



GENERAL LAW

As co-chairman of the General Law Committee, I helped pass important legislation to protect consumers. Below are some of the consumer laws that we passed.

HOMEMAKER COMPANION AGENCIES

Homemaker companion agencies must notify clients in writing that a comprehensive background check was performed on assigned employees.

E-BOOKS

The bill requires the Department of Consumer Protection to work with the state librarian and attorney general on how to make electronic books available to public library patrons.

PROHIBITING PRICE GOUGING

This law extends the prohibition on excessive price increases for goods and services sold or provided during any severe weather emergency when declared by the governor.

JUDICIARY

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

There have been several high profile prosecutions of human traffickers in Connecticut in recent years. This law takes steps to address sexual exploitation and human trafficking crimes.

ALIMONY REFORM

I chaired an Alimony Reform Task Force that updated statutes to address same sex marriages, allowed parties to define cohabitation in their divorce agreements, and requires judges to specify reasons for the award of life-time alimony.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Improved victim notice requirements when an offender violates probation; terminating a rental agreement because of violence to victims of sexual assaults. Sexual contact with a person physically unable to resist now constitutes sexual assault under the new law.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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PROUDLY SERVING
BLOOMFIELD, WINDSOR



CAPITOL UPDATE 2013

Dear Friends:

The State of Connecticut faced many challenges in 2013. I'm proud to have participated in a legislative session that identified solutions to move our state in a positive direction.

The legislature's response to the tragedy in Sandy Hook took center stage. Legislators listened to Connecticut residents and worked in a bipartisan manner to improve firearm safety. Our comprehensive response also addressed school security and access to mental health services in an effort to prevent future tragedies.

We also looked to our future and adopted a Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES), invested in our flagship university, UConn, and worked to make our state more economically competitive.

We balanced our budget while maintaining assistance to cities and towns. Bloomfield and Windsor maintained their state funding allocations for roads, economic development, school transportation, education and capital projects. I joined several of my colleagues in lobbying the governor to preserve municipal aid at last year's level, helping to stabilize local property taxes and continue essential services.

This session was personally rewarding as I was able to assume a leadership role in several areas. As co-chairman of the General Law Committee I was responsible for introducing and debating bills on the House floor. I also chaired the Alimony Reform Task Force which resulted in new beneficial legislation, and procured new grants for Bloomfield and Windsor.

I look forward to talking to you about issues facing our state and hearing your ideas as we approach the 2014 Legislative Session. For more information on my legislative activities, please visit my website at:
www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram

Sincerely,

David Baram, State Representative

EDUCATION

INNOVATION IN SCHOOLS

This law allows for additional “non-traditional” ways students can earn graduation credits, and establishes a task force to study mandate relief for high performing high schools.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

The legislature created a childhood obesity task force in order to study the effects of obesity. The law also requires that schools provide elementary school students with at least 20 minutes of daily physical exercise.

STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

The Department of Education is required to study the fiscal, administrative and educational impact of standardized tests. Students may take their final Mastery Test in grade 11 rather than grade 10.

SCHOOL SAFETY

This law ensures that an armed guard who is not a police officer will be given the same training as active duty police officers.



IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME:

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NON-DEGREE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Our state universities will be held accountable for expenditures by reporting their operating budget and actual expenditures. The Office of Higher Education must develop a list of non-degree certificate programs for regional community and technical colleges that directly correlate with workforce shortages.

AGING

SYNCHRONIZING PRESCRIPTION REFILLS

This law protects patients’ drug coverage by requiring that insurance companies cover prescriptions filled in a synchronized manner as long as the patient, doctor and their pharmacist approve this plan.

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

This legislation requires the Department of Aging to establish and facilitate partnerships with municipal leaders and social service organizations to encourage collaborative efforts for long term care planning.

TRAINING NURSING HOME STAFF

To protect the most vulnerable residents residing in nursing homes, this legislation requires staff training to be aware of residents’ fear of retaliation if an abuse complaint is filed.

PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE ON ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

An Alzheimer’s Task Force was formed to create a comprehensive, strategic plan for strengthening services and support for patients and their loved ones.

NEWBORN SCREENING

Screening is now mandated for Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), which is a life-threatening genetic disorder that often causes adrenal gland failure and neurological dysfunction resulting in loss of mobility, speech and vision.

CONTINUING EDUCATION IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY

This law responds to racial and ethnic disparities in our health care system by requiring certain counselors, social workers and therapists to complete one hour of coursework in cultural competency.

GMOS

Connecticut became the first state to pass a genetically modified organism labeling law, by requiring foods to be labeled under certain circumstances, so consumers know whether food contains genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Implementation is contingent upon surrounding states passing similar laws to allow for regional enforcement.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 ESTIMATED TOWN AID

	BLOOMFIELD	WINDSOR
Adult Education Priority School Districts	\$20,771	\$51,051
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$200,777	-
DECD Tax Abatement	\$43,288	-
Education Cost Sharing	\$5,912,407	\$12,195,139
LoCIP	\$125,039	\$183,400
MRSA Payments	\$1,700,991	\$1,242,612
Non-Public School Transportation	\$854	\$55,375
Pequot/Mohegan Grant	\$156,990	\$110,072
Public School Transportation	\$98,393	\$201,772
State Owned Pilot	\$120,038	\$58,204
Town Aid Road	\$336,97	\$404,418
Vocational Agriculture	\$231,273	-
Total	\$8,947,796	\$14,502,043

BANKS

HOMEOWNER RIGHTS

This legislation helps both the banks and homeowners achieve quicker solutions, keeping homeowners in their homes, while fulfilling their obligation to the lender. The provisions require at least three good faith mediation sessions.

CONSUMER DEBT AGENCIES

To better protect consumers, this law creates new regulations for debt buyers, who must now comply with the same standards required for consumer collection agencies.

PREPAID CARDS

Banks now have the option to offer a linked prepaid card. The card purchaser who increases or reloads funds onto the card may get back the unused balance with interest.

PROTECTING OUR PETS

DOGS & CATS AT PET SHOPS

This task force will study puppy mills so we are better able to eliminate the sale of sick animals.

OVERNIGHT TETHERING

We can now protect our dogs by prohibiting tethering outdoors under extreme weather conditions, and penalizing owners who leave a dog outside for more than 15 minutes during extreme weather.

EUTHANASIA

This law prohibits the euthanasia of dogs and cats by people other than licensed veterinarians, with certain exceptions. Violators face up to a year in prison and/or a \$1,000 fine.

ENVIRONMENT

MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP

Mattress producers are now required to establish and join a nonprofit mattress recycling council. I’m proud to say that Bloomfield has one of the only mattress recycling plants in the state.

DAM SAFETY

To promote dam safety, the responsibility for inspection and maintenance belongs to the private dam owner. The law requires owners to register significant hazard dams, and to implement an emergency action plan.

VETERANS

SERVICE CONTACT PERSON

Towns must appoint a town employee to serve as a veteran’s service contact acting as an ombudsman to guide veterans to appropriate local, state or federal resources.

SPECIALTY TRAINING

A task force will review military occupational specialty training experience to determine if any such training is equivalent to that required for state licensing purposes

COMMERCE

HELPING SMALL BUSINESS

This legislation adds funding to the Small Business Express program, providing loans and matching grants to businesses with 100 or fewer employees.