
DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

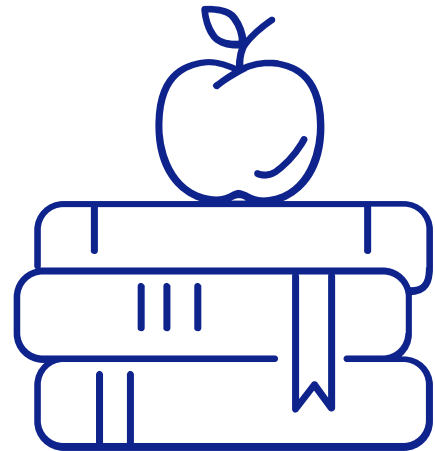
Reporting live from the Capitol! Please see below what has taken place at the CT General Assembly this week:

This Week at the Capitol

As the clock winds down, both the House and Senate are in full gear trying to pass as many bills as possible before session ends.

We highlight a few bills below:

In the House, two House priorities were brought out. [HB 5001](#), *An Act Concerning the Quality and Delivery of Special Education Services in Connecticut*, seeks to address the rising special education costs and expand regulation of private special education providers. The bill also includes a 'special education and expansion development grant' based on the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula. The bill was voted out of the House unanimously and now goes to the Senate.



[HB 5002](#), *An Act Concerning Housing and the Needs of Homeless Persons*, is a comprehensive housing bill comprised of several measures ranging from zoning to addressing homelessness. This omnibus bill compiles bills from a few committees in hopes of tackling the lack of affordable housing across the state.

Last week we reported out on the passage on [SB 7](#) in the Senate, which contains various unrelated provisions relating to health and healthcare. This week, the House amended the bill to remove provisions related to opioid overdose centers. The bill now must be passed again in the Senate as amended to move on for consideration for signature by the Governor.



Did You Know?

In addition to an appropriations act that specifically denotes the budget amounts agencies receive, other bills called “**implementers**” are passed to make any necessary law changes to “implement” policy changes related to the budget. For example, if Medicaid eligibility coverage was expanded, the appropriations act would reflect the dollar amount needed to fund the expansion, and an “implementer” bill would change the related eligibility statutes to reflect the new coverage.

Budget Update

Legislative leaders, the Governor’s Office, and the Office of Policy and Management have been working towards an agreement on a final budget.

The budget will likely be voted on next week.

What’s Happening Next Week?

The House and Senate will be in Session the Following Days:

Monday, June 2nd

Tuesday, June 3rd

Wednesday, June 4th*

*The last day of session, also known as “**sine die**”. Latin for “without day”, Sine Die means a final adjournment and is the motion used to close an annual session of the General Assembly.



Quick note – this will be our last weekly legislative newsletter as session is ending next week! Thank you all for reading, engaging with us, and supporting the individuals we serve. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with such dedicated partners to promote our agency’s mission. Stay tuned in the weeks following the legislative session for our new annual “session round-up” which will detail bills that had final passage, as well as items contained in the budget, that are of interest to DMHAS staff and stakeholders.

-Chandra & Kelly