

USEFUL NUMBERS

STATE

- Consumer Protection..... 1-800-842-2649
- Unclaimed Property
Hotline..... 1-800-833-7318
- CT Tax Department..... 1-860-297-5962
- ConnPACE 1-800-423-5026
- Medicare Hotline 1-800-633-4227
- CT Partnership for
Long-Term Care 1-800-547-3443
- Infoline211
- CHOICES..... 1-800-994-9422
- Healthcare Advocate 1-866-HMO-4446
- DSS Elder Services..... 1-866-218-6631
- Dept. of Insurance
Consumer Affairs 1-800-203-3447

EAST HARTFORD

- Dial-a-Ride (in-town rides).....870-7940
- ADA Transportation
(out-of-town rides)724-5340
- Town Senior Bus.....569-5654
- Meals on Wheels
(Information and Referral).....569-5671
- Grocery Delivery Program.....569-5671
- Flu Shots568-4281
- Senior Centers 895-1517 or 568-428

State Representative Henry Geng
240-8585



Clip and Save

Henry Genga • Representing East Hartford



Henry Genga
State Representative

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State Representative **Henry Genga**

10th District
Serving East Hartford



Senior Issues



Senior Driving Insurance Discount

As of October 1st, drivers aged 60 and up will be eligible for an automobile insurance policy premium discount after successfully completing a Department of Motor Vehicles approved accident prevention course. Current law covers drivers aged 62 and up. This is a great opportunity to stay safe and save money. For more information contact AAA or AARP, the currently approved providers of this course.

Changes to the Probate Court System

Connecticut's probate courts have authority over a wide variety of matters. For example, our Probate Courts administer estates, grant adoptions, probate wills, and appoint guardians. A number of changes to the Probate Court System will go into effect on October 1, 2007.

The Probate Court Administrator will be able to transfer and reassign pending cases if court business has not been conducted in a timely manner. Probate Courts will be required to operate a minimum of 20 hours a week. The Probate Administrator, together with the Probate Court Assembly, is given more oversight and enforcement authority over individual Probate Courts, and an appeals process will be in place for a Probate Judge to challenge enforcement actions.

New Standards for Hospice Care

If our loved ones are terminally ill, we often rely upon hospice care. Hospice programs are known for high standards of compassion and care. To maintain this reputation, before an organization can use the title of hospice, or describe itself as a hospice care program, it must now be licensed by the Department of Public Health and certified by Medicare. All organizations seeking their initial hospice license must agree to provide hospice care services for terminally ill patients on a 24-hour basis. Services must be provided in private homes, nursing and residential care homes, or other specialized residences which provide supportive services. To maintain appropriate levels of care, an organization must also show the Department of Public Health that it has the qualified personnel to provide the services.

Administration of Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines

To help prevent the spread of flu or pneumonia, we have



worked to increase access to vaccinations. Nurses employed by licensed home healthcare or homemaker-home health agencies can now provide these vaccines to patients in their homes without obtaining a physician's order for each shot. Trained nurses have been running flu clinics outside the home for years, and this new law makes it easier for these professionals to keep us healthy.



Long-Term Care Insurance Policies

Lower insurance premiums are possible for those who wish to enroll in a new Long-Term Care Policy. This new policy permits an individual to underwrite their long-term care costs for a period of up to two years while being protected by a long-term care insurance policy afterwards. An irrevocable trust fund must be in place and of a size deemed sufficient to cover costs of care before the long-term care policy protection begins.

Connecticut Homecare Option Program

To enable more seniors to live at home and delay the need for costly nursing home care, we have created the Connecticut Homecare Option Program. This program allows participants to make deposits into a Homecare Trust Fund account. Interest earned on fund accounts will be exempt from state income tax. The participant or a designated beneficiary can later withdraw funds to pay for qualified home care expenses. Any unspent account funds will become part of a beneficiary's estate when he or she dies.

Additionally, to help encourage home care options, seniors can now hire their own personal care assistance attendants directly instead of going through a home health care agency.