

State Representative

Roberta Willis

MOTOR VEHICLE NEWS

Making Our Roads Safer

“Move Over” Law

Failure of motorists to slow down or avoid stopped emergency personnel kills more police officers than any other cause. To protect our emergency personnel, we have joined with 45 other states and passed a “Move Over” Law. Drivers are now required to move over one lane. In the case of two lane roads, drivers shall slow down below the speed limit.

Improving Bicycle and Pedestrian Access

With emphasis on energy conservation and healthy lifestyles, the number of walkers and bicyclists is growing. To alleviate congestion on our roads, and help clean our air, improved access for bicycling and walking should be encouraged. Connecticut has lagged behind other states in investing in making our roads and sidewalks more pedestrian and bike friendly. This year we started to move in the right direction by encouraging an investment. A percentage of transportation funds that were previously used for roads will be dedicated to the purpose of developing bike lanes and improved sidewalks. Remember to “Share the Road.”



“Blocking the Box”

Heavily traveled roads often have problems with vehicles blocking busy intersections when they are unable to completely pass through, preventing other vehicles from freely passing through the intersection. We have come up with a solution. Towns are now able to adopt ordinances to prohibit vehicles from entering intersections when they will not make it all the way through before the light changes.

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CAPITOL NEWS 2009



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KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE AND HEALTHY

Banning Products With BPA



Young children and women of childbearing age are the most vulnerable to the effects of Bisphenol-A (BPA). Infant formula containers, baby food containers, and all reusable food and beverage containers made with BPA will be banned in Connecticut beginning in 2010. BPA, a chemical used

in plastic products, has been linked to reproductive problems, learning disabilities, and cancer.

To be certain that you are choosing a bottle that does not leach, check the recycling symbol on your bottle. If it is #1, #2, #4, or #5, your bottle is fine. Hard plastic lexan bottles made with polycarbonate (#7 recycling symbol) may leach BPA.

NEWS BRIEF

Effective October 1st there will be a 5 cent deposit on water bottles. This is the first major expansion of the 30-year-old bottle bill. It has the potential to remove nearly 500 million containers a year from our landfills, protecting the environment while reducing litter.

Green Cleaning Products in Schools

Connecticut schools will now be required to use green cleaning products instead of potentially hazardous commercial cleaning chemicals. This will not affect the use of disinfectants or sanitizers in schools.

Pesticides and Children

Starting later this year, Connecticut parents and guardians must be notified 24 hours before pesticides are used at day care centers. This does not impact a facility's ability to quickly eliminate immediate threats to public health, such as mosquitoes, ticks or stinging insects.

PROTECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM CREDIT CARD DEBT



Too many of our students graduate from college drowning in credit card debt and student loans. Many students, without sufficient income, are using credit cards to cover the increasing costs of attending college.

This bill limits credit card marketing practices on Connecticut's public college campuses. The bill also prohibits credit card issuers from taking any debt collection action, including telephone calls or demand letters, against a student's parent unless the parent or guardian has agreed in writing to be liable for the student's debts.

GOT MILK? SAVING CT'S DAIRY INDUSTRY



Our dairy farms have been experiencing a financial crisis. The federal government sets milk prices and Connecticut farmers are now losing as much as a dollar a gallon based on fast rising production costs, leaving them at a severe disadvantage to out of state agribusinesses.

Since 2000, our state has lost 83 of its dairy farms. Twelve closed already this year and many more were expected to follow within the year. Immediate action was needed now to protect a vital source of local food, our agricultural heritage, our rural landscape, and 4,200 jobs. Dairy farming is a \$1.1 billion industry. We passed a law to help stem the loss of Connecticut's rapidly shrinking dairy farms by dedicating funds through the Community Investment Act.

LOOKING OUT FOR SENIORS



Preventing Financial Crimes Against Seniors

Seniors are frequently targets for scammers. To protect seniors from fraudulent marketing practices it is now illegal to pose as a specialized financial adviser for seniors, unless you have genuine accreditation.

Locating Missing Seniors - Silver Alert

On July 21, 2007 a 91 year old senior citizen from my district wandered away from home. Sadly, this gentleman was never located.

To prevent this from happening again, I co-sponsored the "Silver Alert" Bill which is modeled after the Amber Alert system for missing children. This will help locate missing seniors and mentally impaired adults by broadcasting an emergency missing persons notice to radio and television stations through the Emergency Alert System, as well as through 2,800 CT Lottery system retailers & electronic billboards.

Helping Family Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients

There is an increasing need for respite care for families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or dementia. To help, we increased the income limit from \$30,000 to \$41,000 and the asset limit from \$80,000 to \$109,000. Benefits for some clients in special circumstances have been increased from \$3,500 to \$7,500. We also improved the program to now cover personal care assistants.



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