



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
James Albis

EAST HAVEN | 99TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Capitol: 800-842-8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/albis



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NEW LAWS EFFECTIVE IN 2015

I want to thank you for your support and for allowing me the privilege of continuing to represent you in the Connecticut General Assembly. I consider it an honor and will work hard to validate the trust that you have placed in me.

We all face difficult times as Connecticut turns the corner toward economic recovery. I am committed to working towards a more efficient government while ensuring that we maintain essential services that benefit our state and its residents.

Please keep in touch and contact me with issues, concerns, or suggestions as to how I can more effectively serve you. Your input will help me make East Haven the best community it can be.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you.

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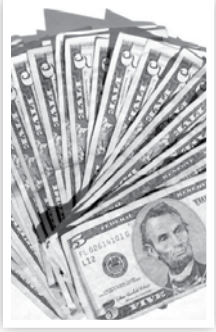


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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A new law protects victims of domestic violence by imposing a mandatory two-year sentence for sexual assault in spousal or cohabiting relationships and also makes it a crime to maliciously reveal the confidential location of a domestic violence emergency shelter to protect victims of abuse. It also requires local and regional boards of education, as well as the State Department of Education (SDE), to address teen dating violence in schools, in the same way that the law requires them to address bullying.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN STATE BUILDINGS

As of January 1st, there are new energy efficiency construction standards for state buildings, having a standard for including electric vehicle charging stations. Buildings must also achieve at least 75 points on the EPA's national energy performance rating system, as determined by its Energy Star Target Finder tool—an online calculator that helps engineers and property owners assess the energy performance of commercial buildings. This will save taxpayers millions of dollars in the long run.

KEEPING COPAYS DOWN FOR BREAST ULTRASOUNDS AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

By law, insurance policies must cover a breast ultrasound screening if a mammogram shows dense breast tissue or if a woman is at an increased risk for developing breast cancer due to her own history or a family history of breast cancer. This new law prohibits certain health insurance policies from imposing a copayment of more than \$20 for a breast ultrasound for policies that are required to provide coverage and \$30 for in-network occupational therapy visits performed by a state-licensed physical therapist, ensuring that women have greater ease of access to this important preventative care procedure.



KEEPING COPAYS DOWN FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY

This new law prohibits certain health insurance policies from imposing a copayment of more than \$30 per visit for physical therapy services performed in-network by state-licensed physical therapists. The act applies to individual and group policies that cover (1) basic hospital expenses; (2) basic medical-surgical expenses; (3) major medical expenses; or (4) hospital or medical services, including coverage under an HMO plan.

DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES

By law, long-term care (LTC) insurance providers must give those applying for coverage full disclosure of the policy benefits and limitations. Now those applying for an LTC insurance policy must sign an acknowledgement recognizing that they received the required disclosure from the insurer. This generally includes information like, an explanation of how a premium rate may be subject to future increases, and options for policyholders if the rate does change.

