



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE & POLICY/GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 19, 2026 Meeting 10:00 A.M.  
ZOOM

1) Call to Order, Welcome and Attendance

The joint committee meeting was called to order, and attendance was taken at the start of the session. Councilmember Avery Gaddis presided over the meeting proceedings.

Councilmembers present:

Avery Gaddis  
Tina Beamon  
Greg Davis  
Shirley Skyers-Thomas  
Kyle Abercrombie  
Corrie Betts

Brandon L. McGee, Jr., Executive Director, also participated in the meeting.

2) Approval of December 18, 2025 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

The committee considered the December 18, 2025 Policy Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: Tina Beamon  
Second: Greg Davis  
In Favor: All  
Abstentions: None  
Discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

3) Approval of December 17, 2025 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

The committee then entertained a motion for approval of the December 17, 2025 Legislative Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: Shirley Skyers-Thomas  
Second: Greg Davis  
In Favor: All  
Abstentions: Tina Beamon  
Discussion: None

Motion passed.

#### 4) Updates on Legislative and Policy and Governance

Brandon L. McGee, Jr. provided an update on the Council's legislative and governance work. He explained that the Council had combined the Policy, Governance, and Legislative functions into a unified approach so that governance, legislative priorities, and policy oversight would work together more effectively in support of the Council's mission.

Mr. McGee then discussed the Council's current legislative priorities. These included proposals to shift reporting to the Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus from a monthly to a quarterly basis and to permit a one-time replacement of financial backers for Social Equity Applicants in order to protect entrepreneurs when capital partners change.

The committee also reviewed several bills being monitored during the 2026 legislative session. These included House Bill 5351, which was described as strengthening oversight against predatory financing and sham ownership structures; House Bill 5350, which creates concerns about weakening social equity protections; Senate Bill 405, which the Council opposed because it would divert 5% of cannabis tax revenue away from social equity purposes; and House Bill 5109, which included discussion of a proposed 10.75% flat excise tax. The overall focus of the discussion was on protecting social equity programming and funding and preserving the Council's regulatory framework.

Committee members also raised related questions and comments. Tina Beamon expressed concern regarding diversion of funds away from social equity programs. Shirley Skyers-Thomas asked whether the Council had been asked to provide specific legislative language. Kyle Abercrombie was noted as present, while Greg Davis and Corrie Betts participated in the procedural portions of the meeting.

In addition, the Executive Director referenced feedback gathered through virtual roundtables, including concerns about hemp-derived cannabinoids, market oversaturation, and the competitiveness impact of overall cannabis taxation exceeding 20%. Staff indicated they would continue engagement with caucus leaders and the General Law Committee and continue advocacy on pending legislation.

5) Good of the Order

No separate substantive action was detailed under Good of the Order beyond noting upcoming committee activity and ongoing legislative coordination. Members were invited to participate in upcoming Finance Committee and Reinvestment & Workforce Development Committee meetings.

6) Adjourn

After completion of committee business, the meeting was adjourned by consent. No additional business was taken up before adjournment.

DRAFT



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**Date: March 19, 2026**

**RE: Minutes: March SEC Meeting Minutes**

**Please be advised that the above-referenced typewritten minutes are a true and accurate description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded conversations to the extent that the audio could be clearly heard/understood. Portions that could not be heard/understood have been notated with a (an “inaudible” or “?...”).**

**Sincerely,**

**I certify that this document is a true and accurate description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded conversations contained in the listed audio file.**

*Boden Truitt*

**Boden Truitt,  
Transcriber**