

## From The House

### Legislation Taking Effect October 1

By State Representative Matt Ritter

Some of the laws the legislature passed in the 2016 session went into effect the moment the Governor signed them, while others go into effect at varying dates. Many new laws take effect on October 1. Here are some that you should know about:

#### *Supporting Small Businesses*

We passed legislation requiring state agencies to do greater analysis of any proposed regulations that would impact small businesses. This will ensure that we understand the potential impact any new law could have on small business owners.

#### *Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence*

A new law requires people who are the subject of a temporary restraining order (TRO) to temporarily surrender their firearms. The most dangerous time for a domestic violence victim is when they are seeking a temporary restraining order to separate from their abuser. This common-sense measure ensures that a TRO can be safely executed.

#### *Fighting the Opioid Epidemic*

Several measures within the groundbreaking opioid legislation we passed this year take effect October 1. These include requiring that municipalities equip their first responders with Narcan, an overdose reversal drug, and prohibiting health insurers from requiring prior authorization for Narcan prescriptions.

#### *Affordable Housing*

Paying a security deposit in full can be a challenge for people on a limited income looking for housing. A new law allows seniors or people with disabilities in state-assisted housing to pay security deposits in installments.

#### *Cash Back on Gift Cards*

Starting October 1, customers can ask for cash back on gift cards with a remaining balance of less than three dollars. This is a simple and fair measure to help consumers hold on to more of their own money. Customers must provide proof of purchase to receive cash back