



# Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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## Bills Filed: Week of January 17

"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.

**HB 5416, [AN ACT ELIMINATING BLOCK GRANT FUNDING OF CONSTITUENT UNITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION](#)**

**Statement of Purpose:** To ensure accountability and efficiency in the state system of higher education.

**HB 5649, [AN ACT CONCERNING THE SPENDING CAP](#)**

**Statement of Purpose:** To implement the constitutional limitation on expenditures by the General Assembly. Note: A number of these bills have been filed.

**HB 5497, [AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING A STRATEGIC PLAN AND COORDINATION FOR ALIGNMENT OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT](#)**

**Statement of Purpose:** To carry out the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee to improve alignment of higher education and employment.

**SB 449, [AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT BENEFITS](#)**

**Statement of Purpose:** To create parity between state and private health insurance plans.

**SB 450, *AN ACT CREATING PARITY BETWEEN STATE AND PRIVATE PENSION PLANS***

*Statement of Purpose:* To create parity between state and private pension plans.

**SB 457, *AN ACT REQUIRING A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF STATE MANAGERS***

*Statement of Purpose:* To make state government more efficient by creating parity between government and the private sector.

**SB 563, *AN ACT CONCERNING CONTRIBUTIONS AND COPAYMENTS UNDER THE STATE EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.***

*Statement of Purpose:* To achieve cost savings in the state employees' health insurance plan.

**SB 564, *AN ACT INCREASING CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE EMPLOYEES TO THE STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.***

*Statement of Purpose:* To increase pension contributions by state employees by three per cent.

**SB 565, *AN ACT CONCERNING A CAP ON STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME***

*Statement of Purpose:* To prohibit pension salaries of over \$100,000 to former state employees.

**SB 566, *AN ACT CONCERNING THE CALCULATION OF RETIREMENT INCOME UNDER THE STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM***

*Statement of Purpose:* To require state employee pensions to be calculated based on an employee's five, rather than three, highest salaried years.

**SB 567, *AN ACT INCREASING STATE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM***

*Statement of Purpose:* To require greater employee contribution to the state employee pension system.

**SB 569, *AN ACT PROHIBITING COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES***

*Statement of Purpose:* To require state pension investments to

realize an increase in order to give cost-of-living increases to retired state employees.

**SB 570, *AN ACT CONCERNING NEWLY-HIRED STATE EMPLOYEES AND DEFINED CONTRIBUTION BENEFIT PLANS***

*Statement of Purpose:* To change the state employee pension from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan.

**SB 574, *AN ACT FREEZING STATE EMPLOYEE SALARIES***

*Statement of Purpose:* To enact a two-year salary and wage freeze for state employees.

**SB 575, *AN ACT INCREASING THE STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT AGE***

*Statement of Purpose:* To increase the retirement age for state employees.

**SB 576, *AN ACT INCREASING HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES***

*Statement of Purpose:* To increase the health insurance premiums for retirees to current employee levels.

**SB 603, *AN ACT REQUIRING A PLAN FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OR ELIMINATION OF MANY STATE AGENCIES***

*Statement of Purpose:* To reduce the size of government.

**SB 608, *AN ACT CONCERNING A TEMPORARY HIRING FREEZE ON CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES***

*Statement of Purpose:* To implement a temporary hiring freeze on most new state employee job vacancies.

**SB 609, *AN ACT CONCERNING MERIT INCREASES IN LIEU OF LONGEVITY PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES***

*Statement of Purpose:* To provide merit increases rather than automatic longevity payments to certain state employees.

**SB 229, *AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN AGREEMENTS OR STIPULATIONS REQUIRED TO BE APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To require a vote by each chamber on all state employee collective bargaining agreements and all agreements or stipulated agreements under section 3-125a of the general statutes.

**HB 5424, *AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION AND FEE WAIVERS FOR IN-STATE STUDENTS***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To invest in the people of our state by eliminating in-state tuition and fees for in-state students attending public institutions of higher education and establish a system that encourages such students to remain part of Connecticut's future.

**HB 5464, *AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES AND VIOLENCE AND BULLYING IN THE WORKPLACE***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To require that the Department of Administrative Services report the number of complaints of bullying or abusive conduct to the General Assembly.

**SB 186, *AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN FOR NEW STATE EMPLOYEES***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To change the state pension system from a defined benefits plan to a less-costly defined contribution plan.

**SB 188, *AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To clearly define future retirement benefit costs.

**SB 192, *AN ACT REDUCING SALARIES OF CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To begin to address the state's budget crisis by reducing the salaries of all elected officials and certain state employees by at least five per cent.

**SB 193, *AN ACT CONCERNING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To protect the future obligations of the state pension fund.

**SB 177, *AN ACT CONCERNING COPAYMENTS UNDER THE STATE EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To reduce the cost of providing state

benefits by increasing copayments for all employees and officials.

**SB 178, [AN ACT CONCERNING ANNUAL COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES](#)**

*Statement of Purpose:* To postpone cost-of-living allowances for state employees during fiscal years when the state runs a deficit until such time as the state attains a surplus.

**SB 179, [AN ACT REDUCING THE SALARIES OF ALL STATE EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS](#)**

*Statement of Purpose:* To reduce the salaries of state employees and elected state officials by ten per cent for two years

**OPM Secretary  
Quote on Higher  
Education**

[Ben Barnes Interview with the New Haven Register published on 1/16/11:](#)

“On higher education, Barnes said there is no question that changes will be made.

“I have a 17-year-old son so I’m acutely aware of the cost of higher education. Connecticut is not by any stretch of the imagination inexpensive or reasonably priced. It’s very expensive and it’s my understanding that the outcomes are not what we would like in every respect. So, I’m confident we are going to be charting a new course,” he said.

Studies on the Connecticut State University System have looked at eliminating the central office.

“I appreciate going from five to four (administrative) offices is a good thing in terms of cost and duplication, but we still end up with a whole host of duplications between the different schools within the CSU system,” Barnes said.

Besides administration in the central office, some of these functions are also carried out at the four individual universities within CSU. “We need to apply a more rational organizational logic to figuring out the most cost effective way to run the system,” the budget chief said.

Like others, he is questioning the decision made in 1991 to give CSU, the community colleges and the University of Connecticut block grants and less oversight on spending. “I think that was responding to a very different set of circumstances than the ones we face today,” Barnes said.”

## **What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?**

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

1. Adult Day Care Centers
2. Sales Tax Exemptions: Comparisons with Other States and Revenue Loss
3. Grandparent Visitation Over a Parent's Objection
4. Financing Energy Efficiency

Have a question? Get the answer!

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