

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DEMICCO

Dear Neighbor,

The 2021 session of the Connecticut General Assembly was largely a success, despite the many obstacles raised by Covid-19 and its complications. Working with Governor Lamont and his administration, and listening to the concerns of many constituents, my legislative colleagues and I took action to keep Connecticut's families safe, and to assist all areas of our state in recovering and rebounding from this historic pandemic.

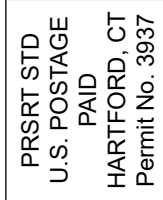
We adopted a biennial budget that is balanced, without the imposition of new taxes. The state's "Rainy Day" fund now contains over \$3.5 billion (a record high). Farmington saw a significant increase in grant funding from the state, as our education funding remained steady, while our PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) allocation from the state increased substantially. Non-profit organizations received a long-overdue increase in funding, while individuals and businesses hardest-hit by the pandemic benefitted from both state and federal resources.

As we struggle together to recover from the effects of Covid-19, I am always available to listen to your concerns, benefit from your ideas, and offer assistance. Feel free to contact me directly at (860) 240-8545, or: mike.demicco@cga.ct.gov

Best,



Mike Demicco



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE DEMICCO
PROUDLY SERVING FARMINGTON/UNIONVILLE



CAPITOL UPDATE 2021



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AGING

Age Discrimination in the Workforce: PA 21-69 prohibits age discrimination during the employment application process. Prospective employers cannot require disclosure of age, birthdate, or graduation dates on an initial employment application.

Property Tax Relief: A new law (PA 21-84) expands eligibility for the local option Elderly Tax Freeze Program by decreasing the program’s minimum age requirement from 70 to 65 years. This is at the discretion of the municipality’s legislative body, subject to income limits.

BOTTLE BILL

This session, the legislature revamped the state’s beverage container redemption law (“bottle bill”). By expanding the scope of redeemable items, increasing the handling fee for processors, and adjusting the deposit fee, a significant increase in returned beverage containers is anticipated, resulting in numerous economic and environmental benefits (PA 21-58).

CANNABIS

PA 21-1 legalizes the possession of limited amounts of marijuana for adult recreational use and establishes a regulatory structure for cannabis businesses. It allows for “home grow” within certain limits, erases certain cannabis-related criminal convictions, and establishes a Social Equity Council for communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition.

CLEAN SLATE BILL

Two new laws (PA 21- 32 and PA 21-33) provide for the erasure of certain lower-level criminal conviction records, after a specific period of time, and after sentences have been served. These laws aim to increase employment and housing opportunities for the formerly incarcerated, thus allowing for their re-entry into society.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

We made several changes related to domestic violence and civil restraining orders. Two new laws allow victims subject to coercive control to be eligible for civil restraining orders (PA 21-78) and allow adult family members to apply for risk protection orders (PA 21-67).

BUDGET NEWS

INCREASE IN STATE AID TO FARMINGTON

Over the next two fiscal years, state aid to Farmington will increase significantly:

TOTAL STATUTORY FORMULA AID TO FARMINGTON:		
FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
\$3,743,172	\$5,270,618	\$5,270,645

ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS

PA 21-117 expands the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority’s (PURA) oversight of electric suppliers. For residential customers, the new law prohibits termination fees and early cancellation fees, as well as prohibiting variable rate contracts (as of July 2022).

EXTENDED VOTING

The legislature proposed a Constitutional Amendment authorizing in-person, early voting before an election or referendum, which is currently practiced in many states. This proposal will appear on the November 2022 general election ballot (RA 21-1).

The legislature proposed another Constitutional Amendment authorizing “no excuse” absentee ballot voting. If this proposal is approved by the 2023 General Assembly, it will appear on the November 2024 general election ballot (RA 21-2).

****For the November 2021 municipal elections, Covid-19 is a valid excuse for voting by absentee ballot****

GAMING

In PA 21-23, we established new frameworks for legalizing and regulating in-person and online sports wagering, online casino gaming, in-person and online keno, online lottery draw games, and fantasy contests.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

PA 21-176 requires DSS (Dept. of Social Services) to extend eligibility for medical assistance, subject to income limits, to children under age 9, and mothers of newborn children.

PFAS RESTRICTIONS

PA 21-191 restricts the use of certain products containing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The new law generally prohibits using Class B firefighting foam with intentionally added PFAS and bans the sale of food packaging containing PFAS.

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION

A new law (PA 21-6) eliminates Connecticut’s religious exemption from immunization requirements for children attending public and private schools, as well as child care centers. It “grandfathers in” certain students who submitted a religious exemption by April 2021, and also retains the existing law’s medical exemption for students who can document that the immunization is medically contraindicated.

STATE TAX CHANGES

PA 21-2 makes significant positive changes to Connecticut’s personal income tax, including: increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); phasing out the tax on income from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA’s); and extending the limits on eligibility for the property tax credit against the personal income tax.

TELEHEALTH

PA 21-9 expands the types of health providers who are authorized to provide telehealth services, and requires insurance coverage for telehealth services. PA 21-133 requires DSS (Dept. of Social Services) to provide Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth services to the same extent as services provided in person.

