

*The following resolutions are in order for the Town Council to put the Town Manager's Proposed Budget for FY 2019/20 on the floor for discussion, amendment and adoption:*

RESOLVED: That the General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling **\$42,897,800** is hereby adopted as the proposed operating budget for the Town of Mansfield for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling **\$3,570,450** is hereby adopted as the capital improvements to be undertaken during fiscal year 2019/20 or later years.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 in the amount of **\$2,694,370** be adopted.

### **APPROPRIATIONS ACT**

It is further resolved, that the following Appropriations Act be recommended for adoption at the annual Town Meeting for budget consideration:

RESOLVED: That the proposed General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 in the amount of **\$42,897,800** which proposed budget was adopted by the Council on April 25, 2019, be adopted and that the sums estimated and set forth in said budget be appropriated for the purpose indicated.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51, the proportionate share for the Town of Mansfield of the annual budget for Regional School District No. 19 shall be added to the General Fund Budget appropriation for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 and said sums shall be paid by the Town to the Regional School District as they become available.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital Projects Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 in the amount of **\$3,570,450** be adopted provided that the portion proposed to be funded by bonds or notes shall, at the appropriate times, be introduced for action by the Town Council subject to a vote by referendum as required by Section 407 of the Town Charter.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 in the amount of **\$2,694,370** be adopted.

<b>Council Adjustments</b>	<b>Adjustment Cost/Revenue</b>
Firefighter	24,540.00
ROV	24,220.00
Asphalt	(25,000.00)
Capital - Carpeting	(25,000.00)
Capital - LPR	(46,990.00)
Delayed Hires until Jan 1	(60,540.00)
Branding	(25,000.00)
EDC Regional Co-op Agrmt.	(7,500.00)
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>(141,270.00)</b>

FY19 Town Budget	41,833,800
FY20 Town Budget	42,756,530
Difference	922,730
Change	<b>2.21%</b>

FY19 Total Budget	52,788,240
FY20 Total Budget	53,864,970
Difference	1,076,730
Change	<b>2.04%</b>

Taxes To Raise 35,039,011

FY19 Mill Rate	30.88
FY20 Mill Rate	31.63
Difference	0.75
Change	<b>2.44%</b>

GL18	1,107,706,109
1 Mill	1,107,706.11
.5 Mill	553,853.05
.1 Mill	110,770.61
.01 Mill	11,077.06

**Savings from delayed hiring to January 1st**

First firefighter (excluding training and clothing)	\$ (21,440)
Second firefighter (excluding training & clothing)	(7,100)
Purchasing Agent	(32,000)
	<u>\$ (60,540)</u>

**Move to adjust the Manager's Proposed FY 2019/20 budgets (General Fund, Capital Fund and Capital Nonrecurring Fund) as follows:**

- 1 Add \$24,540 (net cost) for a 2nd new firefighter position
- 2 Add \$24,220 for additional staffing and election support for the Registrars
- 3 Eliminate \$25,000 for the purchase of asphalt from the Public Works budget
- 4 Reduce Finance staffing budget by \$32,000, achieving savings by delayed hiring for the purchasing agent position.
- 5 Reduce Fire Services staffing budget by \$28,540, achieving savings by delayed hiring for the new firefighter positions.
- 6 Eliminate the \$25,000 funding for the Wellness Center Carpeting in the Capital Fund
- 7 Eliminate the \$46,990 funding for the License Plate Readers in the Capital Fund
- 8 Reduce by \$25,000 the funding for the Positioning and Marketing plan in the Capital Fund
- 9 Eliminate the \$7,500 funding for the Regional EDC cooperative agreement



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 5642**

LCO No. 6655

\*06655HB05642PD\_

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Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:

