Each legislative session a handful of big topics dominate press coverage. This year, it was the promise of a bipartisan budget and tax relief, and perennial topics such as aid-in-dying (it didn’t advance) and electric rate relief (nothing particularly meaningful happened.)

Of course, General Assembly members do—and did—much more than debate the topics that make for top-of-the-fold newspaper coverage. A few hundred bills made it through the process, most in bipartisan votes. I thought I’d highlight just a few of them for you while also providing a couple of resources where you can find more information.

One Public Act, 23-106, expands a program that allows a judge to order the type of GPS monitoring of an offender that will notify law enforcement if that individual comes within a certain distance of the victim. The legislation also prohibits a perpetrator of family violence from receiving alimony from a victim.

Another, Special Act 23-30, deals with catalytic converter thefts, and requires, the state’s DMV and its Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection must enter into agreements with authorities in surrounding states to develop a regional approach to combating the problem which often involves the sales of stolen converters to out-of-state dealers and nefarious actors. While I also contend greater accountability for the thieves themselves should be a focus, targeting those who buy them is an important part of the equation.

CT residents who follow school board business closely know that education-related mandates handed down by the state, well-intended as they may be, can cause headaches for local officials—particularly when they come without funding. Public Act 23-160 creates a working group to perform an overdue review of mandates on local school districts. Additionally, this bill includes two provisions pulled from proposals I supported: studying the development of a virtual education program for students who, for health-related reasons, cannot be in a traditional classroom setting; and, requiring that curriculum approved by school districts be viewable by parents upon request.

Through Public Act 23-161, individuals such as broker-dealers and investment advisors, as well as financial institutions, to take action to protect funds of a senior citizen that is believed to be financially exploited. The bill provides “good Samaritan” protection for qualified individuals for good-faith actions meant to protect the senior citizen.

The state’s nonpartisan Office of Legislative Research (OLR) has just released its customary report that briefly highlights some of the actions taken by the General Assembly this year. You can find that document as well as a link to all the new Public Acts posted on my website, repcandelora.com.

Here in Connecticut, we’re blessed to have a robust set of online resources that allow citizens to track what’s happening in state government—including the General Assembly’s website, cga.ct.gov. If you have questions about anything you find there, any of the bills I’ve mentioned above, or Acts described in the new OLR report, don’t hesitate to contact my office by calling 860-240-8700 or via email at vincent.candelora@housegop.ct.gov.

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