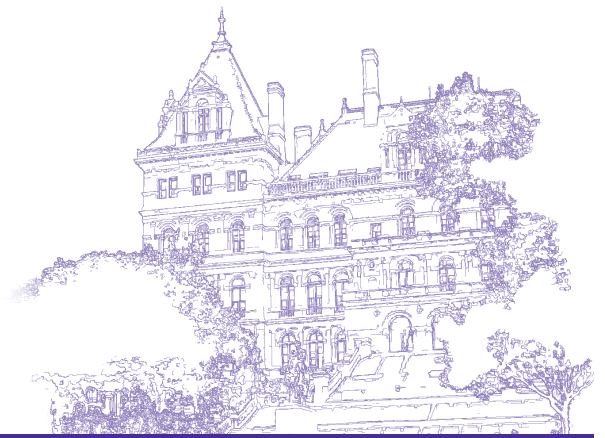


Assemblyman  
**JEFFRION L. AUBRY**  
*Reports to the People*

**35<sup>TH</sup> A.D. • QUEENS COUNTY  
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**



## SESSION 2013...AN OVERVIEW

Dear Neighbor,

As your representative of the 35th Assembly District, I am pleased to inform you of the legislature's accomplishments this past session. The 2013 state legislative session proved again that New York State has turned the corner toward building a brighter future for our state. Working together with Governor Cuomo, we passed legislation that will boost our economy, create jobs, and cut taxes. We also fought for equal rights, successfully restored funding to protect our most vulnerable citizens, and raised the minimum wage.

This year marked the state's third consecutive on-time budget. The fiscal plan makes a commitment to putting more money in the pockets of working families by extending a middle-class personal income tax reduction for three more years, locking in the lowest rate in 60 years. New York will also have a more tax-friendly environment for our businesses. We created a tax credit for businesses that hire veterans—helping those who have heroically served our country find good employment when they complete their military service. The Workers' Compensation program and Unemployment Insurance system have been reformed, immediately saving businesses \$446.5 million annually. Furthermore, the legislature passed and the Governor has signed a measure to create the SUNY Tax-free Areas to Revitalize and Transform Upstate NY (START-UP NY/Chapter 68). This program designates tax-free zones for eligible businesses near SUNY and CUNY campuses—as well as private colleges and universities to foster job creation.

This legislative session the Assembly worked diligently to implement policies that benefit our economy, neighborhoods, families and schools; in doing so, we have witnessed the passage of many significant pieces of legislation. Most notably, the legislature passed and the Governor signed the most comprehensive gun safety law in the country. We assisted New Yorkers in rebuilding from the devastating effects of Superstorm Sandy and created a \$1 billion affordable housing program to preserve and create 14,300 affordable housing units; a measure that will create jobs and stabilize distressed areas. Additionally, we passed laws that: prohibit smoking on all New York playgrounds; deter distracted driving; strengthen regulations on DWI's and punish drivers who violate speed limits in school zones.

These legislative accomplishments reflect the Assembly's commitment to the people of New York. We have once again proven the strength of the democratic process and we look to next year to further improve the conditions of our communities, cities, and state. It continues to be my pleasure to represent you, the people of the 35th Assembly District.

Sincerely,

Jeffrion L. Aubry  
Member of Assembly  
35th A.D., Queens County



*Assemblyman Aubry greets students from P.S. 127Q Aerospace and Science Academy of East Elmhurst on the historic Million Dollar Staircase in New York State's Capitol building in Albany. Ninety teachers, parents, and students converged on Albany to tour the State Capitol and for an educational learning experience in state government with their legislative representative, Assemblyman Aubry.*

### ASSEMBLYMAN AUBRY'S SPONSORED LEGISLATION

- Governor Cuomo signs Aubry-sponsored U.S. Tennis Association Bill into law (A.7826/Chapter 338)

This summer, Governor Cuomo signed legislation that Assemblyman Aubry sponsored approving the U.S. Tennis Association's plans to expand its flagship center in Queens. This legislation provides for a nearly one-acre boundary expansion of the entire complex and a return to the New York Department of Parks of 1.56 acres of land for public recreational use. Expansion of the complex is expected to create approximately 800 construction jobs and an additional 776 full-time jobs for Queens residents over a 10-year period.

The planned improvements include:

- A new row of tennis courts;
- The addition of a fenced and landscaped border area to improve spectator safety and circulation;
- New positioning for the grandstand stadium; and
- Out-of-date infrastructure will be repaired and upgraded, and public plazas and promenades will be expanded to accommodate up to 10,000 additional fans per day during U.S. Open tournaments.

This expansion will secure the excitement and tradition of world class tennis in our community and state as a whole. It will not only improve the tennis experience for both fans and competitors, but it also will enhance the economic impact of the U.S. Open and the National Tennis Center, both of which are proven revenue generators and a benefit to the city's economy.

