

Deputy Speaker  
**EMIL "BUDDY" ALTABELLO**

Proudly Serving Meriden | 82<sup>nd</sup> District

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**Town Aid for Meriden**

Fiscal Year 2010-2011	
Total Education Grants	\$54,723,690
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$334,883
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$517,834
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$1,199,430
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$894,346
School Transportation	\$1,020,294
Manufacturers' Equipment Rebate (PILOT MME)	\$772,508
Reimbursed Exemptions	\$695,359
Total State Funds to Meriden	\$61,158,355

**Important phone numbers**

To reach many state services, call InfoLine	<b>211</b>
ConnPACE	800.423.5026
Medicare Hotline	800.633.4227
Long-Term Care	800.547.3443
Commission on Aging	860.240.5200
Medicare Advocacy	800.262.4414
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649
CT Veterans Affairs	860.616.3600
CT Elder Services	866.218.6631
Health Care Advocate	866.466.4446

To receive more information on any of the following issues, please e-mail me at [Emil.Altobello@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Emil.Altobello@cga.ct.gov) or call 860.240.8500.

- 2010 Major Acts
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Health Care
- Environment
- Jobs
- Seniors
- Energy
- Children
- Education

**Legislative Office Building  
Room 4015  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591**

Capitol: 860.240.8500

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State Representative | Deputy Speaker

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# CAPITOL NEWS 2010



State Representative | Deputy Speaker

## Emil "Buddy" Altobello

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## Good News for Seniors

- » Reduced seniors' cost-share for the state-funded Home Care Program for Elders from 15% to 6%— saving up to \$240 per month
- » Re-opened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program that provides up to 30 days of respite care relief to family caregivers
- » Protected seniors' assets when a spouse enters a nursing home under Medicaid, allowing the spouse at home to keep up to \$109,560 while still qualifying for Medicaid (PA 10-179)

## Long-Term Care Insurance

A managed residential community (MRC) will now be required to help a resident prepare and submit claims on a long-term insurance policy. Insurers and other entities that deliver, issue for delivery, renew, continue or amend individual or group long-term care policies in Connecticut are prohibited from refusing to accept claims prepared or submitted by a MRC, or refuse to reimburse claims solely because of the MRC's assistance. It also requires insurers to give the MRC information the resident directs them to provide as well as a copy of any claims decision. (PA 10-127)

## Brownfield Remediation

This legislation expands the scope of several brownfield clean-up programs and establishes a working group to study brownfield issues. It allows the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Commissioner to use funds from the Urban Sites Remediation Program and Special Contaminated Property Remediation and Insurance Fund as a funding source for municipalities, non-profits and private developers for investigating and remediating brownfields.

Further, municipalities will now be able to fix the assessment on contaminated property before the owner begins to mediate it and forgive back taxes on a contaminated property if a developer proposes to remediate it under a state-approved plan. (PA 10-135)



## Saluting Our Veterans

- » Veterans in nursing homes can now use the US Department of Veterans Affairs as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers. (PA 10-39)
- » Retired senior members of the CT National Guard with 30 years or more of service can now apply for "retirement promotions" and move up one grade in rank. (PA 10-15)
- » Active duty service members serving out of state will get an extension for 30 days to renew their expired driver's licenses after their return to Connecticut. (PA 10-15)
- » March 30th is now designated as the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day. (PA 10-40)
- » Veterans can now use their military service experience and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses. (PA 10-105)

## Improving Employment Opportunities

I am pleased to announce the passage of a comprehensive jobs legislation that offers incentives for employers, supports small businesses and emerging industries, provides resources for tuition and training, helps manufacturers find efficiencies and includes accountability measures to safeguard state taxpayer dollars.

- » Provides up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and nonprofits
- » Provides sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- » Provides tax credits and a cap of \$200 on insurance premiums for small businesses that create new jobs that employ Connecticut residents
- » Provides loan reimbursement and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- » Establishes a Community-Technical College advisory board to assess training needs of unemployed residents
- » Authorizes up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Provides 25% personal income tax credits for up to \$100,000 in angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green technology businesses
- » Authorizes \$1.3 million in bonds for mortgage crisis job training
- » Establishes waste reduction task force to study reducing or eliminating duplicative procedures
- » Expands the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Commissioner's duties in technical assistance for exporting, manufacturing and cluster-based initiatives
- » Establishes a DECD Pilot Program helping Connecticut-based small manufacturers implement green technologies (PA 10-75)



The Meriden Delegation - Senator Tom Gaffey, Speaker of the House Chris Donovan, Rep. Cathy Abercrombie and Deputy Speaker Buddy Altobello

## COBRA Extension

A new law allows certain individuals and their dependents, as well as group policyholders with less than 20 employees, to continue receiving a 65% reduction in COBRA premiums for up to two and a half years regardless of pre-existing conditions. To qualify for the continued coverage, the person must have experienced a specified qualifying event, including a layoff, reduced hours, leave of absence, or employment termination for other than death or gross misconduct. (PA 10-13)

## Sportsmen Fee Credit

New legislation requires the environmental protection commissioner to reserve a credit for anyone who bought sportmen's licenses, stamps, permits, or tags between October 1, 2009 and April 14, 2010. The credit is the difference between the amount paid and fee charged on or after October 1, 2010 and will be applied against the fee for any such license, permit, or tag bought on or after October 1, 2010. (PA 10-99)

## Strengthening Connecticut Schools

The difference in the achievement levels among Connecticut schools is one of the highest in the nation. We took steps to help turn around low-achieving schools, increase our chances for federal education dollars, improve our vocational high schools and help students with autism.

*The legislation:*

- » Makes sure students with autism get quality services through their special education individualized education plans (IEP)
- » Improves vocational schools by adding members with manufacturing and vocational education experience to the state Board of Education
- » Strengthens the state's application for federal Race to the Top education funds
- » Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools
- » Requires public hearings before school closures and increases parent involvement (PA 10-111)

## Improving Transparency in State Government

In an effort towards open and transparent state government, we passed legislation that creates a searchable, online database expected to be in place by July 1, 2011 which will show all state expenditures. Taxpayers will be able to access this database to view details of state expenditures, including state contracts and grants. Every state agency will provide the legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) with financial details and OFA will post the information online. (PA 10-155)

## Increasing Recycling Opportunities in CT

- » Allows for more types of paper and plastic to be recycled
- » Requires private trash collectors to offer recycling to customers
- » Requires recycling bins in public areas where regular trash bins are located
- » Prohibits zoning laws from restricting recycling containers (PA 10-87)

