



State Representative

FRANK N. NICASTRO, SR.

Government Efficiency

Making government functions more efficient is especially important during these difficult economic times. This year we took important steps to reduce and streamline the size of government.

IMPROVING REGIONAL COOPERATION

PA 09-231 | HB 6585 – EFFECTIVE: 09.01.09

- » Permits towns to enter into mutual agreements to promote regional economic development
- » Allows regions to share property tax revenue from new developments

SMART GROWTH

PA 09-230, PA 09-165, PA 09-190 | HB 6467, HB 6466, HB 5861 – EFFECTIVE: Upon Passage/10.01.09

Three bills regarding smart growth passed, creating a process for pre-application review of regionally significant development, and a streamlined state review of municipal development proposals.

RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

PA 09-19 | HB 5930 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Requires state agencies to perform a small business impact analysis before adopting regulations, so that the impact of such regulations on businesses under 75 employees may be meaningfully measured
- » Requires state agencies to notify the public about how to obtain a copy of each analysis

PROBATE COURT REFORM

PA 09-114 | HB 6385, PA 09-1 SEPTEMBER SPECIAL SESSION | HB 7001 – EFFECTIVE: Upon Passage/01.05.11

- » Re-structures compensation for probate court judges and requires them to be attorneys
- » Consolidates the 117 existing courts into 54 districts with Bristol retaining its court. This streamlining will make the probate court system more efficient and less expensive.



CONTACT REP. NICASTRO

Legislative Office Building
 Room 4063
 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Capitol: 800.842.8267
 Home: 860.585.6070
 Frank.Nicastro@cga.ct.gov
 www.housedems.ct.gov/Nicastro



State Representative

Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.

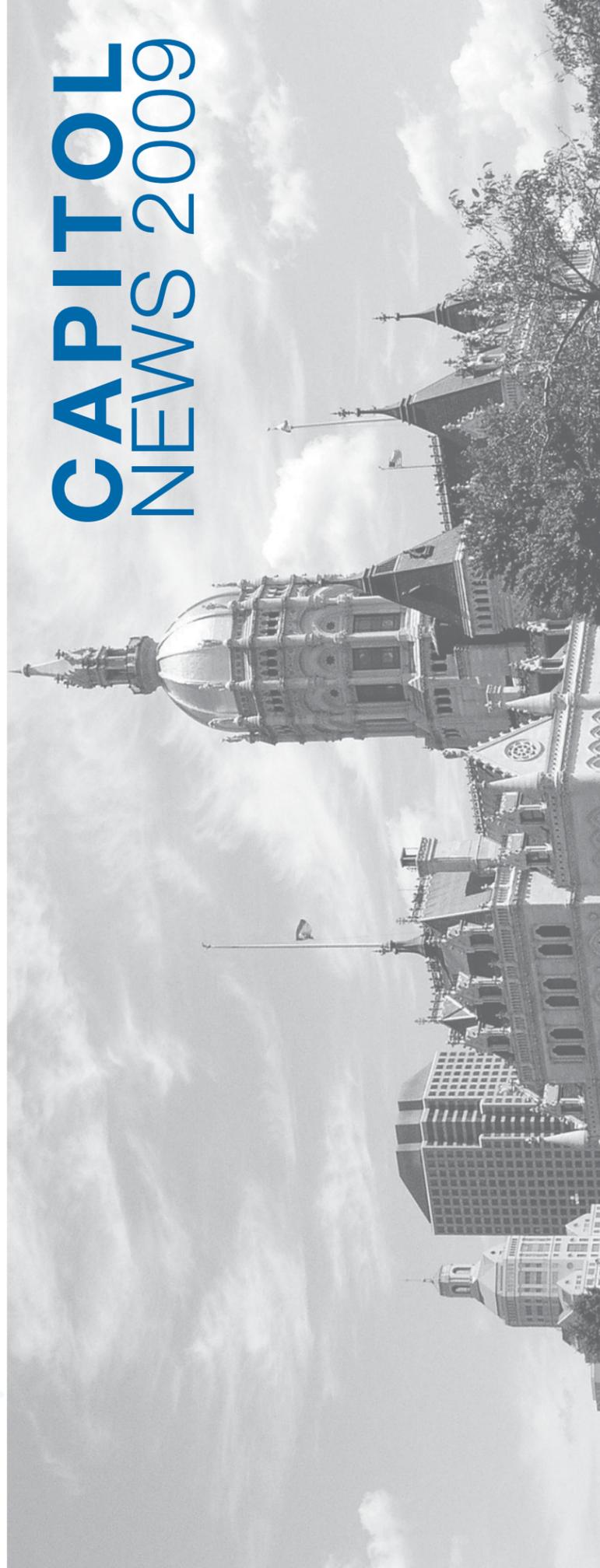
Proudly Serving Bristol/Forestville 79th District



Legislative Office Building
 Room 4063
 Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 800.842.8267
 Home: 860.585.6070
 Frank.Nicastro@cga.ct.gov
 www.housedems.ct.gov/Nicastro

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 HARTFORD, CT
 Permit No. 3937



CAPITOL NEWS 2009



State Representative

Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.

