



*Connecticut Chapter*  
*645 Farmington Ave.*  
*Hartford, Connecticut 06105*  
[www.connecticut.sierraclub.org](http://www.connecticut.sierraclub.org)

## The Connecticut Legislature

Sessions are held at the state Capital  
Offices and meeting rooms are at the Legislative Office Building

### Senate

36 members  
led by the President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader  
the Lieutenant Governor presides

### House of Representatives

151 Members  
led by the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader

Committees: joint with the senate and house members on each one. Each committee has 10-55 members.

- Aging
- Appropriations
- Banks
- Children
- Commerce
- Education
- Energy & Technology
- Environment
- Finance, Revenue and Bonding
- General Law
- Government Administration and Elections
- Higher Education
- Housing
- Human Services
- Insurance & Real Estate
- Judiciary
- Labor & Public Employees
- Planning and Development
- Public Health
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Veterans Affairs

### Offices

- Legislative Commissioner's Office (attorneys)
- Office of Legislative Research
- Office of Fiscal Analysis

## How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. Legislator submits bill, or committee drafts one. Bill gets a 3 digit number if introduced by a senator, otherwise a 4 digit number starting with "5".
2. Bill is immediately sent to most relevant committee for consideration.
3. Committee holds public hearing.
4. Committee votes to approve the bill with a JF (joint favorable) vote(it lives), or to reject it (it dies).
5. Bill gets a legal analysis and an economic impact (fiscal) analysis.
6. Bill then goes to the House or Senate, where it is voted on, or sent to one or more additional committees before the final vote. It can be amended, combined with other bills, or killed, at any stage.
7. If the bill is passed by both the House and Senate (with identical language) before midnight of the last day of the session, it lives.
8. Governor signs the bill, or vetoes it. If a veto, both the House and Senate must vote to over-ride.
9. The bill then becomes a public act (PA), and gets a PA number.
10. Each part of the bill is inserted in the appropriate place in the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS).

## Guide to Useful CGA Website Documents

1. Goto [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov)

2. Click on Citizen Guide takes you to <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/citizen.asp>

Click on	To Get	URL
Enactment of bills	detailed explanation of the process	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/hco/eob.htm">http://www.cga.ct.gov/hco/eob.htm</a>
Frequently Asked Questions	excellent guide to many resources	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/faqs.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/faqs.pdf</a>
This is Your General Assembly (pdf)	sessions; membership; leaders; committees; How a Bill Becomes a Law; legislative tools; timetable; misc info	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/This_is_Your_General_Assembly.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/This_is_Your_General_Assembly.pdf</a>
Guide to Testifying at a Public Hearing	ground rules for hearings and contact info for legislators	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoiceMatters.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoiceMatters.pdf</a>
How a Bill Becomes a Law (pdf)	1 page graphic of the process	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/html/bill.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/html/bill.pdf</a>
Joining the Debate Video (wmv)	13 min. video version of Guide to Testifying at a Hearing	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/content/Joining_the_Debate.wmv">http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/content/Joining_the_Debate.wmv</a>

3. Click on Legislative References takes you to <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/References.asp>

Click on	To Get	URL
Abbreviations and Acronyms	11 pages of Abbreviations and Acronyms	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/AbbreviationsAcronyms.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/AbbreviationsAcronyms.pdf</a>
Connecticut Legislative Guide	senators & rep. Contact info; committees; staff offices; general info; regulations & rules; 237 pages	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/olm/Guides/Guide/Guide.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/olm/Guides/Guide/Guide.pdf</a>
Reapportionment	links to senate and house districts maps	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/red/asp/Reapportionment.asp">http://www.cga.ct.gov/red/asp/Reapportionment.asp</a>
Rules and Precedents (pdf)	joint, senate, house rules, rulings during sessions	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/html/rulesprecedents.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/html/rulesprecedents.pdf</a>

Joint Rules	joint rules	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/hco/joinrules.htm">http://www.cga.ct.gov/hco/joinrules.htm</a>
Senate Rules	senate rules	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/hco/senaterules.htm">http://www.cga.ct.gov/hco/senaterules.htm</a>
House Rules	house rules	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/hco/houserules.htm">http://www.cga.ct.gov/hco/houserules.htm</a>
Terms and Definitions	legislative terms	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/LegislativeTerms.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/LegislativeTerms.pdf</a>

