

Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Friday, June 6, 2024

Agenda: <https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/24161>

A recording is available at: <http://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=23223>

Members present: John Filchak (Vice Chair), Bridget Fox, Tom Gaudett, Sam Gold, Matt Hart, Keith Norton, James O'Leary, Francis Pickering, Troy Raccuia, Lon Seidman, Brendan Sharkey, Steve Stephanou, Ethan Van Ness

Members not present: Carl Amento, Steve Cassano, Martin Heft, Laura Hoydick, Karl Kilduff, Katie Stargardter, Ron Thomas

Other participants: Taylor Adams, Laura Francis, Betsy Gara, Sheila McKay (by phone), Jan Perruccio (nominated by CAPSS), Eric Protulis, Louis Rosado Burch

OPM staff: Christine Goupil, 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
Nominated by CAPSS
Public Member, appointed by the Governor

1. Call to order, overview of meeting procedures, agenda review/additions

Commission vice chair Filchak began the meeting at 10:35, noting the lack of a quorum at that time, and proceeded to Item 3.

2. Approve draft minutes of [5/3/2024](#) meeting

The group returned to this item at 10:56, when a quorum of members had arrived, and a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Membership Updates

Bruce Wittchen provided an overview of current vacancies, which he noted had increased due to recent resignations due to retirement. He added that some people being nominated to fill certain vacancies are in attendance today and Commission member Hart welcomed new or pending members and congratulated Commission vice chair Filchak on his upcoming retirement.

4. Update: [2024-25 Work Group Program](#) (also see [Work Group Ground Rules](#))

- Municipal Workforce Development (Matt Hart and Ron Thomas, co-chairs)

Commission member Hart explained that the goal is for this group to have approximately 15 members. Some of those are confirmed and he and group co-chair Thomas are waiting for some others to confirm. They aim to meet monthly and Christine Goupil said meetings are tentatively scheduled to be at 9:30 on 3rd Thursdays.

- Special Education, Education Governance, & Workforce Development (Jan Perruccio and Lon Seidman, co-chairs)

Jan Perruccio said they are aiming for this group's first meeting to be next week and provided an overview of the intended approach. Louis Rosado Burch asked about the group and he will participate, representing the CT Education Association.

5. Legislation recap (See attached list provided with agenda)

Commission vice chair Filchak mentioned changes to the Regional Performance Incentive Program statute in Sec. 7 of OPM's bill [HB 5273](#) (PA 14-132), noting that it provides more options. He also mentioned the [Office of Legislative Research's](#) (OLR's) publication, [2024 Major Public Acts](#), and the [Office of Fiscal Analysis's](#) (OFA's) interactive [Major Sources of State Aid to Towns - FY 21 to FY 25](#). Betsy Gara pointed out that a lot of legislation was combined into large bills, such as budget stabilization bill [HB 5523](#) (PA 24-81) and bond bill [HB 5524](#) (PA 24-151).

Betsy Gara described Sec. 127 of HB 5524, which she said removes some barriers to shared services for various municipal functions, such as Fair Rent Commissions and the appointment of local officials, such as building inspectors and fire marshals. Betsy added that the changes do not resolve everything, but she noted that Atty Steve Mednick said the changes will be helpful. Commission vice chair Filchak said the provision regarding local officials change will be helpful. Betsy Gara said the CT Municipal Employees Retirement Commission sections of PA 24-151 (Sec. 82 – 90) will be critical in giving municipalities a voice and she highlighted the defined contribution plan of Sec. 85.

Commission member Hart encouraged the group to have a more thorough discussion of the shared services changes and said Commission member Heft might be able to take the lead with that. Another area of opportunity is sharing between town government and school districts, which only a few towns do. Commission vice chair Filchak pointed out the sharing of services between the Town of Mansfield, the local district and Regional School District 19 during commission member Hart's time as town manager. He added that this is an important aspect of the recommendations in the [2020 Report of the Task Force to Promote Municipal Shared Services](#), which he is updating.

At this point, Bruce Wittchen said a quorum of members was present and also pointed out that all bills discussed by the group during this legislative session are listed as a second page of the agenda (and are attached here). He pointed out that only three of those bills, those shown in bold font, passed during the session, but sections supported or opposed by ACIR members might have been added to and been passed in another bill. The group returned to Sec. 2 of the agenda to vote on draft minutes and then proceeded to Sec. 6.

