

## DDS Legislative Update – January 11, 2019

### New Session Began January 9, 2019 and Ends June 5, 2019

**The 2019 legislative session began on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 and will end on June 5, 2019 at midnight.** This session is called a “long” session which occurs in odd numbered years. The main task of the General Assembly in a long session is to craft and pass a new two-year (biennial) budget for the state. **The budget that the Governor, the House and the Senate will be working on this session is for fiscal years (FY) 2020 and 2021.** The budget, when passed, will go into effect July 1, 2019 and be in effect through June 30, 2021.

Besides passing a new two-year budget, House and Senate members are allowed to submit proposed bills. These proposed bills can be on any topic of interest to the legislators. Most of the proposed bills do not become law but some of the concepts contained in proposed bills eventually make their way into “committee” bills, which, if passed, may become law. Bills also are “raised” by legislative committees based on input from various constituencies and executive branch agencies like the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

All bills must have a public hearing before they can be voted on by a committee and move forward. **Public hearings are where Connecticut citizens have their voices heard on the range of issues that the legislature will be working on during this session.** For the department and the individuals and families that receive supports and services from DDS, the public hearings of the Appropriations Committee, the Public Health Committee and the Human Services Committee are very important.

### Governor Lamont’s State-of-the-State Address for 2019

Governor Lamont addressed a Joint Session of the Senate and House of Representatives on opening day. Below is a link to the Governor’s State-of-the-State address.

[Governor Lamont's 2019 State of the State Address](#)

### Some Important Dates

**The Governor’s proposed budget for the next two fiscal years is customarily scheduled for release in early February.** The Governor usually gives his budget address before the General Assembly on the same day his budget is released. This year the Governor has until Wednesday, February 20, 2019 to deliver his proposed two-year budget.

**The Appropriations Committee schedules public hearings on the Governor’s proposed budget a week or two after the Governor’s budget has been released.** Each section of the Governor’s budget has a public hearing typically scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building. The Health section of the budget contains the Department of Developmental Services’ budget. When more information about the Health budget public hearing is available, we will let you know.

### Links to the General Assembly and Legislative Committees

[Connecticut General Assembly](#)

[Appropriations Committee](#)

[Public Health Committee](#)

[Human Services Committee](#)

## **DDS Legislative Update – January 11, 2019**

**DDS Legislative E-Mail Updates** - If you would like to receive DDS Legislative E-Mail Updates, please e-mail [Legislative Affairs](#) to sign up. Legislative updates will contain information on pending legislation, committee meetings, public hearings and legislative sessions of interest to DDS and its stakeholders.