

THE LEGISLATIVE STAFF'S  
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE  
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



September 2015

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Dear Members of the Connecticut General Assembly:

All legislative sessions are unique and 2015 was no exception. Hard decisions were made regarding some very difficult issues. I hope you agree that your staff has provided quality information and outstanding support to help you make those decisions. That is why we are here. If there is anything more we can do for you, please do not hesitate to let us know. I invite you to contact either individual office directors or me.

I am happy to provide you with the attached summary of accomplishments your staff has achieved during the last twelve months. Thank you.

Sincerely,



James P. Tracy  
Executive Director

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# The Connecticut Legislature By the Numbers

## House – 151 Members

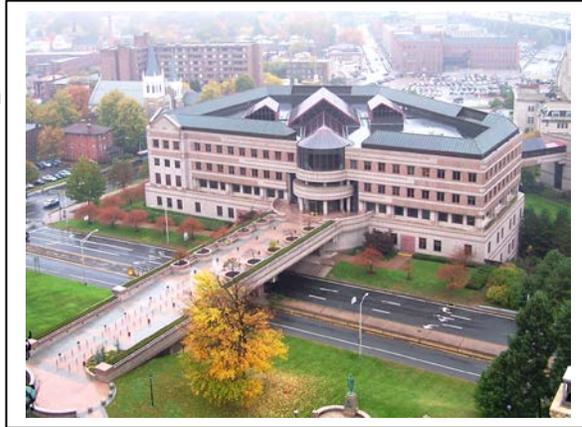
87 Democrats  
64 Republicans

44 women, 107 men

### Sessions

24 regular  
82 technical  
1 special  
1 veto

108 total



## Senate – 36 Members

21 Democrats  
15 Republicans

9 women, 27 men

### Sessions

20 regular  
82 technical  
1 special  
1 veto

104 total



## Staff

238 regular nonpartisan  
229 regular partisan  
120 sessional

## Committees

Meetings - 311  
Public Hearings -158

Public Acts - 254  
Special Acts - 23



## Service Center

Pieces of mail sent - 3,882,882  
Copies made - 3,136,846



## League of Women Voters

tours - 1,297  
visitors - 24,873  
school age visitors - 21,631



## Old State House

Admissions - 9,262  
Events - 22

## **AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION (AAAC)**

### **Accomplishments:**

The African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) recognized the contributions made by African-Americans who served in World War II, the Korean War and the War in Vietnam in the Veterans of Color Program. Produced by Army veteran Dr. Bernard Watson, the Veterans of Color DVD was showcased in Hartford, Waterbury, New Haven, Hamden and Bloomfield to hundreds of students, adults and veterans. The DVD captured the harsh realities of war and the struggle black men and women veterans endured as second class citizens while serving their country during wartime and the present.

Across the country the untimely deaths of several African-Americans at the hands of law enforcement and a deranged racist, led to unrest and national reflection on race. The Commission sponsored forums in cities throughout Connecticut with several partners that helped inform communities about racial profiling and traffic stops and the effects of race in education, government and health care. The Commission was successful in providing hundreds with opportunities for civic engagement and becoming informed of current issues.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

The Commission coordinated the College Goal Sunday-CT on January 24 & 25, 2015. There were 896 high school students completing Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms (FAFSA) for college financial aid and 220 volunteers at 14 locations around the state. The Commission distributed six hundred 2014-2015 Scholarship Guides for Financial Aid to high schools and families around the state. The Commission awarded two graduating high school students with scholarships of \$2,000 each during the Annual Classic Awards.

## **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION (APAAC)**

### **Accomplishments:**

The Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC) continues to conduct outreach and education to multiple Asian Pacific American (APA) communities, state agencies, municipalities, providers' in the private and nonprofit sectors, and the general public. For example, the I Speak Card campaign was created last year to increase awareness about an individual's right to have a qualified interpreter for those that are not proficient in English, during various appointments with agencies that receive federal funding. The provider is responsible for securing a qualified interpreter for appointments and is responsible for any associated costs for this service. This initiative has been very successful, expanding to benefit other minority communities in addition to more APA communities. Working with APAAC, the Department of Public Health (DPH) produced these I Speak Cards in the following Asian languages: Chinese, Lao, Vietnamese, Khmer (Cambodian language), and Karen (Burmese language). Furthermore, DPH translated these cards into additional Asian languages: Korean, Hindi, and Filipino; asking APAAC to vet the translation to ensure accuracy. DPH will continue to produce the Spanish version in addition to eight languages spoken by people of African descent. DPH will print the languages listed above and provide all eight Asian language versions to APAAC to assist us in our outreach efforts. This is a wonderful resource for our numerous underserved communities addressing language access which is an ongoing issue for our diverse communities throughout the state.

