Proposed S.B. 171	AN ACT ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO PRESCRIBE BIRTH CONTROL MEDICATION.	Sens. Fazio, Somers	This bill, if drafted, would allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control through a standing order given by the state. Even though it does not have specific language yet, there are serious concerns from allowing pharmacists to prescribe this medication as it is not over-the-counter and could lead to side effects. Without seeing a OB/GYN or at least a primary care physician, women may get medication that could cause harm from hormonal changes that are contraindicated with their own medical issues.
H.B. 6740	AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL FINANCIAL POLICIES	PH Committee	This bill does a couple of things including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds a definition for “underinsured patient” which is anyone who is liable for any hospital charges that exceed two percent of the annual household income after coverage was provided by a health insurance policy carrier. • Requires each hospital to provide hospital financial assistance, defined as covering all services and supplies that are medically necessary, to any patient, regardless

			<p>of immigration status, who is enrolled in SNAP or Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children whose income does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No hospital can require the patient to apply for any government-funded coverage or insurance through the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange ● Requires hospitals to report data on financial assistance provided, including the number of patients requesting it and demographics of said patients. ● Requires hospitals to train their staff concerning the specifics of this financial assistance program. ● Requires hospitals to provide a payment plan to anyone deemed ineligible for this financial assistance to not more than two percent of the applicant’s annual household income per year. <p>We are firmly against this legislation as written because it would force hospitals to cover the costs of low-income people who are provided services in said hospitals. While many of these services are covered under Medicaid and the Connecticut medical assistance program, this would put the onus on hospitals to front huge amounts of money instead of the government or private insurance. Instead of hospitals focusing on putting their funds to good use like hiring, capital improvements, and new devices, they would have to use those funds to cover people who can’t pay and, in some cases, are not even citizens or residents of the state. It is unknown what the cost of this requirement would be on the hospitals, but during the hearing the associations responsible for hospital administrations will most likely report an enormous, unfunded cost.</p>
<p>H.B. 6818</p>	<p>AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE.</p>	<p>PH Committee</p>	<p>This bill does a couple of things including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prohibiting health care entities from discharging, demoting, suspending, disciplining, or discriminating against health care providers if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ they provide information to patients about “medically accurate information” relating to the patient’s health status; ○ they provide information about available and relevant services and resources to obtain health care of the patient’s choosing;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ they provide any health care service relating to complications of pregnancy including miscarriage treatment and treatment for ectopic pregnancies. ● Prohibits pharmacists from obstructing patients in obtaining a prescription drug or medical device that has been legally prescribed. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the prescription drug or medical device causes a harmful interaction or adversely affects the patient’s medical condition; ○ The drug or device is not in stock; ○ The pharmacist refuses on ethical, moral, or religious grounds. ● Sets the conditions of violating the above provisions. <p>Originally we expected this to be a massive abortion-related aircraft carrier, however, this has been diluted down to a much less problematic bill. The main concerns with this legislation stem from the possibility of allowing health care providers who work for entities who do not provide abortions, like crisis pregnancy centers, to give information about abortions to their patients along with providing abortions for medically necessary conditions, even if it is not allowed by such entities.</p>
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TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Human Services Public Hearing – 11:00 AM, Room 2B

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducers	Purpose
S.B. 1174	AN ACT CONCERNING MINIMUM EMPLOYEE WAGES, HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR NONPROFIT PROVIDERS OF	HS Committee	Requires nonprofit employers to increase the minimum wage for employees who work with individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities to \$25 per hour by Jan. 1, 2026. Allocates \$196 million for the purpose of increasing wages for these employees. Requires the Comptroller to offer health care coverage through a partnership plan to nonprofit employers and employees. Allocates \$90 million to nonprofit employers for the purpose of enhancing the retirement benefits for all of their employees.

	STATE-ADMINISTERED SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.		While we as Republicans are not against paying the people who work with our most vulnerable more, we are strongly against this method of achieving that goal. Currently, these workers are paid around \$17 per hour and increasing it by almost eight dollars would be too drastic of a change, especially in an era of high inflation. Also, the state does not have \$300 million to spend, while we have many other high priority issues that are being dealt with in the biennial budget. Prioritizing workforce development and lowering barriers to entry are some of the better ways to increase staff in this field without a massive cost to taxpayers.
H.B. 6857	AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOOD AS MEDICINE WORKING GROUP.	HS Committee	<p>This proposal originally comes from the Food as Medicine working group, which was set up last year by Reps. Dathan and Foster. It establishes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a pilot program to provide Medicaid funding for produce prescriptions for Medicaid enrollees with certain health conditions, • a working group to develop additional recommendations, including for providing medically tailored meals for such persons, and • Medicaid reimbursement for certified dietitian-nutritionists who provide medical nutrition therapy. <p>We as Republicans believe that Medicaid should be for the most vulnerable who need health costs covered for medically necessary services or devices and while food does play an important role in health, it is not a good use of our state’s money at this time. Currently, Medicaid and state-funded medical assistance already covers medically necessary services, therefore, it is not necessary to cover these services, especially since you do not need prescriptions to purchase food. And, if anyone needs financial help to purchase foods, SNAP is available to anyone with a lower income at no cost to the state.</p>

