

February 28, 2025

DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

We hope you had a great week! Please see below what has happened at the CT General Assembly this week:

House and Senate Special Session

This week, the House and Senate convened for a special session to vote on two emergency certifications. [HB 7066](#) and [HB 7067](#) focused on a number of items including:



Appropriation of \$40 million in supplemental special education funding for local school districts



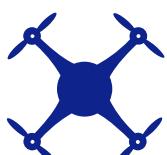
Appropriation of \$2.8 million to various nonprofit organizations being impacted by loss of federal funding or policy changes from the federal government



Modification of property-tax exemptions for veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 100%



Allowing colleges and universities to pay their student athletes directly



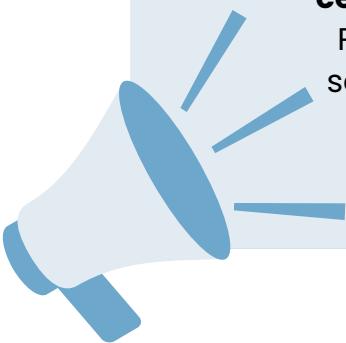
Prohibition for state agencies and other entities from purchasing/operating drones made or assembled for certain foreign entities and regulating changes on the use of drones



Creation of a new Emergency Certificate of Need process

Did You Know?

There is a way for a bill to reach the floor of the House and Senate without going through the committee process?



These are otherwise known as an **emergency certification**. The Speaker of the House and the Senate President Pro Tempore can jointly propose a bill and send it directly to the House or Senate floor for action. This can take place when the legislative session is underway or during a special session.

Appropriations Human Services Subcommittee State Agency Budget Presentations

More state agencies went in front of the Appropriations Committee [this week](#) to answer questions legislators have pertaining to the Governor's budget. The Department of Social Services, Department of Aging and Disability, and Department of Children and Families fall under the Human Services Subcommittee.

The public hearing is being held on Friday, February 28th. To watch, click [here](#).

Transportation Committee Public Hearing

The Transportation Committee held a public hearing on February 26th. Some of the bills on the agenda included the Department of Transportation's agency bills. DMHAS submitted testimony in support of Section 5 of [SB 1375](#), which prohibits open alcoholic beverage containers in motor vehicles and Sections 1 through 9 of [SB 1376](#), which looks to reduce blood alcohol limits for impaired driving.

To read Commissioner Navarretta's testimony click [here](#).



Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) Meeting

This month's [JJPOC meeting](#) took place this past Thursday. This meeting was youth-led, and discussion was held on the recently released Community Expertise Workgroup's Youth Report.

What's Happening Next?

- The Approps Health Subcommittee Work Session is taking place next Monday, March 3rd. DMHAS will be participating and providing additional information that legislators had asked at our budget presentation from last week.
- The House and Senate will be in session again on Wednesday, March 5th.
- Committees continue to hold public hearings and committee meetings. To see what's taking place next week, visit the [CGA website](#).

Until Next Time!

In partnership, Chandra & Kelly