

Meeting Minutes

Legislative Committee
9:00 a.m. December 6, 2018
Trumbull Town Hall

In attendance: Co-Chairs Judges Fox and Rowe, Judges Landgrebe, Vaccarelli and Maxim.

Non-voting attendees: Judge Streit-Kefalas, Probate Court Administrator, Evan Brunetti, PCA, and Pete Smith from Rome Smith Lutz.

Judge Fox convened the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

The committee briefly discussed the budget impact from the 2019 legislative session, and the nature and scope of the upcoming 'short' 2020 legislative session.

The committee distributed a list of legislative concepts, which were compiled from probate court judges, past legislative committee meetings, the Office of the Probate Court Administrator and the chairs of the committee. The list of concepts included new concepts for consideration, past and previously raised concepts and concepts raised from outside the probate court system. The committee reviewed these Legislative Concepts in turn.

During this review, the committee began to categorize the concepts further into three basic categories, a) concepts to be raised in the 2020 probate court operations bill; b) concepts which may be raised in the future as stand-alone bills; and c) concepts to be aware of during the session.

The committee reviewed several concepts to be included in the 2020 probate court operations bill, some of which include: modification of relevant statutes regarding fees relevant to both the Connecticut Uniform Trust Code and the new eFiling system; clarification of statutes regarding fees for custody of the remains and 4a-16 petitions; and updating statutes on electronic transfers of probate court files. A draft of the "operations" bill will be circulated once drafted.

The committee discussed revisiting the 'sweep' of funds from the probate court administration fund and possibly pursuing the repeal of the sweep as a stand-alone bill/concept to be raised.

The committee discussed several concepts, which merit review. However, due to the nature of the 'short' session and current environment, the committee decided to defer consideration of additional concepts to a future legislative session. In the end, the committee decided to look for opportunities, but not to formally pursue the concepts this session. One such concept was to review the Weighted Workload system and its effect on Judges Compensation.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.