Proudly Serving Bristol/Forestville 79th District



State Representative
Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.
 Proudly Serving Bristol/Forestville 79th District



State Representative
Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.

Providing for our Armed Forces Members and their Families

The service and sacrifices of our armed forces members must always be valued and honored. This session we passed several new laws to aid them and their families.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

- PA 09-10 | HB 6406 – EFFECTIVE: Upon Passage
- » Ensures that members of the armed forces can receive transitional behavioral health services
- » Applies to families and dependents of armed forces members as well

RELIEF FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

- PA 09-163 | HB 6394 – EFFECTIVE: Upon Passage
- » Expands the Military Family Relief Fund
- » Allows immediate relatives of members not on active duty to receive benefits
- » Provides grants to pay for essential personal or household items when in hardship

Assisting our Seniors

A central role of state government is to improve the lives of seniors so they may be healthy, safe and economically secure. To improve their overall quality of life we passed several new legislative initiatives.

AFFORDABLE ELDERLY HOMECARE

- PA 09-64 | SB 814 – EFFECTIVE: 04.01.10
- » Expands access to affordable homecare support services
- » Helps seniors remain independent in their own homes rather than nursing homes
- » Expands personal care assistance services to more of our seniors

LOCATING MISSING SENIORS

- PA 09-109 | SB 451 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09
- » Creates an emergency notification system similar to the Amber Alert system
- » Allows law enforcement agencies to issue public alerts for missing seniors

SENIOR DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

- PA 09-53 | HB 5674 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09
- » Provides seniors with greater access to senior citizen discount programs
- » Requires businesses to disclose details of programs and eligibility requirements

PATIENTS' RIGHTS AT A NURSING HOME

- PA 09-168 | SB 455 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09
- » Expands the Nursing Home Bill of Rights to prohibit the solicitation of donations or gifts as a condition of admission
- » Extends protections to third parties such as families and friends



Keeping our Children Safe and Healthy

Bristol's children need our protection. This legislative session my colleagues and I worked to pass legislation that ensures the safety and well being of our children.

BANNING TOXIC CHEMICALS

- PA 09-103 | HB 6572 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09
- » Bans bisphenol-A (BPA), an industrial chemical with toxic properties
- » Baby bottles, food and beverage containers will be safer

PREVENTING CARDIAC ARREST IN SCHOOLS

- PA 09-94 | SB 981 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09
- » Schools with available funding must have an automatic external defibrillator (AED)
- » Provides CPR and AED training to school personnel

GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS

- PA 09-81 | HB 6496 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09
- » Promotes use of safe green cleaning products
- » Hazardous cleaning chemicals currently used in most schools will be replaced
- » Requires schools to implement a green cleaning program

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AUTISM TREATMENTS

- PA 09-115 | SB 301 – EFFECTIVE: 01.01.10
- Requires insurance coverage for critical treatments and provides benefits that will greatly improve the lives of people with autism.

These treatments are:

- » Diagnostics to determine if an individual has autism spectrum disorder
- » Behavioral therapies for children 14 years old or younger including, but not limited to, applied behavior analysis and cognitive behavioral therapy
- » Prescription drugs
- » Psychiatric and psychological services
- » Physical and occupational therapy
- » Speech and language pathology services

The benefits are:

- » Higher quality of life for the individual
- » Decrease in lifetime costs of treatment
- » Connecticut has become the 12TH state to require this comprehensive coverage

Protecting your Home, Savings and Credit

We took action to aid consumers hurt by recent events to protect you from the recent sub-prime mortgage crisis and corrupt money managers.

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES

- PA 09-209 | SB 948 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09/10.01.09
- » Implements federal reforms
- » Creates many new safeguards against future mortgage foreclosures to better protect homeowners
- » Regulates the mortgage lending process
- » Expands eligibility for state foreclosure prevention programs

PROTECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS' CREDIT

- PA 09-167 | HB 6483 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09
- » Requires the state Board of Governors of Higher Education to regulate credit card marketing practices on all public college campuses
- » Requires that information on responsible debt management be distributed with all marketing material
- » Protects young consumers from being unfairly targeted

EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

- PA 09-219 | HB 6481 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09/10.01.09
- » Expands eligibility for the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program
- » Assists more families suffering from reduced wages to prevent them from losing their home

PREVENTING BLIGHT

- PA 09-144 | SB 951 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09
- » Restores blighted properties created by the foreclosure crisis
- » Provides maintenance to improve vacant foreclosed properties
- » Allows municipalities to use current laws to enforce the requirement to repair or maintain vacant real estate



CONTACT REP. NICASTRO
 Legislative Office Building
 Room 4063
 Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 800.842.8267
 Home: 860.585.6070
 Frank.Nicastro@cga.ct.gov
 www.housedems.ct.gov/Nicastro