Another initiative that APAAC participated in was the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Problem Gambling Services (PGS) and the CT Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) APA Problem Gambling Pilot Project. APAAC identified community leaders that will serve as ambassadors to the APA communities. These ambassadors are learning about problem gambling and what resources are available. Once these ambassadors complete the project requirements, each of them will conduct outreach to specific APA communities throughout CT, about problem gambling. Both DMHAS PGS and CCPG are providing free orientation, training, supervision, and stipends for participants' time. There is a possibility of financial assistance (cover training, registry, and application fees) for some individuals with clinical backgrounds to become SCPG - Specialty Certificate of Competency in Problem Gambling and possibly pursue the National Certified Gambling Counselor (NCGC), creating a bicultural and bilingual work force that is needed to address the APA population. This initiative can be replicated in different communities.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

APAAC continues to develop relationships with numerous agencies/groups/communities, serve on multiple boards/committees/coalitions, work on new projects that have an APA focus, and expand on current partnerships. Through this collaboration and growth, APAAC has increased participation in many activities throughout the year, creating visibility about APA issues in the larger community. For example, APAAC has

disseminated hundreds of copies of the 2014 Southeast Asian Needs Assessment Report, throughout the state. The outcome of this outreach effort has been tremendously positive since state agencies, providers, and multiple communities have requested APAAC conduct presentations and/or trainings at their locations. This has increased APAAC's presence in the community and peaked interest from those that do not know much about the APA population and/or would like to learn more. Especially since APAs are the fastest growing minority population and there is still limited to no data on the APAs. Furthermore, APAAC continues to distribute thousands of the I Speak Cards during events, such as presentations, trainings, community celebrations or activities raising awareness about language access in addition to APA issues. As stated above, other minority communities are benefiting from these cards since the template can be modified for specific communities with language access issues.

## **COMMISSION ON AGING (CoA)**

### **Accomplishments:**

**Resource to Legislators and Stakeholders:** The Commission on Aging tracked over 400 aging-related bills across 19 committees, produced and distributed a comprehensive legislative tracking tool on bills and proposals related to older adults and persons with disabilities, testified on over 75 bills in front of 10 legislative committees, provided background materials and guidance to policymakers and their staff upon request, provided an impact analysis on proposed budget options, held an end of session forum, and produced our annual “Inside the Dome” report that highlights all aging and disability related legislation passed during the 2015 regular and special sessions.

**Initiatives and Legislative Work:** CoA worked with members of the CGA on several bills that continued the implementation of recommendations of the legislatively mandated Aging in Place Task Force (SA 12-06) and Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Task Force (PA 14-194) as well as legislation that supported the CoA’s legislatively mandated Livable Communities initiative (PA 13-109). As part of its livable communities initiative the CoA created a website ([www.livablelect.org](http://www.livablelect.org)) and conducted a comprehensive, statewide survey on what Connecticut residents have to say about how communities can best prepare to support residents across the lifespan and formulated public policy strategies based on results. Our research and consultative support to partner organizations in this area has been shared and utilized by stakeholders in Connecticut, across the country and worldwide, including the World Health Organization’s convening of international partners on livability in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

**Partnerships & Maximizing funds:** CoA participates in 19 coalitions, task forces and collaborative partnerships and provides top-level leadership on several of these collaborations that seek to maximize non-state funding opportunities. CoA’s research, data and reports are utilized by a variety of sources including local and state governmental entities, non-profit organizations, and paid consultants. A few notables from this year: 1) CoA is a leader on the Money Follows the Person Steering Committee (\$500+ million federal grant) which serves as the primary driver for the state’s efforts in Long-Term Services and Supports rebalancing. Through these efforts, CoA informed the state’s Money Follows the Person Sustainability Plan; the state will receive \$225 million dollars from this opportunity. 2) CoA has also facilitated extensive meetings with philanthropic, municipal and non-profit leaders to cultivate partnerships and encourage philanthropic investment and mutual focus on aging- related projects. Through this work significant investments have been made across the state.

