

THE BIKE BILL



Rep. McCarthy Vahey joined other advocates who biked to the Capitol from New Haven in support of PA 15 - 41

During my first session in the legislature, I was proud to lead the conversation on Public Act (PA) 15-41, the “Bike Bill,” which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Active transportation such as bicycling and walking will reduce the use of greenhouse gases, promote health, reduce congestion and bring economic benefits to local businesses.

The bicycling infrastructure the new law allows for will help Connecticut develop a transportation network that will retain and attract millennials and businesses alike.

PA 15-41 requires a bicyclist to ride as far to the right as the bicyclist determines is safe, rather than as far to the right as “is practicable.” It is important that our laws have language we can all understand. Motorists are now permitted to overtake and pass bicycles and other slow moving pedestrians or vehicles even in marked no passing zones if they can do so safely. PA 15-41 does not change the 3 foot requirement for a motorist passing a bicycle.

The work on the Bike Bill was a collaborative effort with fellow lawmakers, statewide advocacy groups, town and city officials and Fairfield’s own Bike and Pedestrian Committee. In the coming months, I will meet with these same stakeholders to work on implementing the new laws here in Fairfield as we create a more bike and walk friendly community.

Cristin McCarthy Vahey

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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REPRESENTING FAIRFIELD | 133RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



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**NEW LAWS PROTECTING
OUR HEALTH AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

SPECIAL REPORT: NEW LAWS PROTECTING OUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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E-CIGARETTES - Use of E-Cigarettes and vapor products are now prohibited in establishments and public areas similar to existing restrictions on smoking. (PA 15-206)

CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS - Religious exemptions for vaccines now require a yearly statement verified by an attorney, a judge, clerk or deputy clerk of the court, town clerk, notary public, or justice of the peace. (PA 15-174)

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING - Requirements and definitions for providers ensure the results of any developmental screening of a child may be shared across early childhood settings, with parental consent. This increases opportunities for early intervention. (PA 15-157)



Rep. McCarthy Vahey at Fairfield University's Child Development Center



Rep. McCarthy Vahey testifying in support of the microbead ban

BANNING OF PLASTIC MICROBEADS - Phases in a ban on the manufacture and sale of non-biodegradable microbeads used in personal cosmetic products. Over 75 constituents sent hand written notes condemning the use of microbeads. Unable to be removed during water treatment, microbeads end up in our waterways, endangering the health of fish and other wildlife. (PA 15-5)



LONG ISLAND BLUE PLAN - Requires the development of a plan to preserve and protect the Sound. The bill establishes a process for developing the inventory and plan, including provisions for public input. (PA 15-66)

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION

Further addresses the growing epidemic of pharmaceutical drug overdoses by requiring prescribers to receive more training on controlled substances and check prescription drug monitoring program records. (PA 15-198)



Rep. McCarthy Vahey with substance abuse and mental health advocates at the Capitol

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION - Eligibility was lowered for the Birth to Three program so that it now follows the Centers for Disease Control guidelines that lowered the threshold of blood lead levels in children. (PA 15-172)

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

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