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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

[Medication Sync Legislation](#)

Did you know that over 50% of medications are not taken properly at all? Better yet do you know that government plans such as Medicare Part D strive to reach a goal of patients taking medications with an adherence rate of 80% yet often times patients do not meet those goals? Worse yet, we all know that we have a very expensive health care system with poor outcomes which is in part due to what is mentioned above – poor medication adherence.

Well, the good news is that the Governor has the ability in the coming weeks to help correct that issue by signing two bills into law that were passed by the Assembly and Senate to help patients with adherence. They are collectively called the Medication Sync bills however there are two bills listed here for your review. The bills below are intended for pharmacists and prescribers to work with patients so that they can have their prescriptions filled all at one time per month. The goal is to make sure patients do not go without medications especially since access to pharmacies, especially for the ill and elderly is becoming more of an issue as pharmacies, chain and independent, are closing throughout the country.

To learn more about this legislation read my [full blog piece here](#)

[2019 108th District Constituent Survey](#)

Please take a few moments to complete our 2019 108th District Constituent Survey! Your survey responses help guide my work as your representative in the New York State Assembly. I look forward to receiving your input since I rely on it when voting on measures, sponsoring and supporting legislation, and prioritizing funding in the budget process.

The fourth question in this year's survey is:

Labor protections for “gig economy” workers (such as Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Grubhub workers) are currently pending in the state of California and are being discussed here in New York. Gig economy workers are generally treated as independent contractors because of the nature of the work and services provided. In the California legislation, there were exemptions for some professions. Should gig employees be classified as independent contractors or as employees?

Complete this question and the full survey [here!](#)

[New Laws Taking Effect – December 2019](#)

We pass many important laws in the state Assembly. Please find highlights below of legislation signed into law by the governor.

New Laws Taking Effect – December 2019			
Effective Date	Chapter Number	Bill Number	Summary
12/1/2019	Ch. 59 of 2019 Part UU	A.2009-C S.1509-C	Requires a certificate of registration in order to sell vaping products, assesses a 20 percent tax on vaping products and adds revenue from the tax to the Health Care Reform Act resource fund.
12/2/2019	Ch. 243 of 2019	A.6968-A S.2958-A	Requires information on concussions and sub-concussive blows to be provided to all parents of children playing tackle football.
12/4/2019	Ch. 246 of 2019	A.2078-A S.4019-A	Prohibits companies from charging early termination fees on motor vehicle lease contracts if a customer dies before the end of the contract.
12/8/2019	Ch. 448 of 2019	A.2166 S.4888	Requires agencies to publish contract information in the procurement opportunities newsletter, including the date the contract is awarded and the recipient's contact information.
12/12/2019	Ch. 310 of 2019	A.7939 S.6475	Requires the probation department to consider views of the victim and the impact on the community of diverting a juvenile delinquency case for programming instead of prosecution.
12/14/2019	Ch. 37 of 2019	A.3675-B S.1747-B	Allows the DMV to issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants who have passed a road test and protects the data of those applying for such a license from unwarranted release of their