## **COMMISSION ON CHILDREN (COC)**

### **Accomplishments:**

#### **Two-generational Policy: Putting Family at the Center**

The Commission on Children worked with the co-chairs of the Appropriations and Human Services committees to help create one of the nation's first comprehensive "two-generational" plans for providing social services. Under this approach, programs and policies are centered on the family: Parents receive assistance with education, work skills development, and family supports, while their children begin the path to school success through access to high-quality school readiness programs and enriching elementary school experiences.

Section 404 of the 2016-17 budget implementer bill (Public Act No. 15-5) establishes a two-generational school readiness and workforce development pilot program, paid for with state and available private funds. The program will operate through June 30, 2017 and may operate in six locations: Bridgeport, Colchester, Greater Hartford, Meriden, New Haven, and Norwalk. The pilot sites must work together as a learning community, informed by technical assistance in best practices.

#### **Helping Youth Create Better School Climates**

The Commission on Children and legislators joined the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation in the launch of a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the role emotions play in young people's learning and overall wellness. The initiative, dubbed the "Emotion Revolution," seeks to engage high school students in a dialogue about how they feel in school. It began with an online survey of high-schoolers at EmotionRevolution.org, with the goal of using the data to take the next steps in helping young people bridge the gap between how they feel and how they want to feel. To publicize the survey, the Commission, legislators, and representatives from Yale and the Born This Way Foundation joined student leaders at East Hartford High School for a news conference on May 11.

The initiative is one of several the Commission pursued to not only improve school climates but to ensure that youth take a leadership role in the effort.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

#### **Reading for Success**

Students who cannot read by Grade 3 are four times more likely to drop out of school than those who can. The Commission on Children, in partnership with the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus and the state Department of Education, has developed a comprehensive reading plan for Connecticut. School districts piloting the plan are using best practices, proven assessment instruments, teacher training in the science of reading instruction, parent engagement, and school leadership training to produce significant growth in early literacy skills; in fact, participating children schools have met important literacy benchmarks earlier than their peers:

- Phonemic awareness (an essential early literacy skill) showed a 35% improvement over the baseline scores in 1st and 2nd grades and 18% over baseline in 3rd grade.
- Word reading improved 19% over baseline in 1st grade and 18% over baseline in 2nd grade.
- The ability to read grade-level text increased 14% over baseline in 1st grade and 10% over baseline in 2nd grade.
- The pass rate of pre-service teachers of the Foundations of Reading Test has grown from 65% in 2009-2010 to 81% in 2013-2014, demonstrating changes in higher education's teaching and training of pre-service teachers.

In East Hartford, one school began with 36 kindergarten students at or above grade-level literacy but nearly doubled the total to 69 students after the interventions. In another school, the STAR Early Literacy Scaled Score jumped from 25% of the students at or above benchmark in the fall to 75% by the winter.

In Waterbury, reading scores improved 19 percentage points within two years. In Naugatuck, there was a 16% improvement in the number of students meeting grade level after just one season of intervention.

### **Parent leadership outcomes**

Since its founding in 1992, the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) has proven so successful that the W. K. Kellogg Foundation has funded a two-year grant for a national expansion of the program through the National Parent Leadership Institute. The funding for local PLTI training is provided in part by the Parent Trust Fund that was established by the CGA in 2001. The state appropriation is matched by private philanthropy at the state level, and again at the community level.

The latest data concerning Connecticut PLTI graduates show that while only 22 percent of parents-in-training had a clear understanding of how state budgets were made before entering PLTI, fully 97 percent understood it afterward. Likewise, the percentage of those who could speak publicly in support of a goal at a community meeting tripled. School board meetings and town council meetings attendance increased by nearly 30 percent.

## COMMITTEES

### Accomplishments:

Upgrades to Committee Applications: In an ongoing effort to provide clear, concise information regarding committee events to legislators, staff and the public, the Committees of the Connecticut General Assembly implemented upgrades to the Room Reservation and Bulletin Notice applications. The upgrades, which were developed in collaboration with Information Technology Services, the House and Senate Clerks' Offices and the Office of Legislative Management, offer committee staff more user-friendly, intuitive systems for scheduling and noticing committee events. The committee information published in the Bulletin is now more consistent among committees, giving the public a greater sense of familiarity and confidence when participating in the public hearing process.

E-Regulations: This year saw the successful culmination of a two-plus year project spearheaded by the Office of the Secretary of the State and the Office of the Governor, designed to facilitate public access to the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The eRegulations System offers interested parties the opportunity to view a particular regulation at every step of the adoption process and includes features such as the electronic submission of public comments.

