

Connecticut Bar Association Capitol Update with Bill Chapman



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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A couple of more days in the session. Last week we were in session for six days, mostly 13 hour days. Most CBA bills have been passed or put aside for this session. Again, anything involving money will not move. Although there is a significant overflow in tax revenues this year, it doesn't mean that all bills will be paid off, nor all spending will go forth. The financial assistance to Hartford is now being questioned and may be renounced. Approval in the House to additional gambling does not mean a Senate OK, especially with the contractual obligations with the tribes. Medicare savings, the budget, drug cost transparency, opioids, and a host of issues still remain on the table for the next few days.

In the past week, both chambers took up quite a few hours in supporting judges. Most Republicans voted against the need for any more new judges to be assigned to superior court, most likely in the General Assembly as their first assignment. These judges came for the States Attorney's office, the Attorney General, and the Public Defenders. Also, they were chosen for eight year terms from small firms, large firms, and nonprofits from all over the state. However, it was discussed emphatically that there was questionable need for new judges which would need for additional marshals and judicial staff. Thirty-one new judges were eventually approved. Justices from the interim list, Justices Maria A. Kahn and Raheem Mullins, raised their right

hands this past Friday. Also, a long waiting interim, Judge William Bright, and newly nominated, Judge Ingrid Moll, now officially join the appellate court.

Judge Jane Emons, a family court judge, had not been proposed to the General Assembly before the May 5, 2018 expiration of her term.

Nine workers' compensation commissioners are now sworn in as re-nominations and new commissioners. Steve Morelli is sworn in as the new chair of the State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission, replacing long time chair, John Mastropietro.

Family support judges were legislated two years ago to go before the Judiciary Committee hearing process. If approved by the Judiciary Committee, their nominations would be for five years rather than being appointed by the governor for three years. As of last week, all magistrates are sitting for a five year term with half having been approved last session.

This Week

There is hope that the General Assembly will not go into special session. In the past, it has been stated that it takes two days to print and collate the budget for all members, plus a number of others to have paper copies of the budget. Thus, the budget needs to be ready by Sunday night for it to get a last minute

hearing and approval on Wednesday before both chambers.

Republican and Democrat conventions are being held in mid-May to endorse their candidates for Constitutional and Congressional candidates, and to note what candidates have the 15 percent of that vote to join in the primary. Thus, a special session will get in the way of the running of the candidates.

Traditionally, the senate spends time in the last week of the session to wish farewell to colleagues who have decided not to return to the chamber. Two years ago they spent four hours saying goodbye to two senators. At least seven of the 36 senators are calling it quits this year..

In the House at least 14 members are not returning with some running for opening Senate seats. Of course there will be a few more who will reveal to the public the changing plans for the November 6 election.

In Session

House

Monday, May 7

Tuesday, May 8

Wednesday, May 9 ...

gaveled out at midnight.

Senate

Monday, May 7

Tuesday, May 8

Wednesday, May 9 ...

gaveled out at midnight.