



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Lindsey Miller, Chair

Robert Roqueta, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Meeting was held remotely via Webinar

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Miller and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Graziosi, and Policar. Absent was Rep. Roqueta. Also in attendance were Reps. Fedeli, Mahoney, Nabel and Zelinsky; Tom Madden, Director of Economic Development; Sandy Dennies, Director of Administration; Michael Pollard, Mayor's Office; Ryan Fealey, BOE; Tyler Theder, Operations; and two members of the public.

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. SC30.027	REVIEW; Stamford's Economic Development January through June, 2020. 06/14/20 – Submitted by Rep. Miller	Report Made
2. SC30.029	REVIEW; Economic Development Planning for Addressing Vacancies In Commercial Real Estate Post Covid-19 Pandemic. 07/06/20 – Submitted by President Quinones and Rep. Fedeli	Report Made

Items No. 1 and No. 2 were taken up together. Mr. Madden reviewed in detail the attached [presentation](#). There was a brief discussion.

² 3. SC30.030	REVIEW; Discuss the Effects of Unfunded State Mandates on Property Taxes and Municipal Budgets. Identify Specific Mandates and Costs Affecting the City of Stamford and Board of Education Budgets. Explore How the State of CT Might Relax Mandates to Relieve Municipal Budget(s) during the Ongoing Economic Downturn. 07/08/20 – Submitted by President Quinones, Clerk Nabel and Rep. Mahoney	Held 4-0-0
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¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:40

Reps. Mahoney and Nabel explained their reason for putting this item on the agenda. They both participated in the modified budget process this year. There are tremendous mandates that the State of Connecticut puts on municipalities, and the municipalities are expected to fund or partially fund these mandates. It needs to be determined what the effects are of these mandates on the City budget.

Some key points of discussion:

- The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) reports every year on these mandates, of which there are approximately 1,300.
- About 10 percent of the BOE budget is for funded or partially funded mandates. The City side has not yet been quantified as of this Committee meeting.
- If the BOR can promote a dialogue, perhaps over the next several years the State might be able to provide some relief for Stamford and other municipalities.
- Making changes to mandates is a legislative effort.
- Mr. Healey reviewed the [attached](#) BOE 2019-2020 budget outlining the specific unfunded and partially funded mandates. He has determined all of the mandates serve student interests; there are none that should be eliminated for not serving students.
- According to the State, funding by the ECS (Educational Cost Sharing grant) should be sufficient to cover costs. However, it only covers approximately \$8 million of Special Education mandate costs.
- Ms. Dennies explained there is confusion among City department heads regarding what is a State mandate.
- There is a difference between a regulation and a mandate.
- The most costly mandates for the BOE are for Special Education.
- The most costly mandate for the City is Storm Water Management (MS-4).
- Stamford should have a delegation affairs team as other cities do.
- Combined efforts with other municipalities would be very helpful.

For the next Committee Meeting:

- Ms. Dennies will research what mandates other municipalities are looking to remove, and will get answers from all the City department heads to determine their top 10 mandate priorities.
- Mr. Pollard will discuss the Storm Water Management MS-4 mandate.
- CCM will be invited to a future meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to hold this item by a vote of 4-0-0 (Reps. Miller, Adams, Graziosi and Policar in favor.

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Miller, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).