



Rep. Jutila meets with East Lyme High School students from Mrs. Hardy's Contemporary Issues Class during their visit to the State Capitol.

**Education Reform** This year's historic education initiative will provide new support to help improve our schools. The education reform package has long-term implications for our children and for the state's economic well-being. The better we prepare children for the 21st Century workforce, the stronger we'll make Connecticut's economy. This legislation includes:

- More funding for school-based health centers and family resource centers.
- 1000 new Pre-K readiness seats.
- Increased funding for vo-tech, vo-ag, charter and magnet schools.
- More classroom experience to be included in teacher prep.
- Creates a distinguished educator designation.
- Requires relevant masters degree for professional certification.
- Pilot program on teacher evaluations.
- Creates the Commissioner's Network, to provide the intensive supports and interventions needed to turn around 25 of the most chronically low-performing schools.

### Storm Response and Outages

In the aftermath of the October Nor'easter and Tropical Storm Irene that left much of the state without power, the legislature passed sweeping changes to better prepare our state for future severe storms and avoid wide-spread and lengthy loss of utility service. As vice chairman of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I participated in the hearings that led in part to the following elements that are included in the legislation:

- Emergency plans every two years.
- Utility performance standards.
- Evaluation of utility performance after storms.
- Micro-grid pilot program to preserve power in critical areas.
- Procedures for expediting road clearing.
- Promoting undergrounding of power lines.

State Representative | Deputy Majority Whip

# Ed Jutila

Proudly Serving East Lyme and Salem | 37<sup>th</sup> District

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# ED JUTILA

State Representative  
*Proudly Serving East Lyme & Salem*  
37<sup>th</sup> District

Dear Neighbor,

During the recently completed 2012 legislative session, we enacted some truly historic legislation, including education reform, important job creation measures and repeal of some of the state's out-of-date Blue Laws. We also put in place some significant storm response initiatives based upon the input we received during last fall's public hearings.

Our work actually began in earnest last October when we adopted a comprehensive bipartisan jobs package focusing on small businesses. The package included substantial incentives for businesses hiring new employees, alignment of education programs with the requirements of employers and encouragement of entrepreneurship and innovation. We also eliminated red-tape for growing companies.

This spring, we passed a mid-term balanced budget adjustment bill that holds expenditures under the state's spending cap, while at the same time maintaining funding levels to our towns and continuing to invest in education and job growth. East Lyme and Salem actually will receive small increases in their Education Cost Sharing grants, which will help them to continue to hold the line on property taxes. And we did this without raising taxes.

Finally, through several collaborative cost control initiatives, our future state employee and retiree health care liabilities will now be reduced by over \$13 billion. These tough decisions made today will have a tremendous impact on our fiscal health into the future.

Other highlights from this session are included within this newsletter, which I hope you find informative. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to give me a call or send me an e-mail or letter.

Sincerely,

ED JUTILA  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CAPITOL  
REPORT 2012



Elizabeth Binger, Executive Director of the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) shares some information and a light moment with Rep. Jutila during a visit to the State Capitol.

## Let's Keep in Touch

### State Representative Ed Jutila

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

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# CAPITOL REPORT 2012

## Job Creation and Economic Development

**Small Business Express Program** We continued the state's commitment to job growth and economic recovery with new legislation that expands the Small Business Express Program, which now allows companies with up to 100 employees (an estimated 3,600 additional businesses) to have access to state assistance. The program allows small businesses to access much-needed funding for capital investments and hiring.

**Made in Connecticut** Creates the "Connecticut Made" and "Connecticut Treasures" programs to promote products made in Connecticut, as well as the state's cultural, educational and historic attractions. Also creates a mechanism to allow the state to offer economic incentives and economic development assistance to companies that relocate jobs from overseas to Connecticut.

**Fighting off another Potential BRAC Closure** Given the potential of a new round of base closures by the Base Realignment Authority Commission (BRAC), state funding is being provided to help strengthen the viability of our Naval Submarine Base in Groton. We are optimistic that this funding, along with the Office of Military Affairs that we created in 2007, will strengthen our case for keeping the base open and protecting all the defense related jobs associated with it.