4. Click on Session Information takes you to <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/LegInfo.asp>

Click on	To Get	URL
committee assignments	lists members of committees	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/Bul/SupDoc/comassignment.htm">http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/Bul/SupDoc/comassignment.htm</a>
committee deadlines	deadlines for committee actions	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/lco/XLS/Committee_Deadlines_Current_Year.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/lco/XLS/Committee_Deadlines_Current_Year.pdf</a>
Leadership and Reference	Lists of legis. Leadership, offices & phone numbers	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/Bul/SupDoc/leadership.htm">http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/Bul/SupDoc/leadership.htm</a>
2007 OFA Budget Book	the current budget (595 pages)	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/documents/ofabudget/2007/book/Contents.pdf">http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/documents/ofabudget/2007/book/Contents.pdf</a>
Legislative information download	downloadable bill info, legislator database	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/legdownload.asp">http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/legdownload.asp</a>
Bulletins	Daily bulletins with reference info, schedules	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/ClerkDocList.ASP?house=X&amp;doc_type=bul">http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/ClerkDocList.ASP?house=X&amp;doc_type=bul</a>
Committee Action Reports	weekly list of actions in committees	<a href="http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/ClerkDocList.ASP?house=H&amp;doc_type=car">http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/ClerkDocList.ASP?house=H&amp;doc_type=car</a>



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Sierra Club, Connecticut Chapter  
2008 Session Legislative Priorities

**Right to Dry**

Prohibit restrictions on the use of clotheslines, to enable an individual's ability to save energy (and money), reduce fossil fuel use, and minimize CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

HB 5596 AAC The Right To Dry

**Bottle Bill**

Expand the existing deposit on carbonated beverages to include water in order to enhance recycling rates.

SB357 An Act Concerning The Expansion Of The Beverage Container Redemption Provisions To Include Water Bottles

**Green Buildings**

Restoration of the 2% reimbursement increase for building green schools.  
Provide corporate tax credits for building green

HB 5798 An Act Establishing A Tax Credit For Green Buildings

**Face of Connecticut**

Provide significant, stable, multi-year funding for purchase of open space, farmland, historic preservation, urban redevelopment.

HB 5873 AAC the Face of Connecticut Steering Committee and the Preservation of Farmland

**Energy**

Establish a statewide carbon cap program to reduce emissions from every source within the state.

HB 5600 AAC Connecticut Global Warming Solutions

Create a Dept. Of Energy

HB 5787 AAC Connecticut's Economic, Energy and Climate Security

**Farmland Preservation**

Provide funding for farmland preservation, (see Face of CT)

Provide support for the dairy industry.

SB 5136 An Act Concerning Dairy Farm Protection

SB 632 AAC Assistance For Dairy Farmers

**Toxics**

Reduce the presence of toxins in our environment; establish an Institute to provide research and communication with similar entities in other states.

SB 343 AAC Safe Products For Children

SB 527 AA Prohibiting Certain Harmful Chemicals in Children's Products and

Banning the Sale of Recalled Products.

HB 5601 AA Banning Children's Products containing Lead, Phthalates or

Bisphenol-A

HB 5805 AAC Toxic Substances

## **Water**

Establish 100' buffer around rivers

SB362 AAC Riverfront Protection

Start long range water resources planning

SB 431 AAC Long-range Planning For Water Resources

Protect wetlands from construction projects

HB 5603 AAC Enhancements to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act

Protect lands around drinking water supplies

HB 5903 An Act Concerning Drinking Water

## **Pesticides**

Expand the ban on school pesticides to day care facilities.

SB370 AAC Pesticide Applications at Day Care Centers

## **Healthy Schools**

Strengthen the requirements for school inspections for mold and toxins. Provide funding for school HVAC remediation.

Require schools to use environmentally friendly cleaning supplies

HB 5464 AAC Incentives For Schools And Municipal Buildings To Use Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Supplies

## **Transportation**

Enhance non-vehicular access, prioritize bikeways.

SB299 An Act Concerning Bicycle Access And Safety

## **Clean Air**

Expand vehicle anti-idling prohibitions from a DEP agency infraction to a violation of state law.

SB 123 AA Prohibiting the Idling of Motor Vehicles

## **Environmental Justice**

Require identification of over-burdened communities.

SB 118 AAC Environmental Justice

HB 5145 AAC Environmentally Stressed and Environmental Justice Communities

## **Sprawl**

Multi year campaign to reduce reliance on tax structure, strengthen regional governance and cooperation, increase state aid to towns, add resources for state-level planning.