### Statistical Highlights:

Committee	# of Bills Referred	Committee Mtgs.	Bills having PH	Testimony/Testifiers	Bills out before Deadline	Task Forces
AGE	55	6	31	222	29	0
APP	258	19	29	3337	69	2
BA	41	7	33	99	12	0
KID	68	13	46	986	38	0
CE	90	14	53	326	22	0
ED	276	12	45	100's (no exact total)	39	0
ET	66	6	64	1221	36	0
ENV	210	11	5	1097	52	0
EXN	70	16	69	55	69	0
FIN	320	10	37	1407	17	2
GL	123	14	5	205	31	2
GAE	278	17	74	629	45	0
HED	103	15	5	434	29	1
HSE	83	9	77	866	24	0
HS	150	18	68	887	54	2
INS	200	19	99	908	61	0
JUD	512	19	209	3079	91	2
LAB	210	13	6	1697	54	1
PD	189	16	71	570	49	1
PRI	0	8	8	104	7	0
PH	154	17	128	2486	71	2
PS	125	15	46	913	40	2
REGS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRA	207	9	206	1250	33	0
VA	128	8	52	180	27	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3916</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>1466</b>	<b>23,158</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>17</b>

## HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE (HCO)

### Accomplishments:

The Office of the House Clerk successfully spearheaded a collaboration with ITS and Committee Clerks to update and completely overhaul the Bulletin application that is utilized for submittal of committee meetings and public hearings.

In a continual effort to increase efficiencies, HCO updated the Legislative Record Index program. House Members now receive electronic records of the bills that they introduced or co-sponsored during the regular session.

### Statistical Highlights:

<b>PROCESSED BY HCO</b>	<b>2015</b>
House Bills/Resolutions	2,209
Amendments	514
Citations <i>(As of 8-17-2015)</i>	3,297

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)**

### **Accomplishments:**

High Availability relocation from East Hartford to the LOB: The lease for the DAS/BEST location at East River Drive in East Hartford will end in October 2015. ITS successfully relocated all High Availability equipment from East Hartford to Room 5300 in the LOB. This also includes the cutover of our Intranet and Internet connections to now be served from 55 Farmington Ave and the Armory.

Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) Website Renovation: ITS published new and improved CGA Internet and Intranet websites. New technology was implemented that: 1) supports the wide range of window sizes and touch screens associated with mobile devices; 2) added new and improved functionality; 3) supports Internet Explorer, Chrome and Firefox browsers, and 4) provided a modern and effective user interface and experience. ITS provided 30 minute training sessions to learn more about the functionality and new user experience of the new websites.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

Help Desk: A total of 9,385 calls were received by the Help Desk in fiscal year 2015. Of those, 5,108 were made during session. Within 24 hours 8,190 calls were closed and 5,465 of those calls were closed on initial contact.

CGA Website Connectivity: For Fiscal Year 2015 a total of 1,365,005 connections were made to the CGA website ([www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov)). Of those, 1,110,402 were from desktops, 173,625 were from mobile phones and 80,978 were from tablets. There were 6,202,257 total page views at an average duration of 00:06:45. The average pages viewed per session were 4.54.

## **LATINO AND PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION (LPRAC)**

### **Accomplishments:**

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission's Board and Staff were thoroughly engaged in a wide range of policy issues during the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. In October 2014, we hosted an RBA (Results-Based Accountability) turn-the-curve session on the high rate of teen pregnancies among Latinos that was attended by over 30 stakeholders from throughout the state. In January 2015, we hosted a policy forum on English Language Learners (ELLs) that was attended by roughly 150 stakeholders, including several legislators. Our ELL policy forum was the catalyst for the many changes to ELL statutes enacted during the 2015 legislative session.

Administrative work at the commission includes the application for a two-year \$40,000 grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation for oral health advocacy which was awarded to the LPRAC on Tuesday, June 23, 2015.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

The LPRAC's annual student scholarship program has also steadily grown over the years and in 2014 we brought up the number of students receiving scholarships to a total of 111 by awarding an additional 20 students. In 2014, the total amount of our scholarship awards was \$20,000 for 20 students bringing the collective total amount of awards to \$186,900. This year, we project an increase of that figure by an additional \$27,000 for regular and GED scholarships bringing the total amount of awards over the past 9 years to approximately \$213,900. This figure includes the additional \$8,000 awarded by Bank of America in 2013.

