

Capitol Briefs

Toxic Toys

In view of the unprecedented number of toys recalled in the past year, we decided it was time for Connecticut to adopt stricter limits for lead in children's products. We also banned the sale of toys and other articles marketed for children under 16 that contain asbestos. Retailers selling banned items must complete a certificate that accounts for disposal. As of October 1st, the Department of Consumer Protection will be posting a list of toxic products on their website. Check the list before you shop! **(Public Act 08-106)**



Supporting Environmental Justice Communities

Recognizing that polluting facilities are often concentrated in urban and low income areas, the legislature took steps to help these communities. The law requires applicants seeking approval for new or expanded polluting facilities in environmental justice communities to provide notification, submit a public participation plan, including holding an informal public meeting, and consult with municipal officials to arrange for an environmental benefit agreement to ease the facility's impact. **(Public Act 08-94)**

Motor Vehicle Repairs

Automobile repair shops must post a notice informing customers they have the right to choose any licensed repair shop to repair accident damage to their vehicle. Insurance companies are prohibited from requiring that a person use a specific repair shop unless the consumer agrees. **(Public Act 08-146)**

Automobile Insurance Discounts for Seniors

This legislation makes it easier for individuals over the age of sixty to be eligible for automobile insurance discounts resulting from the completion of a safe driver class. **(Public Act 08-74)**

Health Care Services for Danbury Residents

Community Health Center of Danbury, located at 6 DeLay Street, will be opening soon! The community health center will provide support services focusing on health care access, affordability, and quality care. Please visit www.chc1.com or call 1-860-347-6971 for information on the opening.

For more information,
contact me for copies of
2008 Laws Affecting...

Seniors
Education
Business
Children
Major Acts

Hats Off To Danbury!



Celebrating Danbury Day at the State Capitol, are (left to right) Rep. Bob Godfrey, Sen. David Cappiello, Evo Butera, Robert Noce, Michael "Tweezer" Seri, Rep. Jason Bartlett, John Esposito, Rep. Janice Giegler, and Rep. Joe Taborsak.



Representative Bob Godfrey

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State Representative
Bob Godfrey
Deputy Speaker

Representing Danbury 2008

Dear Neighbor:

It is an honor to represent you at the Capitol. I always enjoy speaking with you and hearing your concerns. Knowing what is important to you is the main reason why I have worked so hard on the toughest challenges facing our state.

I am your strong advocate for education, quality and affordable health care for everyone and, as always, your advocate for senior citizens. I am proud of what I have accomplished. Danbury will receive a substantial increase in state aid this next fiscal year - an additional **\$3,419,129** for our community, which help keep our property tax low.

Your dedication and interest in government helps me serve the 110th District to the best of my ability. I thank you for your action and wish you all the very best.

Bob

Bringing Your State Tax Dollars Home

Grants 08-09	FY 08-09
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,075,937
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$1,188,517
Town Aid Roads	\$418,835
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$533,302
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$1,487,724
Adult Education	\$178,764
School Transportation	\$1,012,730
Priority School District	\$2,314,480
Educational Cost Sharing	\$22,857,956
Total State Aid	\$32,068,245
Grant Total from FY 07-08	\$28,649,116
Increase of	\$3,419,129

Kids and Cars

New Laws for Teen Drivers

We have been hearing news all too often regarding teen driving accidents. In an effort to prevent further accidents and encourage responsible driving, numerous changes have been made to the teen driver graduated license. These changes include:

- ◆ Extension of the passenger restrictions from six months to one year;
- ◆ Establishment of a curfew of 11 PM;
- ◆ Requirement that seat belts be worn by all passengers in a car operated by a teen driver.

Teen drivers will be required to have 40 hours of behind-the-wheel training, instead of 20 hours, and parents must also attend a two-hour class with their child.

Finally, police officers will confiscate a teen driver's license for 48 hours for violating any of the graduated license restrictions, and for excessive speeding, reckless driving and street racing. (Public Act 08-32)



Bob speaks on behalf of senior citizens.

You Decide

November 4, 2008 - Election Day

“Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit any person who will have attained the age of eighteen years on or before the day of a regular election to vote in the primary for such regular election?”

Voters have the final say. If a majority of those voting in the general election approves this amendment, it will become part of the state Constitution. (House Joint Resolution 21)



Bob working with Rep. Jim Shapiro in the House Chamber.

Landmark Legislation

Addressing the Mortgage Crisis



The Deputy Speaker presides over the House.

With the number of foreclosures on the rise in Connecticut, action has been taken to protect homeowners' rights and keep families in their homes without having a chilling effect on responsible lending. Collaboration between both chambers, both parties, the Department of Banking, the banking industry and consumer advocates has produced legislation that:

- Will provide mediation and financial assistance to individuals and families whose homes are at risk of foreclosure;
- Reform the practices of lenders and mortgage brokers; and
- Make sure that nothing is done that will negatively impact the availability of lending for prospective homeowners. (Public Act 08-176)



Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

During this session the General Assembly passed landmark global warming legislation. This initiative mandates reductions in state greenhouse gas emissions to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, and 80 percent below 2001 levels by 2050. This bill would place Connecticut among the leaders in fighting climate change.



It also requires certain state agencies to identify activities and facility improvements to meet state energy saving goals and enact policies and regulations to help meet emission limits. It also requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner, with the help of a regional nonprofit air quality and climate organization, to publish a baseline inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and recommend strategies, regulatory actions, and policies to help us meet our goals. (Public Act 08-98)

Veterans

Support Our Troops License Plate

The Department of Motor Vehicles will offer a “Support Our Troops” license plate that will generate much needed funds for veterans' programs. A portion of the \$60 fee will be dedicated to Support Our Troops Inc. (Public Act 08-150)



Bob presents an official proclamation to John Esposito for his tireless service to the City of Danbury as the longest serving member of the Common Council.

“Gold Star License Plates” Fee Waiver

We eliminated the \$10 fee for Gold Star family plates. The Gold Star is the symbol the Department of Defense authorized to signify that a family lost a family member in wartime military service. (Public Act 08-104)

Helping Seniors

Money Follows the Person Project

In our effort to move people out of nursing homes or other institutional settings into less restrictive, community based settings we expanded the Money Follows the Person program from 700 to 5,000 people. This will reduce reliance on institutional settings and support those who want their loved ones to stay in their community. This not only saves taxpayer money but also enhances the quality of life for many people. (Public Act 08-180)

Small Nursing Home Pilot Program

The Department of Social Services (DSS) will develop a pilot program of 10 small house nursing homes in the state. My hope is to improve the quality of life for nursing home residents and provide nursing home care in a home-like setting rather than an institutional environment. (Public Act 08-91)



Bob and Speaker Jim Amann congratulate student-athletes on “Husky Day” at the Capitol.