Energy Public Hearing – 12:00 PM, Room 1B

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
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SB 1167	AAC a Study of the Structure of Energy Policy and Regulation in the State and Separate Functions of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Energy and Technology (Similar to our caucus proposal with the difference being that this bill creates an independent study)	This bill requires DAS to hire consultants to study whether the state's current structure for energy policies under the umbrella of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) accomplishes the goals that were intended. The Public Utility Regulatory Authority is within the DEEP currently and DEEP's aggressive de-carbonization policies influence PURA's decision making, even though PURA is supposed to act in the best interest of the ratepayers. House Republicans are supportive of efforts to separate the two agencies.
SB 1172	AAC Energy Generated from Solid Waste Management	Energy and Technology	A placeholder for future language for any recommendations for the planning and contracting of trash-to-energy facilities. This topic in general is controversial given that DEEP's waste management plan contemplates increased fees and the MIRA facility has stopped functioning, ultimately putting a strain municipalities.
SB 1170	AAC the Procurement of Zero-Carbon Resources from Eligible Nuclear Power Generating Facilities	Energy and Technology	A placeholder should Dominion Energy and DEEP negotiate a new or extended power purchase agreement for nuclear energy. The Dominion 4.9 cent per kwh contract expires in 2029 but there are discussions of extending the contract potentially at a lower rate. Of all the zero-carbon resources, nuclear remains the cheapest, and is one of the largest generational assets for ISO-NE. The contract with Millstone remains controversial, however in the recent months with high market energy prices, the contract has resulted in electric bill credits for ratepayers in EDC territories.
HB 6852	AAC the Affordability of Utilities	Energy and Technology (DEEP's proposal)	<p>The bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limits electric reconnection fees to no more than \$100 for hardship customers, • allows a portion of fees levied on public service companies to be directed into the education technology fund (wiring and connecting schools and libraries to the internet). Currently the fines collected go to funding fuel bank • Prohibits electricity to be shut off to hardship customers on days where the weather is forecast to be higher than 90 degrees.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires PURA to consider discount rates for low-income residents through at the next rate proceedings. <p>While this enhances the protections for hardship customers, it will likely result in cost-shifts, increasing rates for non-hardship customers to make up for the revenue and sale reductions.</p>
SB 1171	AAC Petroleum Storage Levels	Energy and Technology (Sen. Needleman's proposal)	<p>Requires DEEP to study the adoption of a hedging system to mitigate against a petroleum shortage (including home heating) in the state and any necessary legislation needed.</p> <p>While the study may not be controversial, DEEP has not been a friend of fuel burning furnaces or generators, and there's a fear that any plan DEEP would put forward would be excessive.</p>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

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

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
H.B. 6637	AN ACT CONCERNING A CRIME VICTIM'S PARTICIPATORY RIGHTS IN A VIOLATION OF PROBATION OR CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE HEARING.		Finally a bill that considers the rights of the victim. This bill requires CSSD to notify a victim when an offender is to be released and to provide the victim with notice of a hearing date and information on how to register for the state-wide automated victim info and notification system. Allows the Victim to make a statement on the record.
H.B. 6737	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF HARMFUL COMMUNICATION WITH A MINOR.		A bill republicans should definitely support. This bill establishes a new crime of harmful interaction with a minor. Individuals age 21 and over are guilty of this crime when they use a computer or text a minor asking them to share a photo or video for purposes of the offender's sexual gratification, disseminate to individuals for the same aforementioned purpose, try to

			form an inappropriate relationship, or engage in communication harmful to the minor.
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Education Public Hearing- 12:00 PM, Room 1E

