



Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for taking the time to read my first annual district-wide mailer. I am honored to represent you in the state legislature. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

It is with great pleasure that I tell you that after 50 years of planning, preparation and lobbying the Route 72 project has become a reality. By the time this newsletter reaches you construction will have begun! The scheduled completion date is November of 2009.

The completion of Route 72 connecting Bristol to Interstate 84 will propel our city right into the twenty-first century, making Bristol a vibrant economic center.

Speaker Jim Amann has appointed me to serve on the Transportation, General Law and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

The Transportation Committee has cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Transportation, including highways and bridges, navigation, aeronautics, mass transit and railroads, and to the State Traffic Commission and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The General Law Committee has cognizance of all matters relating to fair trade and sales practices, consumer protection, occupational licensing and mobile homes, and all matters dealing with alcoholic beverages.

The Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducts public hearings, issues reports of its findings on matters concerning military and veterans affairs, except veterans' pensions. All bills approved by the committee are referred to the appropriate joint standing committee.

It is compelling work. I value the input I receive from each of you and I encourage you to call me if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.

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FOR MORE INFO  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.CGA.CT.GOV](http://WWW.CGA.CT.GOV)

**State Representative Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.**

Legislative Office Building, Room 4061  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
[frank.nicastro@cga.ct.gov](mailto:frank.nicastro@cga.ct.gov)  
(860) 240-8500



**State Representative**

# Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.

**PROVEN LEADERSHIP FOR  
Bristol and Forestville**



## KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

A new law expands a ban on the application of lawn care pesticides on elementary school playing fields and playgrounds to include middle school properties.

The Connecticut General Assembly approved \$10 million to complement a federal program designed to reduce diesel exhaust inside and around school buses. New diesel vehicles are required by federal law to be equipped with filters that reduce harmful emissions. The \$10 million will cover the cost of installing emission filters for the approximately 3,400 school buses currently in use to carry our school children.



Rep. Nicastro and Bristol state invention convention participants.

Megan's Law ventured into cyberspace - we now require convicted sex offenders to register any e-mail address, instant message address, and any other Internet identifiers

with the Department of Public Safety. This law proved an immediate success with the arrest of a Connecticut sex offender who had a MySpace.com profile.

We also passed Jessica's Law, establishing a new crime of aggravated sexual assault of a child under age 13 that carries a mandatory minimum prison term of 25 years for a first offense and 50 years for a second offense.



Rep. Nicastro onboard a Chinook helicopter while touring Connecticut National Guard Facilities.

# CAPITOL UPDATE 2007

## TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

Citing the need to address the growing unfunded liability in the Connecticut Teacher's Retirement Fund, House Democrats authored a comprehensive proposal that strengthens the financial footing of the fund and ultimately saves taxpayers money. This legislation authorizes \$2 billion in pension obligation bonds to help close a \$6.9 billion shortfall in the teachers' pension fund. The law also requires the state to fund the Teachers' Retirement Fund at 100 percent of the actuarially recommended contribution over the life of the bonds, which will also reduce the state's long-term liability.



## RETURN POLICY OF RETAIL STORES

To make your gift shopping a little easier, the General Assembly passed legislation that protects consumers from unfair retail return policies. Retailers that use an electronic system to keep track of retail refunds and exchanges have to make sure that their return policies are stated clearly and also notify consumers when their time limit to return goods is about to end. Doing this means that the consumer retains the right to return items as long as they have a receipt that shows the transaction occurred before a return policy notice is received.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In an effort to provide better protection to families from violence in the home, the General Assembly took steps to prevent weekend incidents of domestic violence. In an important step forward, police can now issue a weekend protective order so that the original incident does not escalate once an alleged abuser is released from police custody.

## HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

In recent years, a radical intolerant religious group has engaged in protests at the funerals of members of the US Armed Services. The General Assembly and I, a veteran of thirty years and member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, sought to stop these disruptions and return respect to these heroes' funerals. Under this bill, protestors must stay 150 feet away from the entrance to a funeral location when making noise or creating diversions that aren't part of the ceremony. Protestors must stay 300 feet away if their presence impedes an entrance or exit. This crime is punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000 or both.



Rep. Nicastro confers with his legislative intern on the House Floor.

Questions or concerns? Call Rep. Frank Nicastro (860)240-8500 or e-mail [frank.nicastro@cga.ct.gov](mailto:frank.nicastro@cga.ct.gov)