

The Connecticut General Assembly



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SPEAKER DONOVAN & REP. SHARKEY PROPOSE NEW REVENUE SOURCE FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Smart Growth Task Force unveils full legislative agenda

Speaker of the House Christopher G. Donovan (D-Meriden) and **State Representative Brendan Sharkey** (D-Hamden) were joined by the bipartisan Smart Growth Task Force Members and legislative leaders to unveil the task force's legislative agenda. Topping the agenda is a proposal to generate much needed revenue for municipalities through the state sales tax.

The Task Force promoted voluntary regionalization of town services to reduce municipal costs and make the state more efficient at the local level. Returning a portion of the sales taxes generated within a region to the municipalities was the primary incentive for towns to participate.

The state sales tax generates about 3.5 billion dollars annually. From that amount a portion would be returned to regionalized towns based on how much they collected.

"We spend almost as much money on the collective municipal government as on state government," Speaker Donovan said, "this proposal creates a more streamlined efficient way for our state to operate."

"Our ideas and agenda represent a collaboration of all interested parties to develop a vision for our state that makes us more economically competitive, while maintaining our natural and cultural resources," Rep. Sharkey said.

The task force included representatives from advocacy groups, municipal government and a bipartisan group of legislators. The four subcommittees of the task force were economic development, land use, regional efficiency and tax policy and were tri-chaired by a Democrat, a Republican and an advocate or municipal official.

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