

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Contact: Danielle Faipler
(860)240-8790

Legislative Committees Move Forward with Rep. Hennessy's Bills

HARTFORD — The Connecticut General Assembly's Public Health and Planning and Development Committees have voted two bills out of committee on Friday, March 29, both of which **State Representative Jack Hennessy, D – Bridgeport**, was a co-introducer.

One of the bills, which was passed in Planning and Development Committee, [seeks to amend the Connecticut General Statutes to close a loophole](#) that currently allows municipal employees to serve on certain legislative bodies in that municipality, including a board of finance or committee with those powers.

"I am pleased to see this bill move forward and that members of the Planning and Development Committee recognize this is a conflict of interest, which has had a corrosive effect on how some municipalities operate, including Bridgeport," said **Rep. Hennessy**. "It is critical to ensure all residents' interests are represented and would eliminate significant conflicts of interest. If this bill were to become law, its focus would be limited to the few municipalities in the state that don't have boards of finance, and the few municipal employees that serve on them."

In Bridgeport, the loophole allowed the [city to ignore its charter](#), which prohibits city employees from serving on City Council.

The second bill that moved out of committee seeks to [expand the scope of practice of naturopathic physicians](#) and grant them limited prescriptive authority.

"This bill will keep naturopathic physicians in the state and increase patient access to quality care. These physicians are knowledgeable in pharmacology, as well as other methods that are essential in treating patients," said **Rep. Hennessy**. "Naturopathic physicians have the same schooling as those in Medical Doctorate programs, and should be authorized to perform their full scope of practice."

By expanding the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians, this bill would allow patients to receive health care from one physician, decreases the need for referrals and the cost of care.

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