

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Kim Rose

PET BOARDING FACILITIES AND KENNELS

Choosing the right facility to board one's pet is an important decision for any pet owner. In response to complaints about unlicensed pet facilities and a pet owner's inability to distinguish licensed facilities from non-licensed facilities, I proposed legislation that requires a person who maintains and advertises a commercial kennel to include his or her license number in any advertisement. By including the license numbers in these advertisements pet owners now have the security of knowing that the boarding facility they choose for their pet is licensed by the State of Connecticut.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Connecticut's veterans give the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today. Previously, veterans that are 100% disabled received an exemption of up to \$6,000 on their property taxes if their income, excluding veteran's benefits, is less than \$18,000 if single, or \$21,000 if married. Municipalities are now able to increase this exemption to \$9,000, if they so choose.

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TRAINING

As people serve in the various branches of the military, they gain valuable experience and skills that can be applied to secure employment, and these skills should be recognized. This year I proposed this bill that establishes a task force that will be responsible for reviewing military occupational specialty training experience to determine if any such training is equivalent to that required for state licensing purposes.



Rep. Rose testifying in support of her Pet Boarding Facilities and Kennels proposal at the Legislative Office Building.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
In District: 203-283-7885
Cell: 203-701-6098
www.facebook.com/repose
www.housedems.ct.gov/Rose

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Kim Rose
PROUDLY SERVING MILFORD | 118TH DISTRICT

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
Cell Phone: 203-701-6098
Home: 203-283-7885
www.housedems.ct.gov/Rose
facebook.com/RepRose

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



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Kim ROSE
PROUDLY SERVING
MILFORD | 118TH DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor:

The 2013 Legislative Session was one of the most trying and challenging sessions in recent years. Nonetheless the legislature's swift action to meet those challenges prevailed and the state continues to move in a positive direction.

This session was also extremely difficult for me. As many of you may know, I was faced with personal health challenges that prevented me from reporting to work for several weeks. However, your kind support, understanding and all the prayers sent my way during my recent illness and diagnosis of cancer were instrumental to my remarkable recovery. Both the surgeon and oncologist who assisted me are certain that they were able to remove all the cancer resulting in a "cancer free diagnosis."

Although I missed votes this past session, I was still very active with my legislative duties and continued to work on your behalf during my required recovery period. I was able to work on measures that were adopted by the legislature and are important to Milford and the state such as the pet boarding law, the home contractor licensing bill, military occupation and texting bills, to name a few.

The information included in this newsletter highlights important news of the work done during this past session to help individuals, families and businesses thrive in Connecticut. I hope this report is informative, and that you find it helpful and useful.

It is my pleasure to serve you. As always, I'm available to answer any questions or concerns facing our state that you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

KIM ROSE, STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KIM ROSE

CAPITOL UPDATE 2013

CARE 4 KIDS PROGRAM

The Care 4 Kids program helps low- to moderate-income families pay for child care costs. DSS is now required to grant up to six weeks of continued eligibility for Care 4 Kids funding to mothers on maternity leave who take unpaid leave from their jobs, securing their current child's spot in the program. This allows the children to maintain the positive relationships that promote healthy brain development and better health, emotional and academic outcomes.

INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE

Connecticut residents who earn minimum wage have gone three years without seeing an increase in their salaries. This law allows these individuals to earn approximately \$900 more a year, if they work full-time. By increasing the minimum wage the legislature is helping low wage earners and boosting local economies.



Rep. Rose at the opening of the Devon Farmer's Market.

SYNCHRONIZING PRESCRIPTION REFILLS

This law protects patients' drug coverage by requiring that insurance companies cover prescriptions filled in a synchronized manner as long as the patient, their doctor and their pharmacist approve this medication plan. This legislation helps small pharmacies that traditionally offer home delivery of prescriptions, allowing them to cut down overhead costs by only delivering to a specific home once a month.



Rep. Rose with Rep. Hwang, Rep. Davis and Rep. Maroney at Cultural Event.

CREATING JOBS WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM

We added money to the Small Business Express program that provides loans and matching grants to businesses with 100 or fewer employees. Funds were moved from the Manufacturing Assistance Act program into the Small Business Express account so that more funds will be available for this very successful program that has helped many small businesses in the state to create jobs.

CLEAN MARINAS

Thanks to new legislation, Connecticut's marinas are in a unique position to reduce water pollution from oil, soaps, wax run off, and sewage. The new law allows a municipality or federal agency acting on its behalf, to contract directly with DOT for harbor improvement projects. Certified clean marinas are required to exceed the standard for regulatory compliance by minimizing pollution from cleaning, fiberglass repair, hauling and storing of boats, fueling and facility management. Clean marinas are eligible to qualify for an additional 10% of funding.

COASTAL STRUCTURE PERMIT

Recent severe storms have reminded us how vulnerable our state's coastline is as an important and cherished natural resource. It is vital that we are prepared for a scenario in which sea levels rise and the reconstruction of coastal structures is needed. This law helps the state and towns to develop proper plans for development, conservation and emergency management based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's projections for sea level changes. It also facilitates the reconstruction and repair of structures on our coastline that have been affected by the recent severe storms, and helps protect coastal structures in future storms by allowing towns and property owners to fortify property before the start of a hurricane or tropical storm with temporary structures, including sand bags, blocks and other suitable materials.

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS WITH INSURANCE PROBLEMS

This law addresses the problems reported by homeowners who had difficulty obtaining insurance payments after recent severe weather events. It authorizes the Insurance Department to establish a dispute mediation program to help policyholders resolve claims with their insurance companies following a catastrophic event. In order to be eligible, the loss must have been worth at least \$5,000 and been caused by a catastrophic event for which the Governor declared a state of emergency.



Rep. Rose, Commander VFW Post 7788 Jay Murray, Lance Corporal Wally Franco, recipient of a car from Recycled Rides, Greg Smith, Jr., State Commander and Mayor Blake.

STATEWIDE BLIGHT TASKFORCE

Blighted properties have a negative effect on entire neighborhoods and communities, bringing down property values and can even cause blight to 'spread.' This legislation creates a statewide task force that will develop model municipal blight ordinances and propose legislation to help municipalities to address blight more effectively.



Rep. Rose at the FAAN WALK with Elana Soviero.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted driving - especially the use of cell phones while driving - is an increasingly common complaint. We increased fines for using a hand-held cell phone or other electronic device while driving: A first offense for distracted driving is now \$150, the second offense is \$300 and a third offense and subsequent offenses are now \$500. These violations will now appear on the offender's driving history and will be made available to insurers. A task force is also being created to study how to prevent distracted driving.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

The passage of this law makes Connecticut the first state to pass a genetically modified organisms labeling law. By requiring foods to be labeled, this legislation allows consumers to know if their foods contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and make individual and informed decisions about whether or not to consume them. GMOs are created through laboratory processes where DNA is extracted from one species and inserted into an unrelated species to produce a trait, making the food resistant to herbicides and pesticides. The most common genetically modified foods are soy, corn, sugar and cottonseed oil. This measure requires that certain foods that contain GMOs be labeled as such, excluding certain farm products. The requirement becomes effective once similar laws are enacted in four states, including one that borders Connecticut, with an aggregate population totaling 20 million.

Let's Keep In Touch

Sign Up For Email Updates:
housedems.ct.gov/Rose
www.facebook.com/RepRose