

The Connecticut General Assembly



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REP. COOK ADVOCATES FOR FUNDS NEEDED TO ADDRESS MOTOR VEHICLE TAX REIMBURSEMENT SHORTFALL



Rep. Cook speaks at this morning's press conference. To her left is Rep. Jack Hennessy (D-Bridgeport) (l) and to her right is Rep. Michael D'Agostino (D-Hamden)

State **Rep. Michelle Cook** (D-Torrington) joined fellow legislators and local elected officials from Torrington, Bridgeport, and Hamden today to advocate for the appropriation of funds needed to address a motor vehicle tax reimbursement shortfall in the three municipalities.

A fundamental tenet of the bipartisan budget, [Public Act 17-4](#), that passed last year was that municipalities with car tax rates above 39 mills – the state mandated car tax cap for 2018 – would be made whole for the difference between the cap and the higher tax rate. Bridgeport, Hamden and Torrington were denied this funding because each went through a property tax revaluation in 2015 or later that was not considered in the motor vehicle tax reimbursement calculation in the budget.

Torrington was owed \$1,687,556 in car tax reimbursement moneys in total, and the three municipalities collectively saw a shortfall of \$10 million.

“I have said ever since we first learned of this issue that my goal is to make Torrington whole. OPM partially restoring funding to help relieve the burden on Torrington taxpayers was an important victory, but it still falls short of what our town was promised,” **Rep. Cook** said. “The intent of the car tax cap legislation needs to be honored, and that means restoring the full reimbursement. Torrington taxpayers should not have to foot the bill for a state budgeting error.”

A portion of the shortfall was addressed earlier this month when the state Office of Policy and Management released \$5 million from the stabilization fund dedicated for car tax reimbursements. This money was disbursed between the three municipalities proportionate to the amount each was owed, and Torrington received \$603,276. The funds were released roughly two weeks after **Rep. Cook** and legislators from Hamden and Bridgeport testified before the Appropriations Committee asking for legislative action to restore the funding.

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