

March 24, 2026

DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

Happy Spring! It has been a busy couple of weeks at the Legislative Office Building, but things have begun to wind down as committee business is coming to an end.

Please see below what has taken place at the CT General Assembly:

Public Health Committee Updates

In the past couple of weeks, the Public Health Committee has wrapped up their public hearings and have been voting a number of bills out of committee. Their final meeting was held yesterday, Monday March 23rd.

Included in yesterday's agenda were our two agency bills ([HB 5515](#) and [HB 5517](#)) that were voted out of committee!

What Does Voting a Bill Out of Committee Mean?

As you have been following along this session, up until this point, committees have been holding public hearings on bills that were introduced at the start of session. Now, they are in the process of voting these bills out of committee.

What does this process look like?

After public hearings, Committee Chairs, Ranking Members, caucus staff, and nonpartisan staff get together to review testimony submitted on bills to see if there needs to be any changes or continued discussions. Here, legislators can decide if there needs to be substitute language that would address any concerns. Once this takes place, the Chairs will have the final say as to which bills get added to an agenda.



This all must be done before the **Joint Favorable or "JF" Deadline**. Committees must vote bills out of committee before this timeframe. If not, then these bills will not move forward in the legislative process.



Did You Know?

During these JF committee meetings, there tends to be several bills on an agenda. In order to streamline the committee process, a legislator can request a bill to go on a **consent calendar**. A consent calendar is group of bills that all members of a committee agree to pass without debate with one roll call vote.

What's Happening Next ?

The House will be in session on Wednesday, March 25th. The Senate will be in session the following day on Thursday, March 26th. Coverage will be livestreamed through [CT-N](#) if you would like to tune in!

Go Huskies!

In partnership, Chandra & Kelly