We tracked 51 bills of importance to the Latino community and provided testimony (both supporting and opposing) on 36 bills. Twelve (12) bills we supported passed into legislation. While we focused on many topics, more time was dedicated to teen pregnancy prevention and improving K-12 educational outcomes for English Language Learners (ELLs).

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE (LCO)**

### **Accomplishments:**

LCO initiated (1) a reorganization and revision of provisions of the Joint Rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives concerning the types of bills and resolutions, for clarity and ease of use, and (2) a review and analysis of the changes in the 2010 edition of *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure* from the 2000 edition. The General Assembly incorporated LCO's proposed rules revisions in the 2015-16 Joint Rules and the Senate adopted the 2010 edition of *Mason's* as parliamentary authority in the 2015-16 Senate Rules.

Training opportunities were expanded for LCO attorneys and support staff, including sessions on bill drafting topics led by the attorneys, a training program organized by the support staff, and presentations by judges and law professors on constitutional law, state law and statutory interpretation.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

For the 2015 regular session, LCO prepared 9,500 bill and amendment drafts, 925 file copies and reprints, 249 public acts and 22 special acts. For the June 2015 special session, LCO prepared 6 bills, including a 700-page budget implementation bill.

LCO published the January 1, 2015 edition of the Connecticut General Statutes. Key statistics related to this publication:

- Number of volumes -- 16
- Number of documents created or updated in 2014 for preparation of the 2015 General Statutes -- 7,107
- Total Word documents in the 2015 General Statutes database (for print and Text Search) -- 83,418
- Number of HTML files created for the browseable 2015 General Statutes -- 1,169

## **LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY**

### **Accomplishments:**

The Legislative Library continues to meet the information needs of the General Assembly by organizing, preserving, and providing access to numerous databases, journals, and other publications. In order to do this, several databases and resources were updated, created, and maintained over the past year with information that will assist legislators and staff with their research needs. The process of evaluating every record in the legislative appointments database for accuracy and standardization has continued, and a total of 120 boards have been reviewed and finalized. The library continues to track reports that are statutorily required to be submitted to the General Assembly. The librarians also indexed the OLR *Summary of 2014 Public Acts*. Finally, to preserve the library's collection and make it accessible remotely, digitization of older reports and compiled legislative histories continues to be an ongoing project.

The library also provided numerous outreach services to legislative staff. Research and information training sessions were provided to 277 patrons. Librarians conducted several training seminars for undergraduate interns, and provided them with a long-term project to develop legislative research skills. Library staff also administered research instruction sessions and consultations for non-partisan and caucus staff, as well as law students attending Yale and UConn. Tours of the Legislative Library were provided to school groups, members of the public, and the Judicial Branch law librarians. The librarians also worked with the Connecticut State Library to coordinate tours for the legislators and their staff. Finally, the librarians participated in several professional development opportunities, including those sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures, and its Legislative Research Librarians staff section, the Judicial Branch, the Southern New England Law Librarians Association, the Connecticut Library Association's college and university library section, and the Connecticut State Library.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

In the past year, the number of reference requests reached a five-year high of 2,433, an increase of almost 25% from the previous year. The complexity of the requests has also increased, with more questions requiring in-depth research.

The library cataloged and classified 2,000 items including *Green's Almanac*, which is a precursor to *The Register and Manual*, and routed 4,320 tables of contents to patrons to inform them of new journal articles and topics of interest.

**LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**STAFF OFFICE (PRI)**

**Accomplishments:**

The nonpartisan staff of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee assisted the committee in completing seven studies during this time period on: 1) drone use regulation; 2) residential services at the Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill; 3) transitional services for youth and young adults with autism spectrum disorder; 4) higher education certificate programs; 5) school paraprofessional staffing; 6) the status of the New Haven to Springfield rail project; and 7) the status of state agency personal service agreement contracting: selection and monitoring. Many legislative recommendations from these and earlier studies passed into law during the 2015 legislative session.

Also on behalf of the PRI committee, PRI staff collaborated over several months with the New England Public Policy Center (NEPPC) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston on a municipal gap analysis study, culminating in a NEPPC presentation in May 2015 at the Legislative Office Building of its research measuring municipal fiscal disparities.

