



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

Lindsey Miller, Chair

Robert Roqueta, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2020

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

**Place:** Meeting was held remotely

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Miller, Vice Chair Roqueta and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Graziosi, and Policar. Also present were Reps. de la Cruz and Nabel; Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare; Senator Carlo Leone; and State Representatives Matt Blumenthal, Dan Fox, David Michel, Patricia Billie Miller, and Caroline Simmons; and one member of the public.

Chair Miller began the meeting at 7:02pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
<sup>1</sup> 1. <a href="#">SC30.030</a>	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 07/23/20 – Report Made & Held in Committee	<b>Report Made</b>

Ms. Dennies reviewed the item and there was discussion:

- The MS-4 Stormwater management mandate is the most costly unfunded mandate on the City side and it has federal roots.
- The next most costly mandates on the City side are within the building department which include, but are not limited to, residential solar permits, licensure of building officials, permits to construct or alter, and physical disability structures.
- Building code changes and requirements are exceptionally impacted by state mandates.
- State mandates exist for a purpose: most of them are for public safety and to improve the quality of life for residents.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:01:10

- There are no state mandates which the building department feels are unnecessary.
- The intent of this agenda item was to gain information to assist in the next budget season as a way of seeking possible easement or different ways of managing the mandates to make budget savings. The information gained will be helpful toward this.

- <sup>2</sup>2. [SC30.032](#) REVIEW; Legislation and Regulatory Structure **Report Made**  
Concerning the Operations and Rate Setting of  
Eversource.  
09/09/20 – Submitted by Rep. de la Cruz, Cottrell,  
Lee, Giordano, Zelinsky, Figueroa and Adams

Rep. de la Cruz explained his reason for putting this item on the agenda, and there was discussion:

- Mr. Jankowski explained that the Eversource response to the August 4, 2020 storm was not acceptable. There was poor preparation, response, communications, and collaboration.
- He reviewed the [attached](#) formal complaint to PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority). The goal of the complaint is to improve response, communications, and collaboration on future events.
- He has requested that PURA hold Eversource responsible for the response of the storm, and to ensure this situation does not happen again.
- There is a bill being brought up in a special session in the State Legislature on September 30, 2020 to address some issues with Eversource. Some of the goals are to get interim rate decreases and credits for loss of food and electricity.
- Not all issues with Eversource are being addressed in this special session. This is best done in a series of measures during regular sessions.
- The State level energy chairs are in ongoing discussions and negotiations with Eversource.

The State & Commerce Committee will put a resolution on next month's agenda. The Committee will work towards putting together a strong resolution to Eversource, combined with supporting ratepayer testimony, to be ready for the legislative session in January, 2021.

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey Miller, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:15:35