

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

2010 Legislative Session Update #5

The Legislative Session that began on February 3, 2010, ended at midnight on Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

BUDGET:

The General Assembly passed a budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. Here are the highlights of its impact on the Judicial Branch:

- It provides adequate funding for our “other expenses” line item, which will allow us to keep the Bristol G.A. Courthouse open, as well as the Hartford, Bridgeport and Litchfield law libraries. In addition, we have asked the Department of Public Works to renegotiate the lease with the owner of the current Willimantic Juvenile Courthouse located at 81 Columbia Avenue. If that occurs, we plan to remain in the current facility, which will allow us to keep the Willimantic law library open. Unfortunately, the Milford and Norwich law libraries will remain closed and the Norwalk Juvenile Courthouse will close on July 1, 2010. The cases will be split between the Bridgeport Juvenile Court and the Stamford Juvenile Court.
- It provides \$1 million to fund an additional Judicial Marshal class.
- It provides funding for a criminal justice initiative designed to reduce the prison population.
- The budget also reforms the process by which the Judicial Branch’s budget is adopted.
 - It gives the Legislature the opportunity to see the Judicial Branch’s budget recommendations, by requiring OPM to include the Judicial Branch’s proposed budget in the Governor’s budget.
 - It also provides that OPM will allot to the Judicial Branch the exact amount of funding that is included in the approved state budget minus the specific amount of mandatory lapses included in the budget.
 - Finally, it also gives the Legislature the opportunity to reject the cuts that are made by the Executive Branch to the Judicial Branch’s budget after it is adopted.
- There are no changes to longevity payments, to the number of furlough days or to the occupational tax.

JUDGES' ELEVATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS:

Elevations

Judge Dennis G. Eveleigh's nomination appointing him to the Supreme Court was approved on April 30, 2010. His appointment is effective on June 1, 2010.

Judge Stuart David Bear's nomination appointing him to the Appellate Court was approved on April 30, 2010, and he took the oath of office on that day.

Appointments

The General Assembly, on May 5th, approved the following individuals to be judges of the Superior Court. The Pre-Bench Orientation Program will begin on Monday, May 10th

Laura Flynn Baldini
John L. Carbonneau
Susan Q. Cobb
Susan A. Connors
John A. Danaher III

Jane B. Emons
Robert L. Genuario
Kathleen McNamara
David M. Sheridan

Reappointments

The following judges were reappointed for another eight-year term:

Thomas A. Bishop

Jon M. Alander
James M. Bentivegna
Robert C. Brunetti
Richard F. Comerford, Jr.
Richard A. Damiani
Maureen D. Dennis
John C. Driscoll
Richard W. Dyer
Jack W. Fischer
James T. Graham
Arthur C. Hadden
Lawrence L. Hauser
John F. Kavanewsky, Jr.
Christine E. Keller
Lynda B. Munro
Raymond R. Norko
Marylouise Schofield
Barry K. Stevens
David R. Tobin
Jonathan J. Kaplan
Thomas L. Nadeau
Karen Nash Sequino

John D. Brennan
Frederica S. Brenneman
Thomas J. Corradino
Frank H. D'Andrea, Jr.
Joseph H. Goldberg
Jack L. Grogins
Robert J. Hale
Seymour L. Hendel
Francis X. Hennessy
Joseph Q. Koletsky
Julius J. Kremski
George Levine
John P. Maiocco, Jr.
L. Scott Melville
Aaron Ment
Howard J. Moraghan
Martin L. Nigro
Stanley Novack
Robert K. Satter
Joseph M. Shortall
David W. Skolnick
Edward F. Stodolink
Kevin Tierney
Thomas G. West

JUDICIAL BRANCH BILLS

The Judicial Branch had two bills this legislative session; the legislature approved both.

The first bill, H.B. 5148, *An Act Concerning Funding for the Judicial Branch*, reformed the Judicial Branch's budget process and is summarized above.

H.B. 5539, *An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Powers and Procedures*. This bill provides many changes to statutes affecting the Judicial Branch. We have tried for three years to pass many of these provisions, and we are happy to report that the bill was approved unanimously in both chambers. Attached please find a summary of the bill.

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST THAT PASSED:

- S.B. 31, *AA Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning the Educational Placement of Children in the Care and Custody of the Department of Children and Families*
- S.B. 229, *AAC the Pretrial Supervised Diversionary Program for Persons with Psychiatric Security Review Board Proceedings*
- S.B. 427, *AAC the Use of Hand-Held Mobile Telephones and Mobile Electronic Devices by Motor Vehicle Operators*
- H.B. 5030, *AAC the Forfeiture of Money and Property related to Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking and the Possession of Child Pornography*
Concerns the location of the sex offender residential treatment facility bid by the Department of Correction and the Judicial Branch
- H.B. 5246, *AAC the Protection of and Services for Victims of Domestic Violence*
- H.B. 5247, *AAC Competency to Stand Trial*
- H.B. 5248, *AA Establishing a Sentencing Commission*
- H.B.5249, *AAC the Confidentiality of Certain Documents and Records in Psychiatric Security Review Board*
- H.B. 5253, *AAC Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the Criminal Justice System* (Chief State's Attorney's bill)
- H.B. 5270, *AAC Foreclosure Mediation* (extends the program for two years)
- H.B. 5271, *AAC Access to Records of the Department of Children and Families* (DCF proposal)
- H.B. 5497, *AAC the Recommendations of the Speaker of the House of Representatives' Task Force on Domestic Violence*

- H.B. 5526, *AAC Standards for the Selection, Retention and Promotion of Judicial Marshals*
- H.B. 5533, *AAC Sexting*

BILLS THAT DIED:

- S.B. 219, *AAC State Contract Reductions*
- S.B. 225, *AAC the Duties of a Mortgagee in a Foreclosure Action on Residential Real Property*
- S.B. 278, *AAC Truancy*
- S.B.284, *AAC A Division of Administrative Hearings*
- S.B. 314, *AAC Military or Veteran Status on State-Issued Forms and Publications, Benefits for Veterans and State Employees Called to Active Service and the Disposition of Remains of Members of the Armed Forces*
- S.B. 353, *AA Adopting a Foster Parent Bill of Rights*
- H.B. 5146, *AAC Visitation of Children Committed to DCF*
- H.B. 5147, *AAC Surety Bail Bond Agents and Professional Bondsmen*
- H.B. 5252, *AAC the Pretrial Alcohol Education Program and the Pretrial Drug Education Program*
- H.B. 5521, *AAC Child Welfare and the Juvenile Justice System and Erasure of Juvenile Records*
- H.B. 5522, *AAC Juvenile Matters*
- H.B. 5540, *AAC the Compensation of Judges, Family Support Magistrates, Family Support Referees and Judge Trial Referees*