



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Brien Buckman, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The State & Commerce Committee will meet as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Buckman and Committee Members Heaphy, Pratt and Watkins; Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Quinones and Summerville. Also present were Rep. Ryan; Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff; Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development; Joe DeLong and Ron Thomas, CCM; and Paula Clarke, Mike Doyle and Spencer Cain, Gaffney, Bennett.

Chair Buckman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.:

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. SC29.028	REVIEW; Recent State Legislative Session. 07/08/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 07/29/15 – Held in Committee 08/10/15 – Held in Steering	Report Made

Mr. DeLong and Mr. Thomas explained that CCM's role is:

- to give a local voice in Hartford
- to explain municipal impacts of legislative proposals to legislators at the State level
- The largest issue they try to address is mandate reform

Some of the specific items they have addressed include:

- Explaining the impact of budget cuts on property tax payers
- Recommended changes to the spending cap
- Impacts of cuts to state aid

CCM will provide the Committee with a list of the upcoming legislation of interest to municipalities.

Mr. Pollard stated that the Mayor meets with State legislators.

Ms. Clarke explained that her role is to convey to the State legislators how various proposals will impact Stamford. There are two parts to their role:

- They will meet with the delegation in the Mayor's office before the session to establish priorities, examples for this past year included:
 - the funding for the Strawberry Hill School
 - The conveyance of Cubetta Stadium
 - Body camera legislation and funding
 - changing the liability under the dog bite statute regarding police dogs
 - exempting municipal nursing homes from fees (this failed)
- Responding to other legislation that is introduced
- Having people appear at public hearings
- Introducing the Mayor to State staff

Ms. Clarke distributed the City of Stamford 2015 Legislative Session Report, the City of Stamford 2015 Special Session Report. They also generate a daily report of legislation of interest to the City which is provided to the Mayor's office.

Mr. Cain addressed the current budget situation:

- One of the most significant budget developments this past year was the dedication of .5% of the sales tax revenue to a municipal revenue sharing account and the allocation of .5% to a special transportation fund.
- Municipalities won't see these funds until 2017
- The Governor cannot use his rescission authority for municipal aid
- There have been calls to use this money to cover the current deficit

Mr. Thomas distributed budget materials.

The Committee will meet with the delegation before the start of the next session.

2. SC29.029 REVIEW; Municipal Broadband Initiatives and CTgig. **Held in
Committee**
10/07/15 – Submitted by Rep. Buckman

As a Secondary Committee:

1. [T29.041](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Adoption of CGS §§14-300 & 14-300d into Code of Ordinances.
08/05/15 – Submitted by Rep. Adams

Chair Buckman adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brien Buckman, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).