## • Interstate Compact for Juveniles (A.4105/Chapter 335) (2011 Law Extended)

The Interstate Compact for Juveniles law, which was signed into law two years ago, has been extended for two more years. This legislation provides universal guidelines for juvenile justice professionals across the country. Without the Compact in place, law enforcement agencies would have limited jurisdiction to return youths who have run away, escaped custody, or violated the terms of their probation/parole by crossing state lines. Full implementation of the Compact will promote public safety and protect both juvenile offenders and victims, while providing law enforcement and court systems with procedural clarity when dealing with minors from other states.

## LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW 2013

### • Putting a Brake on Distracted Driving (A.7739/Chapter 91)

The Assembly has passed a law to improve highway safety and help steer new and young drivers towards safer driving practices. The legislation increases penalties for texting and using a cell phone while driving for people who have permits and junior or probationary licenses. The first violation would result in a 60-day suspension. For a second conviction within

six months of restoration, probationary drivers would have their license revoked for 6 months and junior license holders would have their permit or license revoked for an additional 60 days. In addition, this year fines were increased for violations of cell phone and texting laws for all drivers- imposing 5 points on the driver's license for those found guilty.

### • Cracking Down on DWI (A.2285/Chapter 169)

To increase compliance with interlock breathalyzer installation, this law would increase the time period that the interlock must be installed following a drunk-driving conviction from six months to one year. This law also requires offenders who claim they do not own a car and will not operate any vehicle during the one-year period to do so under oath in court. These steps are necessary to strengthen the existing laws and help prevent drunk-driving tragedies. This law took effect July 26.

### • Giving Homeowners Greater Protection from Lenders (A.5582-A/Chapter 306)

Unfortunately, too many hardworking homeowners are subjected to foreclosures, which are, at times, unfair and baseless. Thanks to a new law passed by the Legislature, New Yorkers will now be better protected from careless foreclosure proceedings which could lead to the loss of their homes. The new state law requires lenders to submit a Certificate of Merit at the time they foreclose on a property, proving they actually own the mortgage. The Certificate of Merit will ensure well-founded cases promptly move into the courts and eliminate cases without merit. The lender and homeowner will be required to enter settlement conferences within 60 days of the initial filing. With access to housing counseling and free legal services, homeowners will be better protected in court.

### • Stomping Out Smoking on Playgrounds (A.4025/Chapter 102)

To protect our children on playgrounds from the harmful effects of cigarette smoke, the Assembly passed a law that bans smoking on all playgrounds in New York State.

### • High-Tech Cameras to Help Crack Down on NYC Speeders (A.4327-A/Chapter 189)

The Assembly has passed legislation to help clamp down on motorists who violate speed limits in school speed zones with state of the art, speed sensitive technology that will capture images of speeding vehicles so tickets can be issued to the owners. This bill will help us increase the overall safety of our streets and especially protect children, who are particularly vulnerable to speeding drivers. The legislation authorizes the city to establish a five-year demonstration program for the installation of speed cameras in up to 20 school speed zones throughout the five boroughs.

### • Dept. of Environmental Conservation Required to Notify any Community Board in NYC of any New Brownfield Site Clean-ups (A.5990-A/Chapter 266)

This law would require the Dept. of Environmental Conservation to notify local community boards within New York City of any new Brownfield site clean-ups. Brownfields are properties, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties protects the environment and can potentially spur local economic growth. A requirement to notify local community boards would give notice to those residing in the vicinity of the Brownfield an opportunity to comment on the planned Brownfield cleanup.

## THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT TAKES EFFECT

For too long, hardworking Americans paid the price for health care that put insurance company profits ahead of patients. The federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) helps give New Yorkers the health security they deserve. The ACA improves health care coverage for all of us and lowers the cost of health care. For many, the coverage will be offered for free or at a reduced cost through tax credits and subsidies that are only available through the New York State of Health exchange. Beginning October 1,

2013, millions of New Yorkers can enroll for health coverage through New York's health benefit exchange—known as the New York State of Health—as part of the ACA. New Yorkers can find important information at [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov), by emailing [exchange@health.state.ny.us](mailto:exchange@health.state.ny.us) or by calling the exchange at **855-355-5777**. Coverage through the exchange takes effect January 1, 2014.

## START-UP NY

### Assembly Passes Measure to Create Tax-Free Zones on Campuses, Reduce Burdensome Regulations and Enhance the Excelsior Jobs Program

The Assembly helped in passing a law that would create the SUNY Tax-free Areas to Revitalize and Transform Upstate NY (START-UP NY) program (A.8113/Chapter 68). This program will also designate tax-free zones for eligible businesses near SUNY and CUNY campuses—as well as private colleges and universities—to foster job creation. Additionally, the measure reduces burdensome regulations for businesses and enhances the Excelsior Jobs Program, which provides investment incentives to businesses in strategic industries such as manufacturing, high-tech and clean energy.

