

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2020 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED BY SCCOG: 1/15/2020 AMENDED BY SCCOG: 1/17/2020

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), composed of the Chief Elected Officials and chief executives of twenty-two member municipalities, has adopted the following 2020 legislative agenda. The SCCOG appreciates all of the hard work of the delegation on behalf of southeastern Connecticut this past year. This year, the SCCOG wishes to offer recommendations in three areas of legislation for the southeastern Connecticut delegation to sponsor, all of which would benefit the citizens and taxpayers of southeastern Connecticut. In addition, and as discussed at a meeting with the Southeastern Connecticut Legislative Delegation on January 17th, the SCCOG wishes to express its full support for the proposed legislation concerning jobs and revenue from the gaming industry.

1. Education

- Legislation that would provide municipalities with stability and predictability in budgeting for special education, including requiring that special education funding follow students until a fiscal year concludes when such students change school districts during the fiscal year; and allowing towns to reduce their MBR in an amount that reflects costs associated with special education students once those students leave the district.
- Legislation that would provide municipalities with predictability and stability in budgeting for education.
- Legislation that would require some level of reporting by Boards of Education to their respective municipal Boards of Finance.

2. Solid Waste Management/Recycling

- Support H.B. 7294 “An Act Concerning Bottle Redemption in the State”, which includes increasing the value of the required deposit from 5 cents to 10 cents; expands items covered under the bottle bill to include juice, tea, sports, and energy drink bottles; and increases the handling fee paid to redemption centers. Also support amending this bill to include requiring deposits on wine and liquor bottles.
- Legislation that would direct CT DEEP to revise its guidance and recommendations that currently promote single-stream recycling, an approach to recycling which is no longer economically viable due to changes in the global markets for recycled materials.
- Legislation that would allow the use of crushed glass in the construction of roads,

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sidewalks, and septic systems. Currently, the only CT DEEP approved use of this recycled product is for landfill cover, and since there are few landfills left, the demand for the product is low. Allowing it to be used for other regulated purposes would reduce its volume in the waste disposal stream thereby reducing costs, and would help create a market for recycled glass. The legislation should direct CT DEEP to develop within a specific (i.e. 12 months) timeline specifications acceptable to the appropriate state agencies (CT DOT, CT DPH) allowing crushed glass to be used in roadbed, sidewalk, and septic system construction.

3. Stormwater Management

- Legislation that would amend Public Act 13-222 to allow all municipalities to create municipal stormwater authorities. The current legislation limits this option to distressed municipalities having populations less than twenty-eight thousand. Expanding this legislation to allow all municipalities to have this option will help them address and provide the resources to address CT DEEP's MS4 requirements.

4. An Act Concerning Jobs In and Revenue from the Gaming Industry

- This bill is not only important to the two federally recognized Tribes in the state and to the municipalities of the southeastern Connecticut region, but will allow Connecticut to remain competitive with other states in the Northeast, which have already allowed or are contemplating allowing electronic online wagering and sports wagering. This will benefit the entire state, resulting in job retention/creation, increased revenue to the State of Connecticut, and an increased distribution of funds to the state's municipalities from the Mashantucket Pequot-Mohegan Fund.

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