

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2023 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY Adopted 11/16/2022

Education

- Accelerate the phase-in of the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant formula, and increase funding of other education programs.
- Increase funding for the Special Education Excess Cost Grant.
- Address the shortage of paraprofessionals by developing and funding an enhanced pathways program to increase the number of certified paraeducators and increase the number of potential teacher candidates in the pipeline through the mentorship of paraeducators.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

- Create legislation that would fully fund Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), at established target reimbursement rates, to municipalities for hospitals, colleges/universities, and other state-owned properties.

Zoning Enforcement and Land Use Commissioner Training

- Provide clarification to the statute requiring certification of Zoning Enforcement Officials, by adding the following underlined language to Section 8-3e (2): *Beginning January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, each person appointed as a zoning enforcement officer shall obtain certification within one year of appointment from the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials and maintain such certification for the duration of employment as a zoning enforcement officer.*

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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- Extend the deadline for completion of commissioner training by one year, to January 1, 2025. PA 21-29 requires municipal planning, zoning, inland wetlands, and zoning board of appeals commissioners to complete four hours of training every two years, with training to be made eligible as of January 1, 2023 and the first deadline for completion one year later on January 1, 2024.

Shared Services

Promote and eliminate barriers to shared services. Allow for towns and cities to more effectively allocate resources by:

- Exempting the establishment of such service sharing agreements from the definition of “change in working conditions” for purposes of collective bargaining.
- When service sharing arrangements affect two or more collective bargaining units whether inter or intra town, the interests of all employees affected by the new arrangements will be represented by either a coalition of bargaining units or a new bargaining unit will be created to represent all affected employees.
- Prospectively prohibit any municipal collective bargaining agreement provision that limits the ability of a municipality to permit individuals or groups to provide volunteer services.
- Notwithstanding municipal charter provision that prohibits or limits a municipality from sharing services with other towns or cities, allowing municipalities to share services.

Workforce Development

Provide additional funding for workforce development programs that can help address the demand for workers, especially

- State-Certified Building Officials, First Responders, Paraprofessionals and Early Childcare Workers, and Hospitality.