## Consumer News

**Price Gouging at the Pump** Skyrocketing gasoline prices are the result of global factors such as growing demand from emerging economies, turmoil in the Middle East and oil market speculators. Faced with this reality, the legislature acted in a bipartisan manner to cap the state petroleum gross receipts tax (GRT) on motor fuels. We also enacted new price gouging laws to protect consumers from oil companies and gasoline dealers that would try to exploit abnormal market conditions for profit.

**Sunday Sales** Package stores and grocery stores will now have the choice to sell alcohol on Sundays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, as well as on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.



Rep. Jutila speaks at a press conference in support of funding for the Eastern Connecticut Fire Training School.

## Public Safety

**Funding for the Eastern Connecticut Fire Training School** This session we were able to obtain approval of \$28.2 million for overdue renovations and improvements for our regional fire schools, including the Eastern Connecticut Regional Fire School in Willimantic. This is a critical investment that will provide firefighters with the state of the art education and training they need to ensure both their own safety and ours.

**Caylee's Law** "Caylee's Law" sets criminal penalties for the failure to report the disappearance of a child. The law is in response to the circumstances surrounding the death of Florida toddler Caylee Anthony, and applies to any parent, guardian or person who has custody or supervision of the child.

**Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors** In response to a tragic Christmas morning fire in Stamford and many carbon monoxide incidents that occurred during recent power outages, we passed a bill establishing a public awareness campaign to promote the installation of CO and smoke detectors in all residential dwellings and educate the public about the dangers of not having such devices. The bill also requires battery-operated smoke detection and warning devices to be temporarily installed in any one or two-family dwelling occupied while undergoing construction.

**Public Safety Data Network** This legislation requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner to establish a public safety data network (PSDN) in an electronic format for exchanging information among public safety and criminal justice entities and the Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications. The purpose of this network is to improve communication between these agencies.

## Veterans

**Hiring Unemployed Veterans** Establishes the Unemployed Armed Forces Member STEP-UP (Subsidized Training and Employment) Program with grants to subsidize a business's cost of hiring unemployed veterans during their first 180 days on the job.

**Desecrating Veteran Memorials** Nothing could be more important than honoring the past and present sacrifices of our veterans. It is heart breaking to see an increase in thefts and vandalism of veteran memorials. This year we increased penalties for desecrating veterans' memorials.

**Grandparents Rights** This new law enhances the rights of grandparents seeking visitation rights by putting extra weight on evidence showing a parent-like relationship exists and that a denial of visitation rights could cause harm to the child.

**Hospice Care** This new law will permit hospices to follow federal standards, giving hospice facilities such as Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut the opportunity to provide better services that allow patients in need of care to stay closer to family and friends.

## On the Local Front

**Train Station in Niantic** As required by a bill I introduced last year, the DOT produced a report on the feasibility of establishing a commuter rail station in Niantic. I have personally reviewed the report with the Commissioner of Transportation, and we are planning for the next steps in the process, which include a capacity study and production of a necessary environmental document. If you would like a copy of this report, feel free to contact my office.

**Niantic River Scallops** This year I worked with the East Lyme-Waterford Shellfish Commission to pass legislation that will change the legal minimum size for scallops that can be harvested from the Niantic River from 2 inches in diameter to 2.5 inches in diameter. By increasing this size limit, scallops will have more time to reproduce and increase their population resulting in greater harvests in the future.



**Insurance Deductibles** Protects homeowners by prohibiting insurers from applying hurricane deductibles if a hurricane is downgraded to a tropical storm before it strikes Connecticut. This bill responds to complaints from consumers who were charged large hurricane deductibles for property damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene after it was downgraded from a hurricane before entering the state last summer. Under the new law, homeowners and businesses are also protected from price gouging by vendors overcharging for goods and services during unusual weather events.



Rep. Jutila visits with former State Rep. John Hoye (r) and G. Clifford Carter (l) at the Friends of Fort Trumbull display on State Park Advocacy Day.

## Let's Keep In Touch In A Green Way

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