

Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Friday, May 3, 2024

Agenda: <https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/24157>

A recording is available at: <http://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=22952>

Members present: Maureen Brummett, John Filchak (Vice Chair), Bridget Fox, Tom Gaudett, Matt Hart, Martin Heft, Keith Norton, James O’Leary, Francis Pickering, Troy Raccuia, Lon Seidman, Brendan Sharkey, Steve Stephanou, Ron Thomas

Members not present: Carl Amento, Steve Cassano, Sam Gold, Laura Hoydick, Karl Kilduff, Jeff Kitching, Katie Stargardter, Ethan Van Ness

Other participants: Jan Perruccio

OPM staff: Christine Goupil, Greg Lowrey, Bruce Wittchen

Vacancies: Designee of the House Minority Leader
Nominated by COST: Municipal official: Town of <10,000
Nominated by COST: Municipal official: Town of 10,000 – 20,000

1. Call to order and overview of telemeeting procedures

Commission member Sharkey said his business responsibilities have grown and he has submitted his resignation as chair of the ACIR to the Governor, but will remain an ACIR member. Commission vice-chair Filchak called the meeting to order at 10:38.

2. Approve draft minutes of [4/5/2024 meeting](#)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April minutes and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Membership Updates

Commission member Heft said the Governor has appointed Thomas Gaudett, who was nominated by the [CT Conference of Municipalities](#) (CCM), and noted that two positions to be appointed by the Governor based on nominations by the [CT Council of Small Towns](#) (COST) remain vacant. He also mentioned that Brian Greenleaf, who was the designee of the House Minority Leader has resigned. Tom Gaudett introduced himself and explained he is Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Bridgeport.

4. ACIR 2024-25 Work Plan

- [updated Draft Work Plan](#)

Bruce Wittchen showed the [updated work plan](#) on the screen and Commission vice chair Filchak explained expectations through the rest of 2024 and extending into to the 2025 legislative session. Commission members Hart and Thomas will co-chair the Municipal Workforce Development work groups and Commission member Seidman and Jan Perruccio, who CABA has nominated to represent it on the ACIR, will co-chair the Special Education, Education Governance and Workforce Development work group. Commission vice chair Filchak said the groups are open to people who are not ACIR members. The expectation is that there will be some presentations to the work groups during this period and some presentations to the full ACIR. A motion was made and seconded to proceed in this manner and the motion was passed unanimously.

Bruce Wittchen showed the [Work Group Ground Rules](#) and there was a discussion of the expected process. Commission vice chair Filchak said the groups will be similar to the [Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies](#) (MORE Commission), seeking to engage members and non-members. He said Christine Goupil and Bruce Wittchen can contact members and the co-chairs and others will reach out to other people and organizations than might contribute. Commission vice chair Filchak added that the process should be as inclusive as possible and he said reports should identify different views and alternatives. A motion was made and seconded to approve the ground rules and the motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Wittchen showed the [list of legislation relevant to the ACIR Work Program](#) and Christine Goupil placed the link in meeting chat. Commission vice chair Filchak provided an overview, highlight the potential for COGs to collaborate with [Regional Educational Service Centers](#) (RESCs) regarding [SB 229, An Act Establishing A School Mapping Data Grant Program](#). Commission member Thomas said he is not familiar with all of the listed bills but [HB 5056, An Act Facilitating The Expansion Of Shared Municipal Services](#), has a good chance with an amendment. He added that he can arrange for a briefing to the ACIR following the session regarding what passed and why.

Commission member Seidman said [HB 5437, An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief](#), passed the House on 5/2. He recommended that the list include [HB 5436, An Act Concerning Educator Certification, Teachers, Paraeducators And Mandated Reporter Requirements](#), which also passed on 5/2. Commission member O'Leary asked about SB 449, [An Act Concerning A Study Of State Taxation](#), and Commission vice chair Filchak said it is a bill from the [Finance Committee](#) that proposes a general study. Commission member Sharkey added that, based on his experience as House speaker, the bill might be what is known as a dummy bill: bills committees pass that can be amended with any last-minute legislation that cannot go elsewhere.

5. Pending legislation (See attached list provided with agenda)

Bruce Wittchen showed the 2nd page of the agenda, which list bills the ACIR has been followed or has discussed previously. Commission member Norton said there has been a lot of change in education bills. The State Dept. of Education will have a list available the week following the end of the session. Jan Perruccio described some of the changes to the previously-mentioned HB 5436 and there was a discussion of special education funding. Commission member Brummett said it is being cut to last year's level and, due to increasing costs, the state reimbursement rate will drop. She also mentioned changes regarding state [Education Cost Sharing](#) (ECS) and noted the uncertainty regarding how school districts will respond to changed DCS reporting requirements. There are legal concerns.

Commission member O'Leary said COST opposes the listed [HB 5264, An Act Concerning Volunteer Fire Departments And Ambulance Companies And The Definition Of Employer Under The State Occupational Safety And Health Act](#). He noted that they already have staffing issues. Commission member Thomas agreed and also noted CCM's interest in [HB 5173, An Act Authorizing The Online Publication Of Legal Notices By Municipalities](#).

6. Potential future topics

- Tentatively June: [CT DRS 2023 Tax Incidence Report](#) (issued 2/14/2024)
- Other

Commission vice chair Filchak said the June date has not been nailed down yet for the listed presentation by the [Dept. of Revenue Services](#). He added that other presentations will spin off from the work groups' efforts. There was further discussion of expectations for some subject matter experts advising the work groups to provide presentations to the full ACIR as the work groups proceed. There also was further discussion of work group recruitment. Christine Goupil said she and Bruce will

coordinate to ensure the ACIR is aware of all work. There was a suggestion to set up a library of documents on an ACIR webpage and Christine noted the availability of Sharepoint. The ACIR and work groups can choose what they prefer.

7. Upcoming meetings:

Commission member Thomas thanked commission member Sharkey for his service as ACIR chair and others agreed.

- Friday, June 7, 2024, 10:30 Full ACIR
- To be determined Municipal Workforce Development work group
- To be determined Special Education and Education Governance, Workforce Development, & Service Sharing work group

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:16.

Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM

Attachment: Pending legislation of interest

- a. [HB 5056](#) *An Act Facilitating The Expansion Of Shared Municipal Services*
- b. [HB 5173](#) *An Act Authorizing The Online Publication Of Legal Notices By Municipalities*
- c. [HB 5273](#) *An Act Concerning The Recommendations Of The Intergovernmental Policy And Planning Division Within The Office Of Policy And Management*
- d. [HB 5390](#) *An Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities*
- e. [HB 5473](#) *An Act Requiring The Majority Leaders' Roundtable Group On Affordable Housing To Study The Elimination Of Municipal Design Review Processes*
- f. [SB 11](#) *An Act Coordinating Connecticut Resiliency Planning And Broadening Municipal Options For Climate Resilience*
- g. [SB 198](#) *An Act Establishing Local Representation On The Connecticut Siting Council For Local Projects*
- h. [SB 207](#) *An Act Concerning Housing Authority Jurisdiction*
- i. Other