



## ***State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives***

Lindsey Miller, Chair

Robert Roqueta, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, February 21, 2018

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Miller and Vice Chair Roqueta and Committee Member Reps. Adams and Graziosi. Absent or excused were Reps. Liebson, Mahoney, and McGarry. Also present were Reps. Nabel and Lion; Senator Carlo Leone; State Representative Matt Blumenthal; State Representative Dan Fox; and State Representative Caroline Simmons (on the phone).

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

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. SC30.020	REVIEW; Meeting with State Legislators re: Legislative program for upcoming year. 01/18/19 – Submitted by Pres. Quinones	REPORT MADE

Senator Carlo Leone:

- Committees: Chairman of Transportation; Vice Chair on Finance Committee; Commerce Committee; Vice Chair of General Law Committee; Veterans Committee.
- The beginning of every session multiple Bills gets proposed; upward of 5000.

Representative Dan Fox:

- Committees: Chair of the Government Administration & Elections Committee and Judiciary Committee

Representative Caroline Simmons:

- Committees: Higher Education Committee; The Public Safety Committee and Chair of the Commerce Committee
  - Some priorities and initiatives; work force development initiative for unfilled jobs in Connecticut including around 15,000 manufacturing jobs; better resources for Guidance Counselors in Schools; Better Training programs at Technical High Schools and Community Colleges; make it easier to start or grow businesses by digitizing resources; Opportunity zones passed by the Federal Government for incentives for governments in distress and Connecticut is trying to match that program; Better marketing the State for businesses to move here, specifically Fairfield County

Representatives Matthew Blumenthal:

- Committees: Vice Chair, Judiciary Committee; Education Committee; and Government Administration & Elections Committee
  - Priorities: Gun Violence prevention bills; Ghost Guns; Safe Storage Guns; Marijuana Legalization; Criminal Justice Reform; Fixes to the Trust Act, to insure law enforcement is focused on dangerous individuals and better relationship with the community; Mold problems in Stamford Schools bills; Train Station Modernization; Fairfield Five bills

The Committee discussed the following with State Legislators:

- The Regionalization that's occurring in the State regarding Education will not affect Stamford; this bill was put forward to start a conversation, on the campaign trail it was said they need structural reform in Connecticut to get back on track to save money and creation of efficiencies; hearing out ideas and to have discussions in a public forum
- Regarding Legalization of marijuana the conversation has moved to how should we do this the right way:
  - Looking into: Penalties; criminal justice (prior marijuana convictions); regulations; people driving high; medical program; equity;
  - Different committees will look into program from different point of views (Public Health, General Law, Finance and Judiciary)
- Legislators agreed with the local plastic bag initiatives; Governor agrees with a bill regarding plastic bags
- Gun Control legislation will be discussed early March
- Each Session you have to propose Bills as new; bills from last session have to be reintroduced
- Teacher's Pension funding being pushed towards the Municipalities
- State wide car tax is on hold
- Formation stage of Mold situation in Stamford; either appropriated money or making it easier for Stamford to get existing money; Mold issue is State wide; Historically mold issues are usually a local issue; working diligently to come up with a plan to resolve this problem
- Stamford train station needs a new garage to continue to thrive and grow; 100 million dollar figure for Train station modernization; then address old deteriorated garage
- TIF District legislation has been passed; The City has a say to utilize it or not
- Tolls Bill
  - Would like public debate
  - Money would help State financial situation
  - Exemptions (law enforcements; emergency personnel)
  - CT residents discounts
  - EZ Pass

Chair Miller Adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey Miller, Chair

This meeting is on [Video](#).