**Statistical Highlights:**

PRI staff assisted the PRI committee in raising eight bills resulting from its studies and holding three public hearings, one of which, focusing on the Veterans' Home bill, was held offsite at the Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill. In addition to those who attended, 104 people either testified or submitted written testimony at these hearings. Of the seven bills reported out of the committee, three bills became public acts. Another bill was enacted through an implementer.

## **OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS (OFA)**

### **Accomplishments:**

The Office of Fiscal Analysis continued to expand serving the legislature by focusing on data and evidence driven analysis and further increasing its response time for budget and fiscal analysis information. OFA routinely answers inquiries and questions within the same or next day in an estimated 90% of the time. The remainder is provided within a few days of the initial inquiry.

OFA has continued to build its in-house data and technological capacity. In the FY 15 budget year, OFA automated the revenue side of the budget and produced revenue budget change formats and budgeted lapse formats that are similar to the appropriations side. We expect to expand this to bonding decision making and non-appropriated funds in the near future if resources allow.

OFA has also entered into a town grant data and visualization with the CT Data Collaborative that allows users to access town grant data over a ten-year period and select the range of towns, dates and types of visualizations to view and/or download.

In addition, OFA has uploaded on-line all of the reports it receives on non-appropriated funds held by state agencies or quasi-public agencies.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

The demand for OFA's services and the demand for a quicker turnaround in response times, continues to grow. Much of OFA's work is involved with confidential reports, requests for advisement and short turnaround times which are not documented. In terms of documented requests alone, OFA has responded to thousands of e-mail, phone or visitation requests in the last year while facing deadlines for the analysis and production of monthly state General Fund projection analyses, monthly bond commission meetings and analyses, monthly Finance Advisory Committee meetings and analyses, Appropriations and Finance Committee meeting reports/analyses, federal block grant or waiver meetings and analysis, collective bargaining contract analysis, in addition to providing formal fiscal impacts on 2,471 bills and amendments. All of these items are now posted on OFA's website for easy access which generates about 280,000 page views per year.

## **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT (OLM)**

### **Accomplishments:**

The Office of Legislative Management awarded a five-year, \$17,000,000 contract to provide facility maintenance (HVAC, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, etc.) and cleaning services at the Capitol Complex. This initiative required a well-coordinated effort with OLM's facilities and fiscal staff to develop and issue the Request for Proposal (RFP). Developing the RFP's criteria, reviewing the responses, meeting with the proposers and negotiating the contract terms required over six months to complete. The new vendor, Service Management Group, LLC from Shelton, Connecticut started in August.

A new classification and compensation plan was introduced on June 12, 2015. The National Conference of State Legislatures used a study team of five senior staff with expertise in legislative organization and compensation systems to conduct the study. The study followed an established methodology for conducting legislative compensation reviews that it has used in numerous other state legislatures and customized the approach to suit the unique circumstances of Connecticut. The primary goals of the study were to:

- Review all aspects of the current compensation system including salaries, other compensation and benefits to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of the overall compensation package.
- Study the current classification of positions and make recommendations with regard to internal consistency.
- Compare total compensation paid to legislative staff with that paid to comparable positions in the executive branch of Connecticut state government, the local market and similar legislatures.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

There were 11,926 service work orders processed and completed and 4,912 preventive maintenance tasks completed.

A total of 2,439 citation folders and 583 citation frames were sold to legislators.

## **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH (OLR)**

### **Accomplishments:**

The Office of Legislative Research continues to look for innovative and efficient ways to produce and deliver high quality products and services to legislators and their staff. Last year, OLR launched a new product, the *Getting Up To Speed* guide series. These guides help introduce legislators to new committee assignments and complicated policy issues, they also serve as a gateway to more detailed knowledge by providing access to relevant statutes, more in-depth OLR reports, and other resources.

The biennial OLR Issues Conference, which acquaints newly elected legislators and other interested legislators with issues the General Assembly may address in the coming biennium, focused on Emerging Technologies. The event consisted of: (1) panel discussions with legislators, state and federal agency officials, transportation experts, and legislative staff from OLR, OFA, LCO, ITS, and PRI and (2) follow-up, break-out group presentations by OLR analysts on cutting-edge topics such as cloud computing, drones, virtual currency (e.g., bitcoin), self-driving cars, and student privacy.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

In FY 15, OLR analysts produced a total of 928 written reports for legislators and caucus staff (239 formal reports, 689 OLR Response emails), wrote 1,041 plain language bill analyses, and posted 486 *OLReporter* blogs.

