

From the House

Highlighting Some Helpful New Laws

By Rep. Matt Ritter

A number of new state laws recently took effect with the new year, and I want to highlight one in particular that will help improve the lives of thousands of Connecticut families.

Beginning on January 1, employees became eligible for paid family and medical leave benefits under the Connecticut Paid Leave Authority Trust Fund established last year. Workers who have contributed to the fund can now apply for up to 12 weeks of paid leave from their job for a medical issue or to care for an ill family member. This is not only critical to helping people get through some of the personal challenges we all face, but it is also good for our economy by protecting both employers and their workers.

The rise in scrap metal prices has led to a concerning increase in the theft of car catalytic converters. To help combat this problem, I also wanted to note a new law that just went into effect a few months ago. Beginning last October 1, motor vehicle recyclers are prohibited from receiving a catalytic converter without proof of vehicle ownership from the seller. In addition, recyclers must keep records of all such transactions on file and make them available for inspection on request by state police, municipal police or the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. Though this won't prevent all thefts, it will reduce the underground stolen market and the incentive for thieves targeting catalytic converters,

Rep. Brandon McGee moves on from legislature

My good friend and colleague Brandon McGee recently announced that he is leaving the legislature to join Governor Lamont's re-election team. Brandon and I have represented our beloved City of Hartford side by side for the past 10 years, and he will be greatly missed by his constituents and fellow lawmakers at the Capitol. It has been an honor to serve with Rep. McGee and I thank you for everything you have done for Hartford and our state.

As always, please contact me if I can ever be of any assistance. I can be reached at Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov, on Facebook [@RepresentativeMattRitter](https://www.facebook.com/RepresentativeMattRitter) or by phone at (860) 240-8489, if you have any questions or concerns.