

Assemblyman

**Fred W. Thiele, Jr.**



**Reports to the People**

Summer 2022

## 2022 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 Legislative Session brought forth many accomplishments for the 1st Assembly District. I was proud to be the prime sponsor of 32 bills that passed both Houses of the Legislature.

Highlights include:

### **Helping Fire Departments Recruit and Retain Volunteers (Chap. 335 of the Laws of 2022)**

Legislation I sponsored that was signed into law by the Governor enables the Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Task Force, established in 2020, to continue its work making recommendations to improve volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention efforts. A final report is expected by the end of the year.

### **Recognizing Southampton Volunteer Ocean Rescue (Chap. 419 of the Laws of 2022)**

One of my local priority bills approved by the Governor provides for the designation of the Southampton Village Ocean Rescue (SVOR) as an emergency rescue and first aid squad. This special act provides official State recognition of the life-saving services carried out by SVOR and allows members to display green lights on motor vehicles when responding to an emergency. Similar legislation was approved for East Hampton Volunteer Ocean Rescue in 2020.

### **Affordable Housing on the East End Within Reach (Chap. 445 of the Laws of 2021)**

Last year I authored a new law authorizing each of the five East End Towns to establish a Community Housing Fund. This measure would generate more than \$20 million a year to assist local residents and allow local employers and emergency service agencies to hire and retain employees and volunteers by providing affordable housing opportunities. It would also help to alleviate traffic congestion on the East End. This November, residents of those towns wishing to move forward will have the opportunity to vote on whether a Community Housing Fund will be created.

### **Expanded Opportunities for the Aquaculture Industry (A.9938)**

Legislation that authorizes leases for seaweed farming, including kelp, in Gardiners and Peconic Bays was signed into law last year. To further promote a growing industry that can help restore water quality and fish habitats on Long Island's East End and in the rest of the state, I introduced a bill that awaits delivery to the Governor that will enable the Department of Environmental Conservation to lease additional state-owned underwater lands for the purpose of seaweed cultivation. As New York continues to fight climate change and nitrogen pollution, this bill will allow more kelp farmers and local enterprises to participate in a growing industry that can provide substantial environmental benefits for the state while boosting the economy and creating new jobs for our maritime businesses.



*It was a true honor to be named an MVP (Most Valuable Person) by the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) for the 2021-22 Legislative Session. As Chair of the Local Governments Committee, I work to foster the strong partnership between the state and its 62 counties. County government is the backbone of local government.*





*I was honored to present South Ferry, Inc. with a signed certificate after they were accepted into the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Historic Business Preservation Registry (HBPR). They are now among the 100 businesses included in the HBPR!*

***Defending the Rights of  
Manufactured Homeowners (A.6231)***

Manufactured and mobile homes are a critical source of affordable housing for residents in New York State. My legislation, that will be soon delivered to the Governor for consideration, would strengthen the “Manufactured Homeowners Bill of Rights” by giving homeowners the right of first refusal to buy their home park if it is put up for sale. This proposal would afford a fair opportunity to preserve the integrity of their park from possible conversion to another use and would give residents greater control over their housing future.

***Cheers to Off-Site Caterers! (A.10176)***

In an effort to help local small businesses, legislation that I sponsored will allow the New York State Liquor Authority to grant liquor licenses to off-premise caterers. If enacted, these establishments will be better able to serve the public, thereby boosting business opportunities for this important segment of the local economy.



*On May 22, 2022, I spoke at the Montauk Library’s renovation and expansion ribbon cutting ceremony. Congratulations to the Montauk Library!*



**“Water We Doing?” to Protect Our Most Precious Natural Resource (A.2620, A.9736, A.9824A)**

I sponsored a package of crucial legislation to hold polluters accountable for contaminating our drinking water. These measures will give needed remedies to public water suppliers, which will reduce costs for their ratepayers and intervene against those responsible for contaminating our groundwater. These three bills will be delivered to the Governor for consideration by the end of the year.

**Supporting Local Farms (A.3954A)**

In an agricultural region like eastern Long Island, it is essential that our laws and regulations are aligned with the wellbeing of our farms and farmers. Pending the Governor’s signature is the “Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act,” which I introduced, to develop food policies and support local farms to ensure our communities have access to fresh and healthy food.



*On March 22, 2022, I was thrilled to watch the Pierson Robotics Team compete at the MVP Arena in Albany!*



*Celebrating Juneteenth 2022 with Brenda Simmons, President of the Southampton African American Museum, on their new grounds.*

**“We Are Still Here!” (A.4069)**

Over a century ago, a New York State court wrongly declared that the Montaukett Indians no longer existed. To right this injustice, I have passed legislation that would restore New York State recognition of the Montaukett Indians. I urge the Governor to sign this long overdue legislation into law.



In another effort to continue to correct the wrongs of the past, I have also co-sponsored the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act. If approved by the Governor, this legislation would provide adequate protections to numerous unmarked burial sites that are in danger of being damaged or destroyed. Native American communities like the Shinnecocks, the Ukechaugs and the Montauketts on the East End of Long Island have long advocated for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of their sacred burial sites.





Students from the Southampton High School Orchestra performed on March 23, 2022 in Albany to celebrate “Music in Our Schools Month” sponsored by the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA).

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