



*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*It is with great pleasure that I give you this update on what your state legislature did for you during Session 2007.*

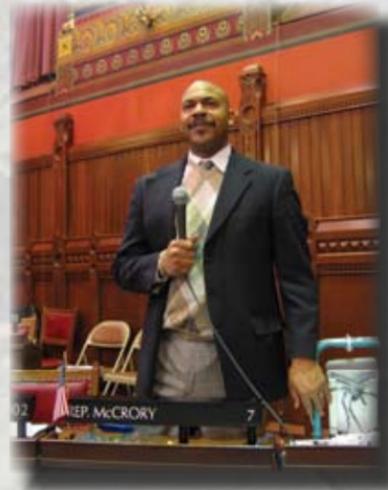
*Please know that I will continue to work toward the improvement of our education, healthcare and justice systems. These are important issues that need to be addressed, corrected and carefully planned and implemented in order to improve the lives of our children and the security of our future.*

*I thank you for electing me and will continue to honorably represent Hartford with the best of my abilities.*

*If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to your opinion as it helps me better serve you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Douglas McCrory  
State Representative - 7th District*



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**CALL ME FOR YOUR COPY OF:**

**2007 SENIOR LAWS**

**2007 EDUCATION LAWS**

**2007 MAJOR PUBLIC ACTS**

**State Representative Douglas McCrory**

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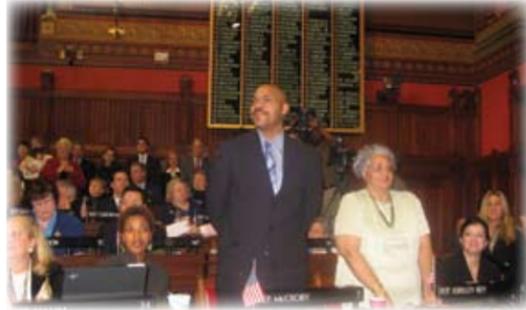


*Proudly Serving  
The City of Hartford*

**Session 2007  
Capitol Update**  
***Douglas McCrory***  
**State Representative  
of the  
Seventh District**

## REPORTING OF LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS AND ILLEGAL FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

We made firearm trafficking a crime. It is now a class B or C felony depending on the number of firearms involved. A person commits this crime if he or she intentionally gives a person who cannot legally possess firearms access to his or her firearms. Anyone whose firearm (except an antique firearm) is lost or stolen is required to file a police report within 72 hours after he or she discovered or should have discovered the theft or loss; failure to do so will result in penalties ranging from an infraction to a class C felony.



A class B felony is punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both; a class C felony is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

A first-time failure to report within the deadline is an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$90. The bill specifies that a first-time violator does not lose the right to possess or obtain firearms under law.

The provisions do not apply to shotguns, rifles or antique firearms.

PA 07-163 (SB 938) - Effective October 1, 2007

## JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTION

When it comes to criminal matters, Connecticut is one of only 3 states that treats its 16 and 17 year olds as adults. There is a growing consensus among Connecticut lawmakers, both Republicans and Democrats, and among specialists that 16 and 17 year olds are in fact not adults. This session the General Assembly has enacted legislation that will refer 16 and 17 year olds to the juvenile justice system instead of to the adult criminal justice system. However, 16 and 17 years olds who commit the most serious of crimes will continue to be referred to the adult system.

In deciding that most 16 and 17 year old offenders should be referred to the juvenile system, the state recognizes that 16 and 17 years olds do not always appreciate their actions the way that adults do. In the juvenile system, the focus is on rehabilitation instead of punishment. Bringing 16 and 17 year olds into the juvenile justice system is the right thing to do for the children in the state of Connecticut and will pay dividends for the state in the long term.

PA 07-4 (SB 1500)

## 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 at (800) 842-4320 or AARP at (888) 808-5254, the currently approved providers of this course.

PA 07-5 (SB 109)

## REFUNDS OF PREPAID PREMIUMS

If a Connecticut senior citizen cancels a Medicare Supplement Policy prior to its expiration date, they will receive a refund on any prepaid premiums thanks to legislation adopted by the General Assembly.

PA 07-48 (HB 5259)

## NURSING HOMES

To protect our seniors, legislation passed this year prevents any nursing home, rest home, residential care home, or intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded from closing or greatly decreasing its total bed capacity until a public hearing has been held and the Department of Social Services' Commissioner has approved the facility's request.



PA 07-209 (HB 5639)

## NEW SCHOOL SUSPENSION RULES

Beginning July 1, 2008, the maximum time for in-school suspensions will be extended from five to 10 days. Suspensions will now be required to be in-school suspensions unless the school administration determines, at the required informal suspension hearing, that the student poses a danger to persons or property or the student is so disruptive of the educational process that he or she must serve the suspension outside of school.

Students will be allowed to be placed in in-school suspension up to 15 times or a total of 50 days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days. Students can be suspended out-of-school only 10 times or 50 days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days.

PA 07-66 (HB 7350)

## EXPANDING AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS



A top priority in strengthening the state's commitment to Connecticut's students is the continued expansion of quality afterschool programs. Over the next two years, the afterschool competitive grant program will be infused with over \$2 million in new funds each year so more students will have the opportunity to participate in quality programs. In addition, the new monies will be used for better measurement of quality programs, improved accountability, professional development and accreditation support. To provide greater continuity in local programs, parent involvement must now be a component to qualify for this two year grant.

## ENHANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COORDINATION

Continuing the effort for a top quality early childhood education system, better planning and accountability measures were adopted. Beginning, July 1, 2008, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet is required to begin the statewide longitudinal evaluation of educational progress among children pre-k to grade 3.

In addition, the cabinet must develop and implement an accountability plan for early childhood education services annually, identify appropriate population indicators, establish program and system measures of readiness to enter kindergarten. All state-funded programs must use the accountability measures developed to evaluate effectiveness of their services. Evaluation results will be due to the Cabinet beginning June 30, 2009. Minimum standards and a range for higher quality standards for state funded early education and early programs must be developed by the Cabinet as well as a quality, early childhood care workforce development plan with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

To address the lack of facility capacity to meet the early childhood education student need, the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and Department of Education are required to develop a plan increasing capacity in school readiness programs with recommendations on facilities' needs, professional development and grant formula changes.

Finally, the State Department of Education must establish two model early childhood learning programs with Connecticut higher education institutions that may include a day care and laboratory school for up to 60 children age 3 to 5.

