

DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

Public Health Committee – February 3rd Public Hearing

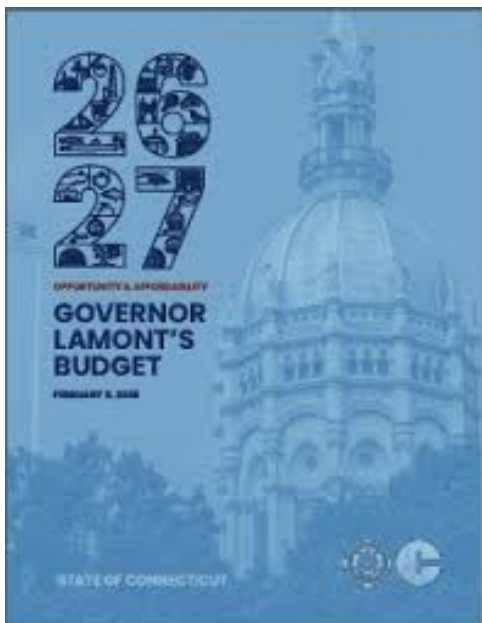
This past Monday, our agency bill, [HB 6834](#), was heard in front of the Public Health Committee. Commissioner Navarretta testified in favor of the bill in front of committee members.

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

In addition, a few organizations and state agencies have submitted written testimony in favor of various aspects of our agency bill. To read their testimony, go [here](#).

Governor's Budget Address

This week, Governor Lamont released his proposed biennial budget for FY 2026-2027. To watch his address, read the budget, and see the administration's priority legislative proposals click [here](#).



Did You Know?

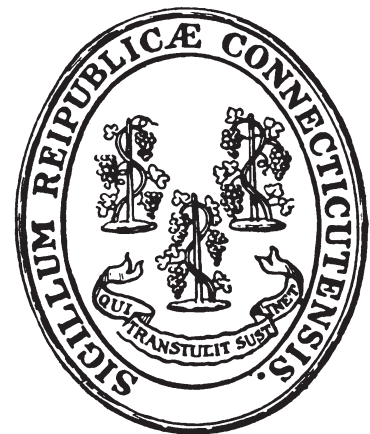
Unlike the federal government and most other states, the Connecticut General Assembly operates through **joint committees**. This means that members from both the House of Representatives and the Senate serve together on the same committees. In addition to a Senate Co-Chair and a House Co-Chair, each committee has a House and Senate Ranking Member designated by the minority leader of each house.

Breaking Down the Budget Process

The release of the Governor's budget is the first step in an iterative process to pass a final budget. See the process below:

- OPM Briefing: The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Jeff Beckham will go before the Appropriations Committee to brief the committee and answer questions.
- State Agency Budget Presentation: State agencies are then invited individually to go before the Appropriations Committee to present and answer questions on how the budget impacts their agency. The public will also have the opportunity to testify on the Governor's budget before the Appropriations Committee.
- Subcommittee Work Sessions: After these presentations and public hearings, agencies are typically invited to come before specific [subcommittees](#) of the Appropriations Committees for "work sessions" to provide follow-up information from the presentations and further discuss the budget proposals.

Legislators use this information to decide what they want to include in their version of the biennial budget proposal – they may adopt some of the Governor's recommendations or make new recommendations of their own.



After releasing the Appropriations Committee budget, the Governor's Office, OPM, and legislative leaders negotiate to reach a final product for a vote from the General Assembly.

What's Happening Next?

Next week begins a very busy season of committee hearings and meetings!

- On Monday, OPM Secretary Jeff Beckham will present the Governor's proposed budget at 1:00PM in front of the [Appropriations Committee](#).
- DMHAS' budget presentation is set to take place on **Friday, February 21st at 2:00PM in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building**. The public hearing is set to take place after starting at 4:00PM.
- For a schedule of all agency budget presentations happening over the next two weeks, click [here](#).
- Of note, the General Law Committee is holding a [public hearing](#) on Friday, February 14th that includes the Department of Consumer Protection's agency proposals relating to lottery, gaming regulation, drug control and cannabis, hemp and infused beverages regulation, and alcoholic liquor and infused beverage regulation.
- To see other public hearings and committee meetings, check out the CGA calendar on the [CGA homepage](#) or you can sign up for automatic email updates on agenda postings [here](#).

Until Next Time – Stay Warm!
In partnership, Chandra & Kelly