

June 21, 2019

Greetings –

The 2019 legislative session ended at about 7:00am this morning after 22 straight hours of floor votes and debate. The final week, as is typical, had a stuffed legislative agenda and we accomplished a lot to cap what has been the most progressive legislative session in the history of New York. We fell short on a few important issues that I support like the marijuana regulation and taxation act, ending the practice of solitary confinement, compensated surrogacy legislation and Automatic Voter Registration, but after every session there is always more to do. I look forward to getting back to Brooklyn to continue to work on important issues for our neighborhoods and to prepare for the next legislative session. See below for some legislative highlights from bills we passed this week.

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act:

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, [A.8429](#), Englebright, sets the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 85 percent by 2050, and having net zero emissions in all sectors of the economy. Additionally, the Act requires utilities to purchase 70% of their energy from renewable sources by 2030, which I am proud to note, came from one of my own bills, [A.7832](#).

Additionally, the Act would:

- Require State Department of Environmental Conservation to create a process ensuring that a minimum of 35 percent of investments from clean energy and energy efficiency funds are invested in disadvantaged communities.
- Establish a Climate Justice Working Group, consisting of representatives from environmental justice communities, DEC and the Departments of Health and Labor. The working group would identify disadvantaged communities for the purposes of reducing co-pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions and the allocation of certain investments.
- State agencies would be required to assess and implement strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and to consider the impact on attaining the statewide greenhouse gas emission limits when issuing permits, licenses or other administrative approvals. The bill would also establish a community air monitoring program to benefit disadvantaged communities.
- Additionally, the bill requires that the statewide electrical demand system will be zero emissions by 2040. The measure would spur the procurement of at least nine gigawatts of offshore wind electric generation by 2035, six gigawatts of distributed photovoltaic solar generation by 2025, three gigawatts of statewide energy storage capacity by 2030 and 185 trillion BTUs of end use energy savings below the 2025 energy use forecast.

I proudly co-sponsored this important legislation and am thrilled that New York will now be a national leader to reduce greenhouse emissions in the battle against climate change.

Decriminalization of Marijuana:

The Assembly and Senate passed legislation to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana and expunge the records of those with low-level convictions ([A.8420-A](#), Peoples-Stokes).

Under current law, possession of small amounts of marijuana is punishable only by a fine for the first offense, but once the small amount is open to public view or being burned, it is often charged as a misdemeanor. This bill would eliminate the discrepancy in the law by defining unlawful possession in the first degree as possessing more than one ounce of marijuana, which would result in a maximum of a \$200 fine. Unlawful possession of marijuana in the second degree would result in a maximum of a \$50 fine.

The bill would also ease the burden on New Yorkers, especially people of color who have been disproportionately impacted by current drug laws, who are living with a criminal record as a result of the possession of small amounts of marijuana. This criminal record can make it difficult for people to find gainful employment, housing and obtain other basic services. To rectify that injustice, the legislation would expunge the records of those with certain misdemeanor marijuana related records and or charges. The chief administrator of the courts would also be required to notify the commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services, the heads of all appropriate police departments and law enforcement agencies that the charges and records have been expunged. Additionally the chief administrator of the courts would ensure that no written or electronic report of a criminal history record search conducted by the Office of Court Administration contains information relating to said expunged record.

This measure will help communities that have been directly impacted by marijuana criminalization, addressing the rampant disparity that exists in these drug charges, and will help remove the stigma attached to marijuana.

Legislation to Enable Adoptees to Access Birth Certificate

Both the Assembly and Senate passed legislation that would allow adoptees to obtain a certified copy of their birth certificate ([A.5494](#), Weprin).

Under the bill, adult adoptees 18 years and older would be able to receive a certified copy of their original long form birth certificate. If the adoptee is deceased, the adopted person's direct line of descendants, the lawful representative of such adopted person or lawful representatives of such deceased adopted person's direct line of descendants would be able to receive the birth certificate of the adoptee. Current law requires that original birth certificates be placed under seal and not accessible without a judicial proceeding, which does not guarantee that the adoptee will be given access.

This is a piece of legislation that I have supported for the past three years, since I met a constituent of mine named Tim Monti-Wohlpart, who educated me on the issue and demonstrated to me that this issue should be treated as a human and civil right. Everyone should have the opportunity to know where they come from so that they can self actualize and gain access to their medical history. This bill accomplishes that.

[View my remarks from floor here:](#)



Prime-Sponsored Legislation:

In addition to the legislation listed above and a number of other bills that I support which are on the Governor's desk, I am also proud that five of my own pieces of legislation passed both the Assembly and Senate this week as well.

- [A.4751-A](#): Requires the commissioner of Motor Vehicles to suspend the license of a driver who the Department has received evidence of loss of consciousness.
- [A.8318](#): Increases the statute of limitations from 3 years to 6 years for certain crimes related to fraudulent practices in respect to stocks, bonds and other securities.
- [A.7835-A](#): Directs the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to study and report on potentially hazardous structures and storage areas under elevated train tracks, and its commuter notification system.
- [A3360](#): Ensures candidates are promptly notified of potential campaign compliance deficiencies by allowing for 1st Class instead of certified mail for notices.
- [A.3543](#): Authorizes consolidation of certain voting districts with a small number of eligible voters; such district must have fewer than ten eligible voters.

Upcoming Community Calendar:

Community Board 12 Monthly Meeting

Amico Senior Citizens Center

5901 13th Ave, 3rd Floor

Tuesday, June 25

7pm

Open to community members. The CB 12 board meeting is typically scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

70nd Precinct Sector B NCO meeting, Midwood area

Flatbush YMCA (1401 Flatbush Ave)

Tuesday, June 25

7:00PM to 8:00PM

[Neighborhood Coordination Officers](#), or NCOs, are your local problem solvers. They spend all their working hours within the confines of their assigned sectors, actively engaging with local community members and residents. They get to know the neighborhood, its people, and its problems extremely well. PO Rakhmanov and PO David Yegros, the NCOs for Sector B, will provide a neighborhood update and respond to questions and concerns from residents.

78th Precinct Community Council

78th Precinct

65 6th Avenue

Tuesday, June 25

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [78th Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the last Tuesday of each month.

70th Precinct Community Council

ADAPT Community Network

175 Lawrence Avenue

Wednesday, June 26

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [70th Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the last Wednesday of each month.

See you around the neighborhood,

Bobby

Assemblymember Robert Carroll

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