



Assemblymember

Anna Kelles

Assembly District 125



Dear Neighbors,

Town Hall on Aging in Place with AARP: Tuesday, 2/22 at 12PM

Please join me next week for a Town Hall on Aging in Place with AARP on Tuesday, February 22 at 12PM. We will be joined by Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, who will introduce the Accessory Homes Enabling Act (A4854A / S4547A), legislation being proposed in New York to legalize Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), smaller, independent residential dwelling units located on the same lot as stand-alone single-family homes. Sometimes called “granny flats,” ADUs can enable homeowners to provide needed housing for their parents, adult children, grandchildren, or other loved ones. Speakers will include AARP Associate State Director Kristen McManus and AARP Senior Legislative Representative Samar Jha. [Register for the Zoom Town Hall here!](#)



**ADU-Advocacy,
Trends, and
Opportunities**

Town Hall on Aging in Place with
Assemblymember Anna Kelles & AARP

Kristen McManus
Associate State Director
AARP New York

Samar Jha
Senior Legislative Representative
Government Affairs, AARP

FEBRUARY 22, 2022



Legislative Update

This week, the Assembly passed legislation that will authorize temporary and conditional licenses for the cultivation and processing of adult use marijuana, beginning the establishment of the adult use cannabis market ([A.9283](#), Peoples-Stokes).

This legislation would authorize temporary conditional adult use licenses for cultivating and processing in order to establish the adult use cannabis market in a timely manner. Eligible applicants would need to have possessed a valid industrial hemp grower authorization from the Department of Agriculture and Markets as of December 31, 2021, be in good standing, and have grown and harvested hemp for at least two of the last four years. Temporary conditional adult use cultivator licenses would permit licensees to grow cannabis outdoors or in a greenhouse with up to 20 artificial lights. The temporary conditional adult use processor license would permit licensees to manufacture and distribute cannabis products. On [June 1](#), 2023, both conditional cultivators and processors would be required to apply for a distributor license. Both licenses would end on [June 30](#), 2024.

The bill would require that both cultivator and processor licensees participate in a social equity mentorship program as well as an environmental sustainability program, which would help future cultivators and processors who are interested in gaining experience and knowledge from those with industry experience.

In March of last year, New York State passed the [Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act](#) (MRTA), which legalized the adult use of marijuana. As a part of the MRTA, the Office of Cannabis Management was tasked with developing and implementing a social equity plan to ensure that individuals previously harmed by drug laws, minority and women owned businesses (MWBE), distressed farmers and service-disabled veterans are able to participate in the legal cannabis industry.

Community Resources

NYSEG Billing Issues:

We are hearing of widespread concerns with increases on NYSEG bills for local customers. If this issue is affecting you, please complete the following survey:

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE NYSEG BILLING SURVEY](#)

Tax Season Reminders:

Passed as part of the 2021-22 New York State budget, the property tax circuit breaker program provides a tax credit that can help middle-class families save money on their property tax bills. Unlike STAR, the new program is a credit that New Yorkers must claim when they file their income tax returns.



When filing your taxes this year, remember to check if you're eligible for the property tax circuit breaker program.

The new tax credit provides an ***up to \$350 credit*** for homeowners who qualify for STAR, earn less than \$250,000 annually and spend more than 6% of their income on property taxes.

The American Rescue Plan expanded the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit to help more Americans access the benefits they need to thrive. To learn more about these programs and to see if you qualify, visit: www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021 and www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

expanded access to two important tax saving programs for working families



Increased the Child Tax Credit to \$3,600 for children under 6 and \$3,000 for children ages 6-17. Half of the credit was provided in the form of advance payments in 2021 and the remainder of the credit must be claimed on a filer's 2021 taxes.



Expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit by increasing the maximum credit available to \$1,502 with no qualifying children and raising the income eligibility limit. The credit was also expanded to cover eligible workers 65 and older and younger workers ages 19-24 who are not part- or full-time students.

Have a safe and restful weekend!

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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