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
SB 1	AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION	ED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This bill discusses adding in sex education to include discussion of sexual assault, stalking, and violence. - This bill does not outline a change in look back date for Enfield and Stratford which contradicts the Recommendations from the Department of Education’s bill SB 1028 which require a change in look back for those two towns. The Department of Education remains the decision maker in who becomes an Alliance district in SB 1028. This bill changes that power to the Commissioner of Education. - Administer a Wholesome school meal pilot program awarded to 5 Alliance Districts to include providing professional chefs.
SB 1165	AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL LITERACY INSTRUCTION.	ED	<p>This would require schools to add a .5 credit of financial literacy. This would help students balancing life financial needs and becoming financially responsible adults.</p> <p>In the past, Republican members have shown support for financial literacy programs.</p>
HB 6842	AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL FOOD FOR SCHOOLS INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND EXPANSION OF THE CT GROWN FOR CT	ED	<p>Department of Ed will hire a full-time employee to administer Local Food for Schools Incentive Program. Gives money from General Fund to Department of Ed for Local Food for Schools Incentive Program. Starts at \$150,000 first year then \$1.5 million for the second year and \$1 million each year for 2 years.</p> <p>Similar bills:</p>

	KIDS GRANT PROGRAM.		HB 6030- Rep. Piscopo HB 6335- Rep Buckbee & Rep Fishbein
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THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Human Services Public Hearing- 10:00 AM, Room 1B

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducers	Purpose
S.B. 10	AN ACT PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, HEALTH CARE COVERAGE, TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTH CARE COSTS, HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE PERSONS AND RIGHTS REGARDING GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION.	Senate Democratic Caucus	<p>This legislation has multiple parts dealing with a myriad of issues related to human services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to make public the list of ten outpatient prescription drugs that are determined to be critical to public health and are provided at substantial cost to the state and allow for public comment on such list. • Prohibiting drug purchasers from purchasing and seeking reimbursement for referenced drugs if they are to be dispensed, delivered, or administered to an insured person in the state for a cost that exceeds the maximum fair price. • Prohibiting drug purchasers from withdrawing such referenced drugs to attempt to avoid any loss of revenue resulting from the maximum fair price requirement. • Prohibiting any 340B covered entity from collecting any payment considered as medical debt for a prescription that was obtained at a discounted price through the 340B program but was charged at a higher price. • Establishes a Prescription Drug Payment Evaluation Committee to recommend upper payment limits on not fewer than eight prescription drugs to the executive director of the Office of Health Strategy. • Requiring the state Comptroller to establish and administer a prescription drug discount card program available to all residents in the state.

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibiting health insurance carriers from offering, soliciting, requesting, amending, renewing, or entering into a contract that includes anticompetitive clauses including: all-or-nothing, anti-steering, and anti-tiering.• Requiring DSS to include in the fee schedule for home health care or aide agencies two licensed clinical social worker visits to each individual enrolled in the Connecticut Home-Care Program for the Elderly or any home and community-based Medicaid waiver programs.• Requiring DSS to provide Medicaid reimbursement to certified community health workers.• Requiring OHS to convene forums and meetings with internal and external stakeholders to align community health worker programs throughout the state.• Requiring DSS to amend a federal Medicaid waiver program to expand health care coverage to persons whose earnings do not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level from the current 175%, and develop a second tier of such program to cover persons whose earnings are between two hundred per cent and three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level.• Requiring the state health insurance exchange to make a written request to DRS for information for use in conducting targeted outreach to uninsured residents in the state.• Allowing the Commissioner of Public Health to amend birth certificates to reflect a change of the parent's legal name.• Allowing inmates and prisoners to legally change their name in the Department of Correction.• Defining gender dysphoria to be in line with the definitions in the DSM-V and the ICD-11, which are standards for mental health disorders.• Removing the \$250 filing fee to change someone's name through the Probate Court.• Establishing a working group to seek input on department guidelines for gender-affirming procedures. |
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			<p>As of now, we have a lot of concerns about this bill, however, it is unclear how much of this will make it into the final JF version. Some of the major problem sections include the prescription drug price controls, the universal drug discount card, expanding Covered Connecticut, and removing the Probate Court filing fee for changing someone's name.</p>
<p>H.B. 5001</p>	<p>AN ACT CONCERNING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.</p>	<p>House Democratic Caucus</p>	<p>This legislation has multiple parts to it dealing with resources and services for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring OPM to analyze existing employment assistance programs for people with IDD and establish financial incentives for businesses to employ a greater number of people with IDD. • Requiring OPM to review other state's transportation practices for people with IDD and develop recommendations to provide better transportation services for that community. • Requiring DSS to reduce the waiting lists for services in the Medicaid waiver programs. • Requiring DSS to expand the Medicaid waiver program for people with autism spectrum disorder to allow not less than 600 people on those waiting lists to receive services. • Increasing the HUSKY C asset limits from \$1,600 (single) and \$2,400 (married) to \$3,600 (single) and \$5,400 (married). • Increasing the income limit for Medicaid from 143% of the benefit amount paid to a person with no income under the Temporary Family Assistance program to \$1,465 per month. • Adding people with IDD to the clearinghouse database on missing persons. • Giving the State Bond Commission the power to authorize up to one million dollars in bonds to be used by DESPP to distribute to municipalities and local police departments to establish a voluntary registration system for residents with IDD. • Requiring DDS to maintain certain data on people with IDD (e.g. estimated number in the state, number of people with IDD receiving services, etc.) • Requiring DOL to establish a Behavioral Health and Human Services Career Pipeline program and

