



State Representative

LARRY B. BUTLER

Local News

Good news for the Waterbury Community. The Heart Center of Greater Waterbury has been given permanent operating status by the Connecticut Office of Health Care Access. The Heart Center of Greater Waterbury offers a state of the art comprehensive heart care program at Saint Mary’s and Waterbury Hospitals. The Waterbury legislative delegation, city officials and I joined forces to advocate for this stellar program. Our public advocacy and hard work culminated with the final approval from the Office of Health Care Access.

Government Efficiency

Making government functions more efficient is especially important during these difficult economic times. This year we took important steps to reduce and streamline the size of government.

IMPROVING REGIONAL COOPERATION

- PA 09-231 | HB 6585 EFFECTIVE: 09.01.09
- » Permits towns to enter into mutual agreements to promote regional economic development
 - » Allows regions to share property tax revenue from new developments

PROBATE COURT REFORM

- PA 09-114 | HB 6385, PA 09-1 SEPTEMBER SPECIAL SESSION | HB 7001 – EFFECTIVE: Upon Passage/01.05.11
- » Re-structures compensation for probate court judges and requires them to be attorneys
 - » Consolidates the 117 existing courts into 54 districts
 - » Streamlining the probate court system will make it more efficient and less expensive



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Providing for our Armed Forces Members and their Families

The service and sacrifices of our armed forces members must always be valued and honored. This session we passed several new laws to aid them and their families.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

PA 09-10 | HB 6406 – EFFECTIVE: Upon Passage

- » Ensures that members of the armed forces can receive transitional behavioral health services
- » Applies to families and dependents of armed forces members as well

RELIEF FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

PA 09-163 | HB 6394 – EFFECTIVE: Upon Passage

- » Expands the Military Family Relief Fund
- » Allows immediate relatives of members not on active duty to receive benefits
- » Provides grants to those in hardship to pay for essential personal or household items

Assisting our Seniors

A central role of our state government is to improve the lives of seniors so they may be healthy, safe, and economically secure. To improve their overall quality of life we passed several new legislative initiatives.

AFFORDABLE ELDERLY HOMECARE

PA 09-64 | SB 814 – EFFECTIVE: 04.01.09

- » Expands access to affordable homecare support services
- » Helps seniors remain independent in their own homes rather than nursing homes
- » Expands personal care assistance services to more of our seniors

LOCATING MISSING SENIORS

PA 09-109 | SB 451 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Creates an emergency notification system similar to the Amber Alert system
- » Allows law enforcement agencies to issue public alerts for missing seniors

SENIOR DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

PA 09-53 | HB 5674 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Provides seniors with greater access to senior citizen discount programs
- » Requires businesses to disclose details of programs and eligibility requirements

PATIENTS’ RIGHTS AT A NURSING HOME

PA 09-168 | SB 455 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Expands the Nursing Home Bill of Rights to prohibit the solicitation of donations or gifts as a condition of admission
- » Extends protections to third parties such as families and friends



Keeping our Children Safe and Healthy

Waterbury’s children need our protection. This legislative session my colleagues and I worked to pass legislation that ensures the safety and well being of our children.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AUTISM TREATMENTS

PA 09-115 | SB 301 – EFFECTIVE: 01.01.10

Requires insurance coverage for critical treatments and provides benefits that will greatly improve the lives of people with autism.

BANNING TOXIC CHEMICALS

PA 09-103 | HB 6572 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Bans bisphenol-A (BPA), an industrial chemical with toxic properties
- » Baby bottles, food and beverage containers will be safer

PREVENTING CARDIAC ARREST IN SCHOOLS

PA 09-94 | SB 981 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Schools with available funding must have an automatic external defibrillator (AED)
- » Provides CPR and AED training to school personnel

GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS

PA 09-81 | HB 6496 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Promotes use of safe green cleaning products
- » Hazardous cleaning chemicals currently used in most schools will be replaced
- » Requires schools to implement a green cleaning program

These treatments are:

- » Diagnostics to determine if an individual has autism spectrum disorder
- » Behavioral therapies for children 14 years old or younger including, but not limited to, applied behavior analysis and cognitive behavioral therapy
- » Prescription drugs
- » Psychiatric and psychological services
- » Physical and occupational therapy
- » Speech and language pathology services

The results are:

- » Higher quality of life for the individual
- » Decrease in lifetime treatment costs
- » Connecticut is the 12TH state to require this comprehensive coverage

Protecting your Home, Savings and Credit

We took action to aid consumers hurt by recent events to protect you from the recent sub-prime mortgage crisis and corrupt money managers.

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES

PA 09-209 | SB 948 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09/10.01.09

- » Implements federal reforms
- » Creates many new safeguards against future mortgage foreclosures to better protect homeowners
- » Regulates the mortgage lending process
- » Expands eligibility for state foreclosure prevention programs

EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

PA 09-219 | HB 6481 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09/10.01.09

- » Expands eligibility for the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program
- » Assists more families suffering from reduced wages to prevent the loss of their home

PREVENTING BLIGHT

PA 09-144 | SB 951 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Restores blighted properties created by the foreclosure crisis
- » Provides maintenance to improve vacant foreclosed properties
- » Allows municipalities to use current laws to enforce the requirement to repair or maintain vacant real estate

PROTECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS’ CREDIT

PA 09-167 | HB 6483 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Requires the state Board of Governors of Higher Education to regulate credit card marketing practices on all public college campuses
- » Requires that information on responsible debt management be distributed with all marketing material
- » Prevents young consumers from unfair targeting practices



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