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## Connecticut ethics office: Aresimowicz can serve as House speaker

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Speaker-elect Joe Aresimowicz, D-Berlin

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HARTFORD >> The Office of State Ethics issued an informal opinion last week which said it wouldn't be a conflict of interest for Rep. Joe Aresimowicz, D-Berlin, to serve both as Speaker of the House and as education coordinator for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The opinion requested by Cara Passaro in the office of House Majority Leader asks if there is "any apparent ethical issues arising from his employment, including a conflict of interest with his legislative duties."

Brian O'Dowd, an attorney with the Office of State Ethics, concluded that "there is no provision in the Code that would bar Representative Aresimowicz from holding both positions simultaneously—particularly given that his outside work for the union preceded both his election to his current term and his expected election to the position of Speaker."