



FROM: Tim Phelan, President, CRN
TO: CRN Legislative Committee, CRN Board of Directors
DATE: June 13, 2023
SUBJECT: Legislative Committee Wrap-up Report

The CT General Assembly concluded its business for the year and adjourned the regular session of the General Assembly at Midnight, Wednesday, June 7th.

For the Connecticut Retail Network, this long session was generally a positive one for the retail industry. As our outline of the issues that were debated during this session (below) demonstrates, there were some major victories as well as some bills that were adopted over our opposition. Also, we are disappointed that the \$50.1 billion dollar two-year budget that was [adopted](#) by the General Assembly did not include any targeted consumer-related sales tax breaks and no business tax breaks.

Highlights of key legislative actions:

General Law Committee

- **SB 3 - AAC Online Privacy, Data and Safety Protections**, passed the General Assembly and is expected to be signed into law by Governor Lamont. A copy of the bill is attached for your review. One change to the bill was made during the adoption of the budget that moved the effective date of SB 3 out to October 2023.
- **SB 1103 - AAC Artificial Intelligence, Automated Decision Making and Personal Data Privacy**. A copy of the bill is attached.
- **HB 5314 - AAC Consumer Agreements and Consumer Bills** was adopted by the General Assembly. A copy of a summary of the bill is attached.

Finance Committee

- There were no major issues impacting the Retail industry considered by the Finance Committee.
- There was no Digital Ad tax.
- The tax package did not include changes to sales tax or any other business-related taxes.
- The pass-thru entity tax break that was included in the Governor's budget was NOT included in final budget that was adopted.
- Reductions in the income tax for certain filers was included in the final budget that was adopted.

- A copy of the budget and tax package along with a summary of the budget is attached.

Labor Committee

- **HB 6859 - AAC Predictable Scheduling** was reported out of the Labor Committee, but NO FINAL ACTION was taken on the bill.
- **SB 152 - AAC Warehouse Workers** passed out of the Senate but WAS NOT taken up by the House before adjournment.
- **SB 1178 - AAC Paid Sick Leave** would have lowered the threshold for ALL business down to 1 employee. The bill passed out of the Senate, but no compromise on the bill could be reached so there was NO FINAL ACTION on the bill.

Environment Committee

- **HB 6486 - AAC Extended Producer Responsibility for Tires** passed both chambers and is expected to be signed into law by Governor Lamont. A copy of a summary of the bill is attached.
- **HB 6664 - AAC Managing Waste and Creating a Waste Authority.** This bill had a section in it that would create an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging. That section was removed from the bill.

Banks Committee

- **SB 1018 - AAC A REFUND FOR GIFT CARD BALANCES.** This bill increases the amount a customer may ask for cash back on a gift card to \$5. The bill also eliminates the requirement that the customer show the original receipt when requesting the refund. A copy of the bill and a summary are attached.

Thank you to members of the Connecticut Retail Network's Legislative Committee for their leadership and guidance, and to retailers whose efforts throughout the session were an important part of our work to make legislators aware of the impact of their actions on Connecticut's retail businesses, and the state's consumers and economy.