



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol Vol. 1, Issue 1 | January 18, 2011

Join Our Facebook Group, "Protect Connecticut State University"

Bills Filed: Week of January 10

*"I support or oppose
one of these bills;
what should I do?"*

1. Write to your legislators! Find them [here](#).
2. [Track](#) the bill so you know when public hearings are scheduled.

The following list of bills have been identified by our lobbying firm, [Betty Gallo & Co](#), as having a potential impact on our members if passed. CSU-AAUP and our lobbying firm will follow the progress of the bills throughout the session and alert our members if action is needed. Please see the next article on how to track bills if you wish to sign up to follow the progress of a particular bill.

HB 5116: **[AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT BENEFITS.](#)**

Statement of Purpose: To end abusive pension practices and reduce future state pension costs.

SB 76: **[AN ACT CONCERNING ARBITRATION AWARDS](#)**

Statement of Purpose: To provide relief from labor contracts by authorizing municipalities to reject arbitration awards and continue negotiations prior to submitting to final and binding arbitration.

HB 5117: **[AN ACT CONCERNING PORTIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET APPROPRIATING AID TO MUNICIPALITIES](#)**

Statement of Purpose: To aid municipalities in their budget-making process.

HB 5118: **[AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET ACT AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT BILL](#)**

Statement of Purpose: To require that the biennial budget bill and budget adjustment bill include only items that are fiscal in nature or are related to the implementation of the budget.

HB 5167: **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM**

Statement of Purpose: To enable students who graduate from institutions of higher education in Connecticut to participate in a savings plan to help them purchase their first home or start a new business in Connecticut.

HB 5168: **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM**

Statement of Purpose: To allow students who graduate from public or independent institutions of higher learning in this state or from a regional vocational-technical school to participate in a savings plan to help them purchase their first home in this state.

HB 5174: **AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES AND TRAINING TO DEAL WITH WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**

Statement of Purpose: To require all state employees to undergo training to deal with workplace violence

HB 5190: **AN ACT CONCERNING BINDING ARBITRATION AWARDS**

Statement of Purpose: To amend the collective bargaining statutes to limit binding arbitration awards to no more than the Consumer Price Index.

HB 5240: **AN ACT CONCERNING A TUITION FREEZE AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Statement of Purpose: To keep tuition costs from increasing while a student is enrolled at a public institution of higher education and to allow repayment of the difference between the actual cost and the frozen cost of the tuition not later than five years after the student graduates or otherwise leaves school.

HB 5241: **AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION LIVING OFF CAMPUS**

Statement of Purpose: To require the imposition of the same regulatory requirements and penalties on off-campus students renting or leasing housing from the public institution of higher education as those imposed on students living on campus.

SB 114: **AN ACT CONCERNING APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Statement of Purpose: To require state employee collective bargaining agreements to be voted upon by the legislature before they become effective.

SB 115: **AN ACT CONCERNING A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION RETIREMENT PLAN FOR STATE EMPLOYEES**

Statement of Purpose: To change the state employee retirement plan from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan for newly-hired employees.

How to Track a Bill

The Connecticut General Assembly allows for electronic tracking of any bill. What this means is that once you have added a bill to your account, the system will email you whenever there is a new action taken on the bill such as the scheduling of a public hearing or committee vote.

To sign up, please visit [Bill Tracking](#) on the General Assembly website. Enter an email address and create a password. You can add a bill individually by its number or have all bills introduced by a certain legislator or committee added to your account.

Committee Membership

Appropriations

Toni Nathaniel Harp (D-New Haven), Senate Chair
Toni E. Walker (D-New Haven), House Chair
Edith G. Prague (D-Columbia), Senate Vice Chair
Catherine F. Abercrombie (D-Meriden), House Vice Chair
Henry J. Genga (D-East Hartford), House Vice Chair
Patricia B. Miller (D-Stamford), House Vice Chair
Robert J. Kane (R-Watertown), Senate Ranking Member
Craig A. Miner (R-Litchfield), House Ranking Member

Higher Education and Employment Advancement

Beth Bye (D-West Hartford), Senate Chair
Roberta B. Willis (D-Lakeville), House Chair
Gary D. LeBeau (D-East Hartford), Senate Vice Chair
Juan R. Candelaria (D-New Haven), House Vice Chair
"Toni" Boucher (R-Wilton), Senate Ranking Member
Timothy B. LeGeyt (R-Canton), House Ranking Member

Labor and Public Employees

Edith G. Prague (D-Columbia), Senate Chair

Bruce Zalaski (D-Southington), House Chair

Edwin A. Gomes (D-Bridgeport), Senate Vice Chair

Ezequiel Santiago (D-Bridgeport), House Vice Chair

Anthony Guglielmo (R-Stafford Springs), Ranking Member

John B. Rigby (R-Colebrook), Ranking Member

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the [Office of Legislative Research](#):

1. New Charge on Electric Bills
2. Dry Cleaning Established Remediation Fund
3. Los Angeles Streamlined Permitting
4. Comparison of Charter, Magnet, and Innovation Schools

Have a question? Get the answer!

Call (860) 832-3790 or email us at AaupDistList@ccsu.edu