

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LARRY B. BUTLER

PROUDLY SERVING THE 72ND HOUSE DISTRICT | WATERBURY

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Improving public health, education, and supporting small businesses were some featured elements of major bills approved by the legislature this year.

This session was dominated by the budget. Although there were no easy solutions, we approved a budget that is balanced, without borrowing and without tax or fee increases.

In addition, Waterbury residents will soon see a significant drop in their motor vehicle taxes beginning July 1st, 2016. Under recently passed legislation, Waterbury's mill rate will be capped at:

- 37 in the 2015 tax assessment year (July 1, 2016 motor vehicle tax bill)
- 32 in the 2016 tax assessment year (July 1, 2017 motor vehicle tax bill)

I am pleased with the progress House Democrats made to improve the quality of life for Connecticut residents, and I am proud to serve you in the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

CITY OF WATERBURY EST. FISCAL YEAR 2017 AID

Education Cost Sharing	\$133,856,066
Priority School Districts and Education Grants	\$2,500,000
PILOT: State Property	\$3,896,947
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$5,404,535
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$2,915,126
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$1,302,143
Town Aid Roads	\$1,075,110
Adult Education	\$1,920,112
Total State Funds to Waterbury	\$152,870,039

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2016



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HEALTH AND INSURANCE

Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Tomosynthesis Screenings

Tomosynthesis is a three-dimensional digital mammogram used to detect breast cancer in women. While it is not yet considered standard care for breast cancer screening, it has had promising results. This bill mandates insurance coverage for baseline digital tomosynthesis screenings for women 35 to 39, as well as annual mammograms for women over 40.

COMMERCE

Supporting Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

In order to help our veterans who own micro businesses, we passed legislation that will give a price preference of up to 15% for certain Department of Administrative Services open market orders or contracts. A micro business is a business with gross revenue of up to \$3 million. Veterans who start a micro business will be offered some business tax relief for the first tax year after they're established. For a business to be considered veteran-owned, 51% of it must be owned by a veteran.

Entrepreneur Learner's Permit Program

In an effort to improve Connecticut's business ranking and better appeal to entrepreneur start-ups, particularly in the area of information services, biotechnology and green technology businesses, the legislature passed a bill that will establish an Entrepreneur Learner's Permit pilot program. The permit will allow first-time business owners to receive reimbursement for the initial costs associated with starting up a business including state filing fees, and permitting or licensing fees.

HOUSING

Replacement of Housing Projects by Housing Authorities

Public housing plays a key role in our communities so it's important to preserve it. Beginning October 1st, the State Housing Commissioner must give approval before the sale, lease, transfer, or demolition of a housing project. The following criteria must be met: An adequate supply of low- or moderate-income rental housing will remain within the municipality; the project is in the best interest of the State and municipality; and provisions are established within the project plan to allow participation by residents and representatives of the city or town. I believe this is a good law that will benefit everyone involved.

EDUCATION

Recruiting Minority Teachers

As in most states across the country, teachers of color are underrepresented in Connecticut schools. To recruit more minority teachers, we passed legislation that will improve the size and scope of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force and encourage minority students to pursue a college degree in education by establishing a pilot program in certain towns. The program will allow minority students to earn college credits while in high school and take an introductory course in education.

Encouraging Students to Consider Careers in Manufacturing

A recent study conducted by the Connecticut Business and Industry Association identified the manufacturing sector as an area of Connecticut's economy that continues to grow, particularly in aerospace manufacturing. The growth in the manufacturing sector has created a new demand for skilled manufacturers.

Public Act 16-114 takes a comprehensive approach towards addressing Connecticut's manufacturing workforce needs. The legislation establishes a committee that will coordinate with the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents for Higher Education to inform middle school and high school students about careers in manufacturing.



Recognizing John F. Kennedy's High School Teacher Jahana Hayes on Becoming National Teacher of the Year



Representative Butler and Representative Berger with the Sacred Heart High School State Champion Basketball Team



Representative Butler Receiving the 2015 Legislative Champion Award from The National Multiple Sclerosis Society

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