(PD)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE A STATE FUNDING AND SERVICE DISPARITY IN NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to (1) examine whether the communities in the northeastern area of the state are receiving an inequitable amount of state funding and services compared to communities in other areas of the state, and (2) identify specific means of minimizing any disparity found from such examination.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom has expertise in the nonprofit administration of mental health and behavioral services at a community level;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom has expertise in the nonprofit administration of social service at a community level;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(7) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(8) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee; and

(9) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the commissioner's designee.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development, human services and public safety shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2020, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development, human services and public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2020, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a task force to study and make recommendations regarding state funding and services in northeastern Connecticut compared to other regions.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.; REP. WINKLER, 56th Dist.  
REP. DAUPHINAIS, 44th Dist.; REP. HAYES, 51st Dist.  
REP. BOYD, 50th Dist.; REP. LANOUE, 45th Dist.  
REP. DUBITSKY, 47th Dist.

H.B. 5642

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

# Courant Community

FORMERLY

ReminderNews

## Could Forgotten Corner Task Force Bring Parity?

By Denise Coffey  
Staff Writer

A Forgotten Corner Task Force bill (H.B. 5642) that received bipartisan support from the Planning and Development Committee now moves to the floor.

Supporters are hoping it passes both the house and senate and gets the governor's approval. Proponents are counting on it to bring attention to the stark inequities in state funding for mental and behavioral health services.

The Task Force could pave the way for the creation of an equitable funding formula that would ensure Windham County residents have access to what are supposedly "statewide" services.

### REGION

Often referred to as the Quiet Corner for its rural character and low population density, northeastern Connecticut suffers from lack of mental and behavioral health services. State funding discrepancies are so acute that social service providers have come up with another moniker for the region: the Forgotten Corner. They claim the region has been continually and drastically underfunded for years.

Consider these numbers:

The average for outpatient behavioral healthcare is \$15,000 per client per year in the United States. In some parts of Connecticut, that rate is \$20,000 per client per year. In northeastern Connecticut, the average is \$3,000 per client per year according to United Services, the state-designated Local Mental Health Authority for the region.

"The per capita needs in northeast Connecticut are among the highest in the state, but our per capita funding is the lowest in the state," said John Goodman, communications director for United Services, in testimony before the P&D Committee.

"Studies show that residing in northeastern Connecticut can be hazardous to your health."

Goodman was referring to a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study that ranked Connecticut's eight counties. Windham County consistently ranks last in health outcomes and health factors.

Windham County was also listed as one of the state's most food insecure, in a study done by the Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy at the University of

Connecticut.

"If this happened in any other state, it would be deemed a county-wide health emergency and immediate state action would be taken," Goodman said. "In the case of the Forgotten Corner, we're just forgotten."

United Services President and CEO Diane Manning testified before the committee about a long list of discrepancies in state funding. In northeastern Connecticut, there are few options for those who have acute psychiatric issues.

There are no respite care services, no mobile crisis services on nights or weekends, no crisis beds for medication adjustments, and no alternatives to incarceration for those with mental health issues.

"If you are arrested in northeastern Connecticut, you could go to jail instead of getting community treatment services," Manning said.

She called it unacceptable.

"The state taxes one contributes to pay for so called "statewide" mental health services are simply not available to residents of Northeastern Connecticut," read a letter from Michael and Penela Turano.

Michael is a longtime member of the US board of directors. He joined after discovering the lack of services available to students in his school district where he served on the Board of Education.

John Deary, a Pomfret resident and business owner knows firsthand the mental health struggles residents in Windham County have to contend with; his brother died by suicide. He serves as the chairman on the US Board of Directors.

"It's time these numbers are made known to the entire legislature," he said.

State Rep. Kevin Ryan crafted the Task Force bill with strong support from State Sen. Cathy Osten.

They'll have to push if they want the bill to come up for debate. The northeastern Connecticut delegation is small. It has fewer representatives than the city of Hartford. Manning concedes it's an uphill battle.

"We are looking for someone to pay attention and do something differently," Manning said.

"As long as there are no external forces on state agencies, they will keep doing what they're doing."