			personal information.
12/15/2019	Ch. 409 of 2019	A.112A S.3145A	Provides clear instructions for voters if there are ballot proposals on a two-sided ballot.
12/15/2019	Ch. 412 of 2019	A.111 S.3140	Provides for local boards of elections to calculate and publish on their websites by April 15, the contribution limits for all county, town, city and village offices on the ballot in that year.
12/15/2019	Ch. 416 of 2019	A.1641 S.3903	Eliminates the \$1,000 filing threshold in order to require all candidates or their authorized committees to electronically file with the New York State Board of Elections (BOE). Also ends the requirement that local and county candidates file with county boards as they will file with the state BOE.
12/15/2019	Ch. 440 of 2019	A.6714 S.5475	Ensures that those appointed as members of the Committee to Receive Notices on an Opportunity to Ballot petition have the same access to judicial relief as candidates.
12/15/2019	Ch. 530 of 2019	A.3360 S.6450	Requires deficiency notices mailed by the compliance unit within the Board of Elections to be mailed first class.
12/21/2019	Ch. 183 of 2019	A.6292 S.4087	Enacts the Pension Poaching Prevention Act to prevent financial planners, insurance agents and other professionals from luring veterans and their family members to pay substantial funds for veterans' benefits services that the offering entity is unqualified to provide and that can detrimentally impact the future financial situations of the veteran and his or her dependents.
12/22/2019	Ch.385 of 2019	A.916 S.5945	Requires the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to provide an inmate, upon his or her discharge, with educational information about the prevention of HIV, instructions about how to obtain free HIV testing and referrals to community-based HIV prevention, education and counseling resources.
12/22/2019	Ch. 399 of 2019	A.569 S.2714	Provides that local social services districts provide information to kinship caregivers about child-only grants, becoming a kinship foster parent and other options for care, as well as contact information for the Department of Family Assistance and other local resources.
12/28/2019	Ch. 227 of 2019	A.7906A S.5692A	Provides for restricted clinical laboratory licenses for individuals employed in a Department of Health authorized toxicology laboratory.
12/28/2019	Ch. 421 of 2019	A.218 S.3972	Ensures that when the assessment of a property making payments in lieu of taxes is challenged

			through the grievance process, any reduction in payments in lieu of taxes made to a school district resulting from such challenge shall not take effect until the following taxable status year.
12/31/2019	Ch. 54 of 2016 Part K	A.9006-C S.6406-C	Increases the minimum wage as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15 in New York City for businesses with 10 or less employees; • \$13 in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties; and • \$11.80 for the rest of New York State.
12/31/2019	Ch. 56 of 2019 Part L	A.2006-C S.1506-C	Increases the standards of monthly need for Medicaid recipients who are 65 and older, have disabilities or are blind.

DISTRICT NEWS

[2020 Census Jobs](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count.

They are hiring for a variety of temporary jobs, including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff, and supervisory staff.

For more information or to apply for a job visit <https://2020census.gov/jobs>. Recruiting locations are available to help with the application process! For more information check out [this flyer](#)

[Empire State Plaza Ice Rink Now Open](#)

The Empire State Plaza Ice Rink is now open! The rink is open daily 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. For more information visit <https://empirestateplaza.ny.gov/ice-rink>

[Financial Literacy Workshops](#)

Capital Region BOCES and SEFCU's Financial Education team are hosting an upcoming financial literacy workshops in December. This workshop will focus on fraud prevention and will take place on **Thursday, December 12 from 5:30-7 p.m.** at the West Hill/Arbor Hill Literacy Zone 388 Clinton Ave Albany, NY 12206

The event is open to all members of the community at no cost to the participants. However, attendees are asked to contact Literacy Zone Coordinator Cody Netzbund at 518-694-4567 to

reserve a spot (space is limited). See the [event flyer here](#) for more details.

[Student Loan Protection Event](#)

Join me for a presentation by The Department of Financial Services along with SUNY Empire State College on how New York is taking action to protect 2.8 million student borrowers from abusive practices in the student lending and servicing industry and holding unscrupulous lenders accountable for deceptive practices.

The presentation will take place on **Friday, December 13th**, 2019 at 10 a.m. at SUNY Empire State College – Room 143 113 West Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. For more information check out [this flyer](#).

IN THE NEWS

[Robocall Prevention Legislation](#)

I was pleased to support [this legislation](#). The bill signed by the Governor today is effective in 90 days and we will work to share information on how best to prevent future robocalls.

What is frustrating from a business perspective is that robocalling has gotten so out of hand that most customers just hesitate to pick up the phone when it rings even if from a known number due to spoofing. Let's hope this loophole closure helps otherwise we will have to rely more and more on texting which is never easy with those who work in healthcare.

LIBRARY NEWS

Check out the event calendars from your local public library for activities and programs happening this December at the links below:

[Albany Public Libraries](#)

[Cohoes Public Library](#)

[North Greenbush Library](#)

[Rensselaer Public Library](#)

[Troy Public Library](#)

[Waterford Public Library](#)

[Watervliet Public Library](#)