

2013 Legislative Update



State Representative
DAVID BARAM

Bloomfield & Windsor
15th House District

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267

www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram

I want to thank you for your support and for allowing me to serve as your representative in the Connecticut General Assembly.

We are all facing difficult times as Connecticut turns the corner to economic recovery. I am committed to working to bring a leaner, more efficient government while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens and keeping essential services properly funded. Adopting a balanced budget, while facing projected deficits of more than \$1 billion in each of the next two years, will be one of our most difficult challenges.

For this legislative session, I have been named House chairman of the General Law Committee, which provides vital oversight for protecting consumers from fraud, misrepresentation and unethical conduct by businesses and organizations. It also has oversight of matters relating to occupational licensing and mobile homes, and all matters dealing with alcoholic beverages.

I am very excited about this new role, because it gives me the opportunity to directly protect your best interests. The General Law Committee will be considering a number of important bills this session. A summary of some of the proposed bills is on the next page.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Baram". The signature is fluid and cursive.

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937



State Representative

DAVID BARAM

BLOOMFIELD & WINDSOR | www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram

Here's a summary of legislation my committee is considering:

Debit Card Purchases

To require gas stations that advertise price discounts for the use of cash (instead of credit cards) to honor the use of a debit card to qualify for any such price cash discounts.

Pharmacies and Prescriptions

A few legislators introduced bills that impact pharmacies and prescriptions. One bill would require every prescription label to include the generic brand names to reduce the risk of overdosing. Another bill requires that generic drug substitutes contain tamper resistant drug formulations. The Department of Consumer Protection submitted a bill requiring doctors to check the state's prescription monitoring data bank before prescribing medications to ensure that the patient isn't already receiving the same or similar drug from another doctor. Another bill increases the fine and penalty for counterfeit prescription drugs.

Liquor Laws

Although the Legislature passed major liquor reform last Session which included Sunday sales, monthly discounting, wine tasting and increasing the number of non-alcoholic items that can be sold in a package store, a number of new bills have been proposed this year. Some of the proposals, in addition to pricing issues, include:

- Allowing package stores to sell cigars
- Notifying the Department of Consumer Protection of alcohol related incidents involving individuals under age twenty-one for permit enforcement sanctions
- Allowing farm wineries to offer tasting at fairs and state events
- Allow package stores to sell liquor in gift baskets embellished with fruit or flowers
- Making it a felony to assault liquor control agents

Libraries and E-Books

To require publishers to sell public libraries E-Books which are read on electronic devices provided they are secure so that the content cannot be illegally distributed to others in violation of copyright laws. The Connecticut Library Association supports this proposed legislation.

Licensing Issues

Licensing of professionals and various occupations falls within the purview of the General Law Committee. This year the Committee has received numerous proposals to change licensing requirements for various occupations or business. Examples of some of the proposed bills include:

- Licensing landscape contractors so they can be distinguished by advanced education and testing
- Certifying home improvement contractors to help promote quality work
- Creating certification standards for the spray foam insulation industry
- Exempting certain supervised warehouse employees from professional licensing requirements

Miscellaneous Subject Matter

Other examples of proposed legislation before the General Law Committee includes the following topics:

- Updating the Lemon Law for used motor vehicles
- Modernizing the lien laws for self-storage facilities
- Prohibiting automatic renewals without notice for waste removal contracts
- Requiring refunds for return of damaged and defective goods within forty-eight hours of purchase
- Creating a seal for licensed interior decorators
- Prohibiting price gouging during severe weather events
- Updating the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act

Let's Keep In Touch!

Sign Up For Email Updates

www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram