



Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2024 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

We worked hard to deliver a budget that adheres to our fiscal guardrails while still providing hundreds of millions in more funding to our local schools, colleges and universities, and services for our most vulnerable residents. As part of our historic tax cuts that we passed in 2023 and protected in 2024, families of four who make \$50,000 or less annually will pay no state income taxes. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

I'd love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Butler



# NEW LAWS IN CT: A YEAR IN REVIEW

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE LARRY B. BUTLER

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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

Representative Larry B. Butler  
Legislative Office Building, Room 5001  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

# NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT 2024 2025

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**LARRY B. BUTLER**  
DEPUTY SPEAKER  
PROUDLY SERVING WATERBURY 72ND DISTRICT



- 860-240-8585
- [Larry.Butler@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Larry.Butler@cga.ct.gov)
- [housedems.ct.gov/Butler](http://housedems.ct.gov/Butler)
- [facebook.com/RepLarryButler](https://facebook.com/RepLarryButler)







# 2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

## CONCENTRATED POVERTY PILOT PROGRAM

- Created a pilot program to reduce the levels of concentrated poverty in the state by developing and implementing 10-year plans for certain targeted areas of the state (including Waterbury)
- Created a new office within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to oversee the plans' implementation and monitor the state's progress in reducing concentrated poverty
- Requires the plans to include a list of possible projects determined to be the most appropriate and effective to eliminate concentrated poverty

## PLEDGE to ADVANCE CT (PACT) PROGRAM

A new law extends eligibility for the state's debt-free community college program to transition program students who are (1) state residents, (2) have not graduated from high school, (3) are enrolled in a transition program under their individualized education program, and (4) enrolled in one or more courses at a regional community-technical college. The act also increases the PACT program's minimum awards from \$250 to \$500 for full-time students and from \$150 to \$300 for part-time students.

## ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Absentee Ballots

- Requires voters to request applications personally if they have already requested one for that election
- Limiting the number of applications a person may request 90 days or more before an election
- Requires application forms to expire at the end of each year

## CORONARY CALCIUM SCANS

- Requires certain fully insured and group health insurance policies to cover coronary calcium scans (CT scans of the heart looking for calcium deposits in arteries)

## PAID SICK LEAVE

- Covers nearly all private sector employees instead of just certain "service workers"
- Covers nearly all private sector employers with at least 25 employees in 2025, those with at least 11 employees in 2026, and those with at least one employee in 2027
- Increases the leave accrual rate from one hour for every 40 hours worked to one hour every 30 hours worked



## **MAJOR FUNDING FOR WATERBURY & CT**

We used remaining federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide support to some important priorities such as:

- Higher Education - \$160 million
- Early Childcare - \$21.8 million
- Mental Health - \$24 million
- Nonprofits - \$50 million

**The Education Cost Sharing (ECS) for Waterbury in FY 25 is \$190.4 million**

## PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS

- New property tax exemption for veterans who have a permanent and total disability rating
- Veteran must file for exemption with town assessor
- Exemption may be transferred to a deceased veteran's surviving spouse or minor child

## MEDICAL DEPT REPORTING

- Prohibits Connecticut health care providers and hospitals from reporting medical debt to credit rating agencies for use in a credit report
- Voids any debt that is reported to credit agencies

## TRANSPORTATION

**School bus passing violations:**

- Requires towns adopting an ordinance to set the fine for violations at \$250 and process them through municipal procedures
- Sunsets the current statutory authorization for automated enforcement of the state violation, which is a \$450 fine and processed through the state centralized infractions bureau

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE

- Ensures mothers and children who are eligible for federal benefits, such as WIC, are enrolled in these programs with ease and confidence
- Promotes outreach and information to access these federal programs that CT underutilizes
- Office of Early Childcare (OEC) is to provide access for infants & toddlers and pre-school age children to high-quality early care and education programs that promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for school
- OEC works to prevent or minimize the potential for development delay in children under age five

## SENIORS

- Made it easier for seniors to age in place and increased community-based services
- Created a nursing home database to connect seniors with quality care
- Established oversight to prevent negligence and abuse and incentives to encourage nursing homes to improve care
- Enacted requirements for nursing home facilities to be more transparent

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING & RENTS

- Includes provisions that would require landlords to provide at least 45 days' notice prior to increasing a tenant's rent
- Allow towns to set liens against property with unpaid zoning violations
- Prohibits residential rent increases from being effective unless the landlord provides the tenant with at least 45 days' advance written notice