

A PROCLAMATION FROM HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, I signed bipartisan legislation unanimously passed by the General Assembly suspending Connecticut's excise tax on motor vehicle fuels tax applicable to gasoline and gasohol and suspending bus fares from April 1 to June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2022, I signed legislation continuing the suspensions described in the preceding whereas clause through November 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the suspensions provide relief to Connecticut residents as they face rising prices at the gas pump due to the war in Ukraine, international inflation, and other market instabilities that go far beyond Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, prompt action by the General Assembly is necessary to ensure that the suspensions do not expire on December 1, 2022 and that they continue to provide relief to Connecticut residents while gradually phasing out in a fiscally responsible manner to ensure continued access to funds to maintain our roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2022, I signed legislation establishing the Connecticut Premium Pay program to provide payments for eligible essential workers; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Premium Pay program provides well-deserved assistance to essential workers that were on the frontlines of providing health care and childcare during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, demand for the Connecticut Premium Pay program has exceeded the monies allocated for the program in the state budget; and

WHEREAS, prompt action by the General Assembly is necessary to address the increased demand for the Connecticut Premium Pay program by allocating additional monies to the Premium Pay program; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2022, Eversource and United Illuminating filed with Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ("PURA") their new rates for standard service, which is one component of the residential electric bill. The new standard service supply rates are likely to almost double, which means the total residential electric rates for Connecticut utilities will significantly increase; and

WHEREAS, the average price of heating oil in Connecticut is significantly higher than a year ago; and

WHEREAS, prompt action by the General Assembly is necessary to address anticipated higher energy costs during the upcoming winter months by allocating additional monies to the Department of Social Services to supplement heat and utility assistance for households eligible for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program and to pass legislation directing the PURA to earmark a portion of certain fines to a nonprofit agency engaged in energy assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2021, I signed legislation concerning solid waste management which amongst other changes expanded the list of beverages subject to the state's bottle bill; and

WHEREAS, that part of the legislation addressing an expansion of containers covered under the law is effective January 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, small store owners who have been hit especially hard by the pandemic and rising prices over the past year currently have inventory on their shelves which is not properly labeled and will not be in compliance with the January 1, 2023 statutory changes; and

WHEREAS, prompt action by the legislature is necessary to ensure that retailers, especially small business owners, can continue to sell their existing inventories of beverage containers after January 1, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me under Article III of the Amendments to the Constitution of Connecticut and Section 2-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I, find and declare that there exists a special emergency for the reasons set forth herein and to preserve orderly and decent government, do hereby:

Convene the General Assembly in Special Session in Hartford on Monday, November 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to pass legislation continuing the suspension of bus fares and the motor vehicle fuels tax as it pertains to gasoline and gasohol set to expire on December 1, 2022, addressing the demand for the Connecticut Premium Pay program by allocating additional monies to the program, providing relief to Connecticut consumers impacted by increased energy costs by allocating additional monies to the Department of Social Services to supplement heat and utility assistance for households eligible for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program and directing PURA to earmark certain fines to a nonprofit agency engaged in energy assistance programs, as well as providing relief to retailers, especially small business owners, by allowing them to sell existing inventory of certain beverage containers after January 1, 2023.

Given under my hand and Seal of the State at the City of Hartford, this 23rd day of November in the year two thousand and twenty-two.



Ned Lamont
Governor