develop a strategic workforce plan to ensure a sufficient number of highly trained providers are available to serve people with IDD.

- Establishing a bill of rights for people with IDD.

Even though this is a House Democratic Caucus proposal, it was worked on by both Democrats and Republicans. The two leading legislators working on this bill are Rep. Jay Case and Rep. Lucy Dathan. The language is not completely finished yet, but this will allow for people with IDD to get the services they desperately need along with getting more workers into this field to better serve that community. The cost is currently estimated to be around \$100 million, but this has been budgeted for in the Governor's budget.

Labor Committee Public Hearing- 10:00 AM, Room 1D

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
6859	AAC Predictable Scheduling	Labor	The name has changed, but the bill remains the same. Previously known as the "Fair Work Week" bill, this year's version remains a terrible bill for retail, hospitality and restaurants - businesses that are particularly dependent on unpredictable or variable consumer demand, weather, and other time-sensitive factors. It imposes heavy penalties on employers if they don't give enough notice for schedule shifts and last-minute changes. Either the state (DOL or AG), a union or an aggrieved employee may start a civil action against the employer that could result in significant penalties of back pay, fines, and compliance orders.
6860	AA Extending Connecticut Premium Pay Program to Certain Essential Workers	Labor	Expands premium pay to those eligible to have received vaccines to phase 1c (law already covers phases 1a and 1b). The bill also extends the deadline for payment to June 30, 2025 rather than 2024. Will definitely have a large fiscal note as an ever-growing list of eligible recipients would be able to receive funds under this bill.
6861	AA Adopting the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study the State	Labor	This task force primarily focused on diversity, equity and inclusion in the state workforce rather than better serving the public and becoming more efficient for taxpayers. The bill creates a Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion officer,

	Workforce and Retiring Employees		Equity Advisory Committee, and requires annual reports comparing hiring with the goals of the taskforce’s report on Representation and Compensation Equity Across Gender and Race-Ethnicity; adopts “zero tolerance” retaliation policies that make it impossible for the state employer from taking an adverse action against any employee who complained of discrimination; and creates the “Office of the Racial Justice Ombudsperson” within CHRO
1177	AAC One Fair Wage	Labor	Eliminates "sub-minimum wage" for tipped workers, which includes restaurant waiters and bartenders. Also, eliminates the “training wage” for learners, apprentices and workers under 18. Would only increase costs to restaurants and other businesses that include tip-based workers.
1178	AA Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days	Labor	<p>Expands mandatory paid sick days to all employees rather than just to “service workers.” The bill also expands the ability of an employee to use paid sick leave to care for a very broad definition of “family member” that includes someone “related by blood or affinity” that is the equivalent to a family relationship.</p> <p>Governor’s bill (HB 6668) also deals with an expansion of paid sick leave as well, but applies different standards for employers with 10 or fewer employees and those employers with 11 or more employees. (The smaller companies do not have to provide paid sick leave, but have to provide unpaid job-protected sick leave). It also has a more restricted definition of “family member” (spouse, sibling, child or parent of an employee).</p> <p>Both bills are bad, but the Labor Committee’s is much worse.</p>
1180	AAC Rideshare and Delivery Driver Minimum Standards	Labor	The new bill for Uber, GrubHub and similar driver/delivery services. Requires minimum pay, adjusted annually by the Labor Commissioner; required registrations (including a registration fee) by companies that offer such services and annual disclosure of certain information about number of trips and revenue data, cars utilized for these services, mileage driven each trip, total number of passengers each trip, dates and times of each trip and other detailed information.

