



FOCUS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

WEEK IN REVIEW

April 24, 2026

UPDATES FROM THE FLOOR

State lawmakers headed to the House and Senate Floors this week, tackling the long list of legislation still before them. Some of the legislation passed addressed technical corrections and niche issues, but others were substantive and addressed controversial topics.

Among the legislation considered, the House and Senate spent numerous hours debating House Bill 5044, which addresses the state's vaccine laws. The legislation gives the Commissioner of Department of Public Health the ability to set vaccine recommendations across the state, ensures insurance coverage for recommended shots. and allows the state to purchase vaccines from sources other than the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Additionally, the senate in-depthly considered proposals regarding artificial intelligence and online safety protocols while the House took substantial time debating the expansion of absentee voting across the State. To round out the week of lengthy debates, the House took up the much debated home schooling bill. Though the more controversial portions of the bill were stripped from the language, large crowds still came out to protest the legislation. These lengthy pieces of legislation now advance to the their next respective chambers, as all legislative priorities race against the impending May 6th deadline.

BUDGET UPDATES

Governor Ned Lamont and leadership of the General Assembly are continuing to negotiate this year's budget with proposals to significantly increase funding for municipal aid, education, childcare, and possibly tax relief by tapping into state savings programs at record levels. However, they face growing challenges in sustaining these investments as federal aid declines and budget loopholes close. While officials are optimistic about reaching a balanced budget and boosting school funding, potentially by \$150 million, much of the plan depends on creative accounting strategies to work around strict spending caps, such as reallocating tax revenues or prepaying pension obligations to free up room for new spending. All in all, back room negotiations continue to take place as legislative leaders work out budget compromises.

REMEMBERING STATE REP. DARGAN

Former State Representative Stephen Dargan passed away on April 22nd at the age of 71 following a long battle with cancer. First elected in 1990, the West Haven Democrat served in the Connecticut Legislature for 13 terms. As chairman of the Committee on Public Safety, Dargan was well respected by his colleagues, known for his hard work and bipartisanship.



LEGISLATIVE MOOD

Both chambers spent long days on the floor, debating lengthy legislative proposals. As just two weeks are left before adjournment, the General Assembly is racing against the clock to hear the backlog of bills from this year. With only a few committees still hearing referrals, the majority of the remaining time will be spent debating on the House and Senate Floors.

TODAY IN CT HISTORY

In the 1630s, Puritan minister John Davenport sought to establish a “New Jerusalem” free from religious and political pressures in England. After arriving in Massachusetts in 1637, he and his followers—facing theological differences—sent Theophilus Eaton to scout new settlement sites along Long Island Sound. His favorable report led Davenport and roughly 500 settlers to found New Haven in 1638, on land purchased from the Quinnipiack people.

Planned as one of the first grid-based towns in America, New Haven combined religious ideals with economic ambition under a theocratic government. Over time, however, its founders’ strict religious vision gave way to commercial growth, and the city evolved into a major trading hub—remaining a prosperous and influential center in Connecticut today.

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