

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2024 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY December 20, 2023

- **LEGAL NOTICES:** Authorize digital alternatives to publishing in print newspapers to satisfy requirements for legal public notice. Authorization will provide greater transparency to the public, reduce costs to municipalities, and address issues raised by the recent legal challenge to newspaper publication.
 - Provide municipalities with the opportunity to designate a location on their municipal websites where all public notices will be posted in lieu of publishing in newspapers

- **EDUCATION:** Increase the current level of state funding for special education, which is currently inadequate.
 - Lower the threshold for reimbursement from the state for students that require special education services from 4.5 times the cost of the average expenditure per student to 2 times the cost of the average expenditure per student.
 - Modify the MBR related to special education costs so that expenditures above base student costs are not included in the calculation of the MBR.
 - Provide assistance to towns and cities to address non-budgeted mid-year expenditures related to special education costs.
 - Maximize the State's use of available federal funding.

- **HEATING ASSISTANCE:** Authorize state funds to supplement federal heating assistance for low-income residents.

- **UNIFORM ASSISTANCE RELOCATION ACT**
 - Provide financial and technical assistance resources to municipalities seeking to assist residents relocated under this act.

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

*If language assistance is needed, please contact SCCOG at 860-889-2324, office@seccog.org.
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- **MUNICIPAL SHARED SERVICES:** Work with OPM, Councils of Governments and the Department of Administrative Services to reduce barriers to sharing municipal services, including
 - Revise statute to explicitly allow municipalities to contract for these services on a permanent or interim basis.
 - Revise statute to confirm that a municipalities' professional liability insurance covers contracted employees.

- **SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL:** Increase the capacity of Connecticut's Waste-to-Energy plants to process solid waste
 - Provide state funding and permitting assistance to expand capacity of remaining Waste-to-Energy plants.
 - Provide funding and incentives to municipalities and regional waste authorities pursuing strategies such as organic waste composting and pay-as-you-throw.
 - Expand Extended-Producer-Responsibility (EPR) programs and allow/require the use of recycled content in products purchased by Connecticut's state and local governments.
 - Support the creation of redemption centers locally through the investment of bottle deposit revenue and increasing grant availability.

- **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION REPORTING**
 - Change 8-3j duty to submit information re compliance with zoning laws from Chief Executive Officer to Zoning Commission Chair

- **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Provide additional tools to municipalities to eliminate 'street takeovers' and reckless driving.
 - Authorize Connecticut's G.A. Courts to enforce fines greater than \$250.