6. Potential future topics

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

Commission vice chair Filchak mentioned the group's interest in the tax incidence report and that it should add the topic of service sharing as recommended by commission member Hart. He invited other suggestions.

7. Upcoming meetings:

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

Commission member Filchak noted that work group meetings are being scheduled and suggested canceling the ACIR's July meeting while the working groups get underway. There was no objection.

Following up on an earlier reference to the ongoing legislative session mandate review, Bruce Wittchen mentioned the ACIR's longtime interest in enhancing its mandate reviews. He pointed out that the group had planned to do a deep dive into a few mandates in 2020, comparing the impacts experienced with the impacts predicted by the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) when those mandates had been created. He said there have been discussions of restarting that since then and now could be the time to start. He said it would be best to start with a few to test the approach, noting that the ACIR had tried such a review a long time ago (see 1995's [Cost Estimates for Selected Statutory Mandates on Municipalities](#)).

Commission vice chair Filchak mentioned the presentation by OFA staff at the [ACIR's 9/7/2018 meeting](#) and also described Ohio's [local impact statements](#). Commission member O'Leary agreed with the benefit of a more thorough review of mandates and Commission member Stephanou also agreed with doing a more thorough review. There was general agreement to start such a review.

There was a brief discussion of expectations and potential topics for the new education working group and Commission vice chair Filchak suggested inviting Majority Leader Rojas to the ACIR's August or September meeting to discuss aspects of housing initiatives that are relevant to both working groups.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:13.

Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM

Attachment: legislation discussed at ACIR meetings during the 2024 session

Note: Bills in **bold** passed, but sections of interest or concern in those might have been removed prior to passage. The other bills did not pass, but sections of interest or concern in those might have reappeared in amendments to other bills that did pass.

- a. ~~[HB 5056](#)~~ *An Act Facilitating The Expansion Of Shared Municipal Services*
- b. ~~[HB 5144](#)~~ *An Act Concerning The Assignment Of Certain Liens*
- c. ~~[HB 5173](#)~~ *An Act Authorizing The Online Publication Of Legal Notices By Municipalities*
- d. ~~[HB 5264](#)~~ *An Act Concerning Volunteer Fire Departments And Ambulance Companies And The Definition Of Employer Under The State Occupational Safety And Health Act*
- e. **[HB 5273](#)** ***An Act Concerning The Recommendations Of The Intergovernmental Policy And Planning Division Within The Office Of Policy And Management, Audits And Municipal Finance***
- f. ~~[HB 5315](#)~~ *An Act Concerning Member Participation During Remote And Hybrid Municipal Public Agency Meetings Under The Freedom Of Information Act*
- g. ~~[HB 5348](#)~~ *An Act Concerning Paraeducators*
- h. ~~[HB 5390](#)~~ *An Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities*
- i. **[HB 5436](#)** ***An Act Concerning Educator Certification, Teachers, Paraeducators And Mandated Reporter Requirements***
- j. **[HB 5437](#)** ***An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief, School Discipline And Disconnected Youth***
- k. ~~[HB 5473](#)~~ *An Act Concerning The Expansion Of Municipal Sewerage Systems To Promote The Development Of Housing And Requiring The Majority Leaders' Roundtable Group On Affordable Housing To Study The Elimination Of Municipal Design Review Processes*
- l. [HB 5503](#) [Note: Bill passed with completely different subject matter]
- m. ~~[HB 5515](#)~~ *An Act Establishing The Municipal Employees Retirement Commission And Concerning The Municipal Employees' Retirement System*
- n. ~~[SB 11](#)~~ *An Act Coordinating Connecticut Resiliency Planning And Broadening Municipal Options For Climate Resiliency*
- o. ~~[SB 179](#)~~ *An Act Concerning Rates For Ambulance And Paramedic Services*
- p. ~~[SB 191](#)~~ *An Act Concerning Food Scrap Diversion From The Solid Waste Stream And The Redemption Of Out-Of-State Beverage Containers*
- q. ~~[SB 198](#)~~ *An Act Establishing Local Representation On The Connecticut Siting Council For Local Projects*
- r. ~~[SB 207](#)~~ *An Act Concerning Housing Authority Jurisdiction*
- s. ~~[SB 229](#)~~ *An Act Establishing A School Mapping Data Grant Program*
- t. ~~[SB 381](#)~~ *An Act Concerning The Teaching Profession And Revisions To The Mandated Reporter Requirements*
- u. ~~[SB 449](#)~~ *An Act Concerning A Study Of State Taxation*
- v. Other