

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2022 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED BY SCCOG: 1/19/2022

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 2022 legislative agenda. The SCCOG again wishes to express its appreciation to the delegation for its efforts on behalf of southeastern Connecticut. As in year's past, the SCCOG formulated its legislative agenda with recommendations for legislation that it believes would benefit the citizens of both the region and the state, and respectfully requests that the region's legislative delegation work with the SCCOG to advance this agenda.

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.

2. Solid Waste Management/Recycling

- 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, 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.
- Legislation that would incentivize municipalities to adopt waste diversion and recycling programs, in light of the pending July 1, 2022 closing of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) waste to energy plant creating the need to ship an additional 500,000 tons of Connecticut's solid waste to out-of-state landfills.

Member Municipalities:

Bozrah * Colchester * East Lyme * Franklin * Griswold * Borough of Jewett City * City of Groton * Town of Groton * Lebanon * Ledyard * Lisbon * Montville * New London * North Stonington * Norwich * Preston * Salem * Sprague * Stonington * Stonington Borough * Waterford * Windham

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3. Zoning Enforcement

- Legislation that would delay the requirement in CGS 8-3, as was required in PA 21-29, that all municipal Zoning Enforcement Officers be certified by the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials (CAZEO) by January 1, 2023, to allow more time for CAZEO to develop and schedule this training and to allow time for municipal ZEOs to accumulate the experience required and to prepare for the testing associated with this certification. The current requirement will significantly constrict the supply of qualified Zoning Enforcement Officers at a time when municipalities are already struggling to fill open positions.
- Legislation that would ensure safe and responsible use of homes for Short-Term Rentals (e.g. Airbnb/VRBO) that includes compliance with local zoning regulations and ordinances permitting short-term rental uses and compliance with building codes ensuring public safety. Short-Term Rentals are oftentimes owned by out-of-town conglomerates, and their operation can significantly impact the quality of life in residential neighborhoods due to traffic, inadequate parking, noise, and other behavior by renters who are not invested in the neighborhood in which the home is located.

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