

Connecticut Bar Association Capitol Update with Bill Chapman



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Capitol Update News

Check your inbox every Monday for your Capitol Update Newsletter in the CBA's *Weekly Docket* during this year's legislative session (February 7 – May 9), featuring the Capitol Update Newsletter and Video Series.

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@The Capitol

All legislative committees have begun meeting and starting to raise bills. Language for these bills will be available shortly, as will their public hearing dates. A short session means less time for hearings. The Joint Favorable Report (JF) deadline for the Judiciary Committee is April 14. The following CBA bills were raised at the Judiciary Committee meeting on February 16:

- AAC Benefit LLCs
- AAC Series LLCs
- AAC Revised Uniform Arbitration Act
- AAC Modernizing Trust Law
- AAC Release of Liens

At the same meeting, [79 bills](#) were raised. Not that many bills will be receive JF approval to go to the General Assembly for votes this year. The only raised bills receiving 2-4 negative votes were AAC Bump Stocks and AAC Ghost Guns (such as composite plastic and 3D printers).

Contentious meetings may be the name of the game for some committees, including the Labor and Public Employees Committee—stay tuned.

Both chambers will be meeting this Wednesday. The agenda will most likely be filled with judicial re-nominations and agency appointees from the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

Liaisons and Chairs

You have started to receive your daily bills. Please review and indicate which ones need to be distributed to your sections for review and discussion.

Daily bills will come to you before 7:00 a.m. Later in the morning you will start receiving specific bills to evaluate. If you wish to take a position, remember that in addition to your vote, you must submit your [Position Request Form](#) to be placed on the LPRC agenda.

The Branch

On Friday, February 16, the Judiciary Committee held a [public hearing](#) for Governor Malloy's re-nominations of a number of superior court judges and state referees. The hearing commenced at 10:00 a.m. and concluded with a committee vote at 8:20 p.m. There was an overflow room for the hearing since there were so many people wishing to be present. Challenges were made to the committee chairs from vocal participants. The Capitol police made their presence known throughout the hearing.

Most judges had a brief appearance before the committee. Judge Jane Emons was questioned for two-and-a-half hours, mostly by one legislator. In the end, she received three "no" votes from the 40-plus member Judiciary Committee. All other judges received unanimous approval. One referee was placed on hold so that there could be continued discussion regarding his re-nomination between the branch and the governor's office.

There were approximately 20 members of the public who testified, mostly in support or opposition to Judge Emons. Additionally, more than a half dozen attorneys testified in support of the judge, and over a dozen attorneys were at the hearing for most of the day. There was a significant list of [testimony](#) submitted for the public hearing. A number of those

submitting testimony do this any time a family court judge is re-nominated, whether they have appeared before that judge or not.

On February 26, the Judiciary Committee plans to have another public hearing on another 15 judges for re-nomination. This will also include the governor's nomination of Justice Andrew J. McDonald for chief justice of the Supreme Court.

By the beginning of March, the governor should offer a list of new nominations to take the bench.

The Rules Committee will be meeting at the Supreme Court on Monday, February 26, at 2:00 p.m.

Capitol Update Video

[In this week's Capitol Update Video](#), Hamden Democratic Representative Mike D'Agostino talks about why he became a legislator and how he manages being both a legislator and an attorney, and discusses his new position as chair of the General Law Committee and the issues it covers.