

2020 PAC Legislative Report

The 2020 session of the CT General Assembly started on February 5th and was scheduled to adjourn May 8th. This year's session was very different due to the Coronavirus. That fact forced the adjournment of the Legislative session in mid-March, and then in April the legislative leaders announced the short session would be canceled due to the pandemic.

The PAC Executive Board members, and its Legislative Committee's highest priority, with regard to the legislative session, is the budget. Ensuring that it contains continued state funding to support all of the PAC membership benefits. The Legislative Committee monitored of the budget process throughout the short session in effort to ensure the state's funding of the stipend provided in the state budget for officers injured in the line of duty and for the benefit of surviving children and spouse's death benefits for officers killed in the line of duty.

I can report to you that the appropriation of that funding stayed intact in this year's state budget and no action was taken against it. The amount available is in-line with what is believed necessary to cover the normal claims of officers injured that we would expect to receive during a given year.

This year was especially challenging after the short session ended due to the tragic death of George Floyd and other high-profile police use of force incidents across the country. The majority party in the General Assembly decided that it would introduce a "Police Accountability Bill" in a Special Session in July. They provided little time to respond to the call for written testimony on the bill. I worked collaboratively with PAC President, L.J. Fusaro, to quickly craft written testimony to the Joint Committee on Judiciary regarding objections to various parts of this wide-ranging bill. I wish I could say they listened to us and the loud voices of police organizations across Connecticut, but I can't. They were determined to pass that Bill and they did, over the legitimate concerns of Connecticut's Police Officers.

Please remember, we are available to discuss legislative issues with you at any time during the year. Take advantage of that willingness, and contact us if you have any questions.

Remember that the PAC is made up of police officers of every rank; from Officer & Trooper up to the Chief Executive Officers, and therefore we don't take a position on any bill focused only on a Union issue or a Management issue. The attention of this Association has always been on supporting legislation that benefits all police officers, of every rank in this state, in that way it always supports our entire membership.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted, Louis J. Fusaro, Sr., Chairman