Eligible businesses will have all state taxes waived for 10 years. These taxes would include sales tax, business or corporate tax, MTA mobility tax, franchise fee, and all other taxes and fees associated with businesses. Businesses located in a tax-free area on a SUNY, CUNY, or community college campus would pay no property tax. Additionally, employees working in the qualifying business' tax-free zone would not have to pay income taxes for five years and employees up to a certain income level would pay no income tax for an additional five years. The number of new jobs that can apply for the income tax benefits cannot exceed 10,000 jobs annually.

#### The Measure Will:

- Establish Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses and prevailing wage requirements for construction projects on state and public campus land;
- Ensure local zoning rules apply to tax-free areas located on off-campus property;
- Encourage college consultations with the municipality where land located off-campus is under consideration for a project;
- Make sure contracts for projects on CUNY campuses comply with article 9 of the labor law (prevailing wage for service workers);
- Allow for project labor agreements (PLA) to be used for projects at SUNY/CUNY and the 20 strategic sites; and
- Ensure businesses comply with all applicable worker protection and environmental laws and regulations.

## ADDRESSING UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES IN URBAN AREAS

In an effort to address unemployment in urban areas, we also renewed the Inner City Youth Employment Program through 2017. The program provides \$24 million in tax credits over four years for employers who hire unemployed youth 16 to 24 years of age who reside in eligible cities. The program and tax credit is available to employers in the clean energy, health care, advanced manufacturing, and conservation industries. Eligible employers will receive up to \$4,000 per employee if they retain the workers for an entire year.



Congressman Joseph Crowley and Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry host their "Back to School" school supply giveaway event at Elmcor Youth and Adult Activities Inc.



Coach Christopher Asante, with the first place winners (age 12 and under division) of the annual Queens Library Basketball Tournament. This tournament takes place every year and enlists the participation of many talented young boys across the district.

## LEGALIZATION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR SERIOUSLY ILL PATIENTS



Many who have witnessed a loved one go through the excruciatingly painful effects of a life-threatening illness like cancer or multiple sclerosis understand the importance of having medical marijuana as a treatment option. This is why the Assembly has passed legislation that would allow seriously ill patients to use medical marijuana to alleviate some of the pain caused by debilitating and life-threatening illnesses (A.6357). Additionally, the bill would require that medical marijuana be tracked under the new I-STOP law—New York's real-time prescription-drug database—ensuring that the certified treatment is administered in a safe and responsible manner. The Assembly is dedicated to ensuring that this bill becomes law in the upcoming legislative session as we understand that such a measure would improve the quality of life for thousands of New Yorkers suffering from serious ailments.

# NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE HOMEOWNERS RECEIVING STAR TAX BREAK

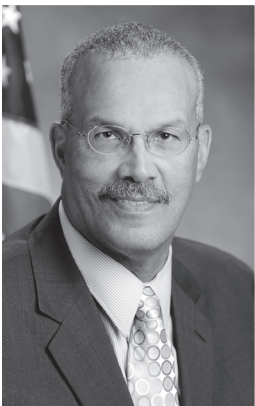
Must Apply to Maintain Exemption by December 31st

STAR is a School Tax Relief program that exempts a portion of the value of a home from school property taxes. The amount depends upon the age and income of the homeowners and applies only to primary or main residences. As the STAR program continues to provide vital tax relief to homeowners across the state, new provisions have been made to make the program even more effective—however, Basic STAR recipients must remember to take action so they don't miss out on future savings.

- Seniors who receive Enhanced STAR will be exempt from the new requirements and will not need to register to continue participation in the program.
- Enhanced STAR recipients must continue to apply annually, or participate in the Income Verification Program like they have in the past.
- First-time applicants are not affected by this year's registration procedure and must file Form RP-425, Application for School Tax Relief Exemption, with their local assessor.

All homeowners receiving the Basic STAR benefit (available on the primary residence of homeowners who earn less than \$500,000) need to register with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance to continue receiving exemptions in 2014 and subsequent years. Registration begins Aug. 19 and continues through Dec. 31. The tax department will mail instructions—including a STAR code necessary for registration—to all homeowners who currently receive the Basic STAR exemption. The fastest and easiest way for homeowners to register starting August 19 is through the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance's website at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov). Registration and support is also available over the phone by calling 518-457-2036.

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- Assemblyman Aubry's Sponsored Legislation
  - Legislation Signed Into Law 2013
  - The Affordable Care Act Takes Effect
    - START-UP NY
  - Legalization of Medical Marijuana for Seriously Ill Patients
  - New Requirements for Homeowners Receiving STAR Tax Break