



FOCUS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

WEEK IN REVIEW

May 1, 2026

UPDATES FROM THE FLOOR

In a rush to the finish line, legislators spent most of this week on the floor debating bills in the hopes of getting it to the Governor's desk. Debates this week with were wide ranging in nature including both bipartisan and controversial legislative proposals.

After multiple revisions and lengthy negotiations involving both Democrats and Republicans, the House passed House Bill 5003. The wide-ranging omnibus labor bill addressed issues such as wage theft, hospital staffing standards, job protections, construction safety, and compensation for assaulted workers. The bill notably includes an unrelated provision allowing the sale of undersized lobsters caught legally elsewhere. Initially controversial, the revised version gained broader support passing with bipartisan support. It now awaits to be heard in the Senate for approval before the legislative deadline

House Bill 5035, which would ban student use of cell phones and restrict access to social media on school internet during the school day, passed the House with bipartisan support. The Governor's priority bill aims to reduce classroom distractions and establish consistent statewide standards, requiring students to keep phones turned off and stored while allowing local districts to decide how to enforce it. The policy also applies to other personal electronic devices but exempts school-issued technology, as well as devices needed for

medical or special education purposes. In a message to the Governor, the Senate put the bill at the foot of their calendar marking their lack of desire to take it up for a vote.

Legislators also spent time debating a new contract for state employees, which gives state workers annual cost-of-living salary increases plus step increases through 2028. Additionally, lawmakers passed legislation addressing child welfare, private equity, cannabis regulation, and electric bus mandates.

BUDGET UPDATES

Following lengthy negotiations, Governor Ned Lamont announced a tentative state budget deal that includes \$270 million in new municipal aid to help communities offset rising costs and potentially reduce local taxes, even allowing towns to reopen already approved budgets. The plan also allocates \$170 million in additional education funding and \$100 million in one-time non-education aid. Despite reduced surplus funds due to declining tax revenues and rising healthcare costs, Lamont also agreed to redirect \$300 million from a state savings program aimed at reducing pension debt to expand affordable child care. The deal has received support from Democratic legislative leadership, but top Republican lawmakers have voiced concerns over the plan's long-term sustainability.

LEGISLATIVE MOOD

The General Assembly has been arduously working to push legislation out of the House and Senate chambers and send it off to the governor's desk. As the General Assembly heads into its final week of business, final budget adjustments are expected very soon along with several more legislative priorities that have yet to be heard. A few long nights on the floor remain, but adjournment is on the horizon!

TODAY IN CT HISTORY

In 1637, Connecticut colonists declared war on the Pequot tribe after years of growing tension over land and trade, marked by raids and a Pequot siege of an English fort. Although the settlers were initially hesitant, the conflict escalated after a deadly Pequot and Wangunk attack on Wethersfield, which killed settlers, captured two girls, and destroyed livestock. This led to a formal declaration of war on May 1, followed by a major English and allied Native assault on a Pequot village near Mystic that killed hundreds in the Mistick Massacre. The war ended in 1638 with the Treaty of Hartford, which eliminated Pequot dominance and shifted regional power to the English and their allies.

COUNTDOWN TO SINE DIE



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