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Ban On Teen Drinking Parties, 100 More Laws Hit Books

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HARTFORD, Conn. -- The first day of October has ushered in more than 100 new state laws or sections of laws that address everything from teen drinking parties to child welfare cases.

Starting Sunday, it is illegal for someone to knowingly allow minors to possess alcohol on their private property. The legislation closes a loophole that allowed parents to hold house parties with alcohol for their teens and teenaged friends.

Robert Farr, a candidate for attorney general, commented that this law has been a long time in coming.

Under the law, the first offense is an infraction, but subsequent offenses carry up to a year in prison and a fine of up to \$500, or both. The law also bans minors from possessing alcohol anywhere, instead of only in public places, and adults could get in trouble for not stopping a minor from possessing alcohol, according to NBC 30.

In one highly publicized case, police arrested Farmington parents Dawn and Paul Braccone after they allowed what amounted to a keg party for minors at their home. Police said the Braccones were literally encouraging underage teens to drink at that party, NBC 30 reported.

Another new law requires the Department of Children and Families to notify a child's grandparents if the agency removes that child from parental custody. Lawmakers say the law will help keep families together.

Also starting Sunday, the government will be prohibited, in most cases, from subpoenaing members of the news media to testify, produce or disclose information from confidential sources.

Yet another new law will require that new cars for sale or lease, beginning with the 2009 model year, have labels explaining the level of greenhouse gas emissions.

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