		<p>The bill doesn't go all the way by making the drivers employees, but makes operating these networks more costly and difficult – harming the businesses, consumers, and possibly the drivers themselves (by possibly reducing available services and opportunities).</p> <p>The bill also includes a good provision for reciprocity with other states. (Section 9)</p>
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Public Safety Public Hearing- 10:00 AM, Room 2E

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
1162	AN ACT REQUIRING COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES AND FUNDING COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS TO COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE	Sen. Gaston	<p>This bill requires law enforcement to hold community roundtables with members/stakeholders in the communities they serve. Meetings are required to be conducted quarterly. The bill also establishes a pilot program for police departments in the state's largest cities to enhance community policing.</p> <p>There are many police departments that are very visible in the communities they serve already and participate in community events. The state should not be mandating what local police departments should and should not do within their own communities.</p>
6841	AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION	Public Safety Committee	<p>This bill contains a set of proposals that are intended to promote firefighter recruitment and retention. Some of the major items are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring the state fire administrator to develop or enter into an agreement with a vendor to develop, fire training facilities across the state for training for the candidate physical fitness test. • Allowing lawful permanent residents the ability to become firefighters • Establish a mortgage assistance program for firefighters • Waives tuition or a portion at state universities for firefighters who have been in service for at least 2 years.

6863	AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.	Public Safety Committee	<p>This bill contains a set of proposals that are intended to promote police officer recruitment and retention. Some of the major items are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a state program to reimburse municipalities for the cost of police training • Allow lawful permanent residents of the US to be eligible for employment as police officers. • Authorizes DESPP to establish a career incentive pay program based off of officers furthering their education • Exempt property belonging to police officers up to \$10,000 • Allows state universities to waive tuition for police officers who have been employed for a minimum of 2 years.
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FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Finance Public Hearing – 2:00 PM, Room 2E

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
HB 5290	AN ACT SUNSETTING THE HIGHWAY USE TAX.	House Republican Caucus	<p>This bill sunsets the Highway Use Tax beginning July 1, 2023.</p> <p>This is a House Republican Caucus Priority. All 53 house republicans signed a petition for this bill to be drafted and heard by the committee. Sunsetting this tax will show that Republicans support trucking companies and other businesses impacted by this new tax. This bill will help Connecticut become more affordable to live and do business in.</p>

FRIDAY MARCH 10

Environment Committee Public Hearing – 11:30 AM, Room 2B

Bill Number	Bill Title	Introducer(s)	Purpose
<u>1148</u>	An Act Authorizing Certain Killing And Hunting Of Black Bear And Prohibiting Bird Feeders And Other Unintentional And Intentional Feeding Of Potentially Dangerous Animals.	Related to proposals from HRO members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Among other things, allows DEEP to adopt regulations for a lottery Bear Hunt in Litchfield County.
<u>1149</u>	An Act Eliminating All Restrictions For Sunday Hunting On Public And Private Property.	Related to proposal from HRO members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows hunting to take place on public and private land in the state on Sunday.
<u>1145</u>	An Act Concerning The Establishment Of Sector Specific Sub-targets For Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions And Regulating Emissions Of Small-Off Road Engines.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes definition of "direct emissions" and "indirect emissions" to include combustible heating and transportation fuels.• Allows DEEP Commissioner to establish sector specific greenhouse gas emissions sub-targets for commercial and industrial heating and cooling, residential heating and cooling, industrial processes, natural gas distribution and service, electric supply, natural and working lands as well as any other sector or source determined by the commissioner.• Allows DEEP Commissioner to establish sector specific regulations for the purpose of reducing "direct" and "indirect" emissions.• Requires DEEP Commissioner to conduct an evaluation of the replacement of fossil fueled electricity-generating units with nonemitting energy or energy storage.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires Municipal Utility companies to issue an annual report on their greenhouse gas reduction process. • Not later than December 31, 2033, the Commissioner shall adopt regulations, , to implement the California emission standards for small off-road engines. • Creates a rebate program for consumers who purchase electric off-road vehicles.
1147	An Act Concerning The Environmental Justice Program Of The Department Of Energy And Environmental Protection.	Environment Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an overhaul of the existing Environmental Justice statutes which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expands the definition of "affecting facilities" to include more entities and adds various definitions. ○ Changes public health considerations ○ provides DEEP and the CT Siting Council with the ability to deny certain permits for a new affecting facility and apply conditions to the expansion of an existing facility.
1148	An Act Authorizing Certain Killing And Hunting Of Black Bear And Prohibiting Bird Feeders And Other Unintentional And Intentional Feeding Of Potentially Dangerous Animals.	Environment Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands the nuisance wildlife program so permits can be issued for the taking of wildlife that causes damage or a threat to agricultural crops, livestock or apiaries after certain steps have been taken to prevent such damage or threat. • Allows DEEP commissioner to adopt regulations for a lottery bear hunting season in Litchfield County. • Prohibits the intentional and unintentional feeding of "potentially dangerous animals".