OLR's webpage continued to be widely used by both the legislative community and the general public, receiving 15,387 views from legislative users and 133,673 views from the general public. OLR Reports received 3,986 internal page views from legislative users and 31,479 external page views from the general public, for a total of 35,465 views from national and international readers from over 90 countries. The blog received 25,846 views in the past year and reached 156,447 all-time page views.

## **PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (PCSW)**

### **Accomplishments:**

As a resource to legislators in creating public policy, the PCSW studies proposed pieces of legislation for their potential consequences – intended and unintended – on women and families. In the 2015 Legislative Session, the PCSW monitored and tracked 225 bills and provided testimony on 40 before 12 committees. Highlights were bills to: eliminate wage secrecy (H.B. 6850); combat sexual assault and domestic violence (H.B. 6498, H.B. 6921, S.B. 650, H.B. 6848 and S.B. 636); strengthen protections for victims of human trafficking (H.B. 6849); and increase services tailored to female veterans (S.B. 904).

Two major strides this past year were increasing the effectiveness and visibility of the Trafficking in Persons Council (TIPC), and serving as the driving force behind the Paid Family and Medical Leave initiative. The Council voted to authorize a needs assessment study to ascertain the scope of sex and labor trafficking in the state; has engaged new partners; and is studying whether (and how) to shift the focus away from prosecuting sex workers at a much higher rate than patrons (“johns”) and those promoting sex work (“pimps”).

At the same time, the commission has significantly moved forward the idea of a system of paid family and medical leave for all Connecticut residents. In cooperation with the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) and community partners, we helped get language in the budget implementer to have State agencies plan for implementation and conduct an actuarial study.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

As mandated, PCSW educates the public, the media and various stakeholders about gender discrimination and its remedies. We do this through: our website (about 2,700 monthly hits); frequent use of social media (30 postings and Tweets weekly); engagement with traditional media (an average of 18 articles/mentions monthly); our monthly newsletter (6,700 subscribers); public speaking engagements (approximately 50-75 each year); and phone/email intake (several dozen weekly). In addition, in 2015 we provided Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention Training to a total of 40 employees of the Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), and 22 attorneys and staff members from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). In conjunction with CHRO, the PCSW provided employment discrimination update training for 166 state employees.

During FY 2014-15, we engaged frequently with the public, both at the LOB and throughout the state, on matters of public policy. Roundtables convened experts in the fields of paid family leave, and predictable work schedules. “Women’s Day at the Capitol” (March, 2015), which featured a panel on paid family and medical leave, and

“Women’s Business Day at the Capitol” (April, 2015), which we co-sponsored with the Women’s Business Development Council, brought several hundred people to the process of direct civic engagement.

## **SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE (SCO)**

### **Accomplishments:**

In a continual effort to move to a more electronic environment, and in partnership with the House Clerk's Office, electronic notification of the times that the Senate was meeting; and, when a roll call vote was being taken was electronically sent to senators, and senior senate staff, phones and computers. As SCO goes forward next year, we look to expand the roll call notification to additional senate senior staff and move to improve the Senate Calendar.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

2015 Regular Session:

Senate Bills – 1137

Senate Joint Resolutions – 57

Senate Resolutions – 39

Special Session:

Senate Bills – 2

Senate Joint Resolutions – 3

Senate Resolutions – 1

## **STATE CAPITOL POLICE DEPARTMENT (SCPD)**

### **Accomplishments:**

In the department's ongoing mission of unremitting protection of the State Capitol Complex, the State Capitol Police upgraded its Dispatch Communication Center. A new dispatch console was installed with new high resolution monitors, cameras, and state of the art Computer Aided Dispatch / Record Management Systems Software.

The State Capitol Police earned National Accreditation for the 5<sup>th</sup> time from The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). In March of 2015, Chief Walter Lee Jr. and Lieutenant Keith John Zengel sat in front of the CALEA National Review Panel for final review and approval. The SCPD was awarded the Certificate of Advanced Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

### **Statistical Highlights:**

Special events covered by SCPD: We covered 173 special events during fiscal year 2015. Special events are put into three categories: press conferences, demonstrations/rallies, and other events utilizing our facilities such as receptions and dinners to name just a few examples.

The SCPD responded to 2,312 calls for service during fiscal year 2015. Calls ranged from community service, drug arrests, motor vehicle arrests and medical calls.