SB39 AAC Responsible Growth

## **Green Jobs**

Promote a green jobs training program at the state technical colleges.

HB 5686 An Act Concerning Training For Green Industries

## **Recycling and Solid Waste**

Promote recycling, give DEP more responsibility for planning and enforcement, public education, study alternate programs.

HB 5138 An Act Concerning Private, Municipal And State Recycling

Require recycling in schools

SB 611An Act Concerning Recycling Programs In Schools

Reduce use of plastic bags.

HB 5717 An Act Banning Retail Use Of Plastic Bags

## **Litter**

Prohibit Billboards on state property

SB44 AAC Outdoor Advertising

## What Can You do

Find your legislator

[www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org)

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/maps/townlist.asp>

House Districts

Give your legislator a constituent message

email

letter

phone

Educate your parents

Make a flier, distribute it to your neighbors,  
tell them to contact their legislators

Form a group with your friends

Work with organizations such as Sierra which do legislation

Write a letter to the editor of the paper

Talk to reporters

New Haven Register

New Haven Independent

New Haven Advocate

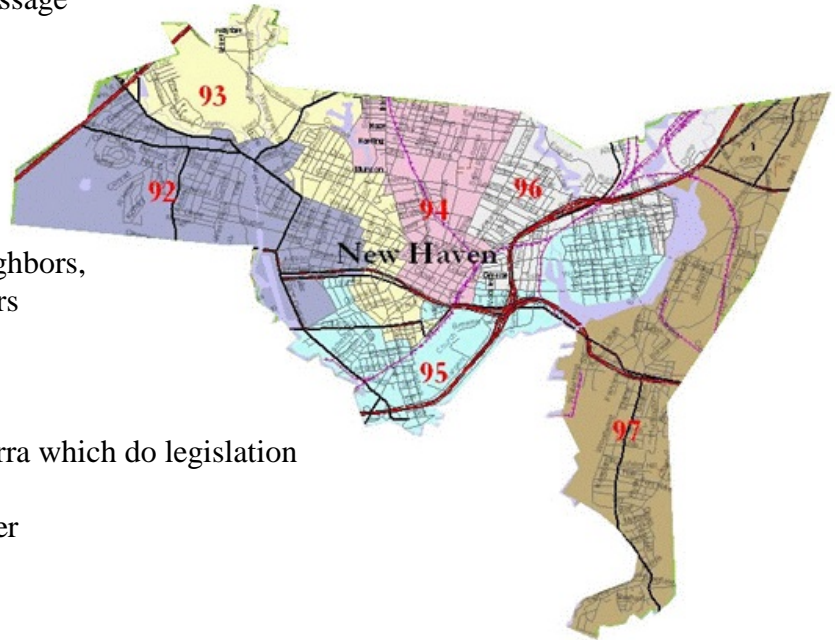
Radio Stations

Do a presentation in school

Get other organizations involved

Do some issue research

**VOTE!**



Senate Districts



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Remember: legislators are depending on you to help them get it right



General Assembly

**Raised Bill No. 611**

February Session, 2008

LCO No. 2552

\*02552\_\_\_\_\_ED\_\*

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:

(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and implement a recycling plan at each school under the board's jurisdiction. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, provision of a sufficient number of recycling receptacles and a requirement for appropriate disposal of recyclable materials.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To require recycling programs at schools.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline,



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Citizen Guide

Raised H.B. No. 5596  
**Session Year 2008**

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AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO DRY.

To facilitate energy conservation.

Introduced by: Energy and Technology Committee

New today

2-4 days old

5 days & older

[Text of Bill](#)

[Raised Bill \[pdf\]](#)

[Committee Actions](#)

[ET Vote Tally Sheet \[pdf\]](#)

[Add Notes to HB-5596](#)

Bill History (in reverse chronological order)

Date		Action Taken
3/14/2008	(LCO)	Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis 03/19/08 5:00 PM
3/6/2008	(ET)	Joint Favorable Substitute
3/6/2008	(LCO)	Filed with Legislative Commissioners' Office
2/22/2008		Public Hearing 02/28
2/21/2008		Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology

Co-sponsors of HB-5596

Rep. Bryan Hurlburt, 53rd Dist.  
Rep. Elissa T. Wright, 41st Dist.

[Click for Bills Similar to HB-5596](#)

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