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## *Senator Farley's Government Resource Guide*

### **SENATOR FARLEY'S GOVERNMENT RESOURCE GUIDE**

As we approach the start of a new year, and a new legislative session, I look forward to the opportunity to be of assistance to you and I welcome your input on issues before the State Legislature.

I am pleased to provide you with the following government resource guide to various state and federal websites and toll-free phone numbers. I hope the following information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

**Hugh T. Farley**

#### **H1N1 INFLUENZA VIRUS**

In response to public concerns and questions about the H1N1 flu virus, the New York State Health Department has compiled extensive information on its website about the flu, including information on where to find the flu vaccine and suggestions on when a sick person should seek emergency medical attention. The specific website address is [www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/H1N1](http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/H1N1). You can also call their H1N1 influenza hotline at 1-800-808-1987.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also has a lot of information on its website at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu). The CDC's informational hotline can be reached at 1-800-CDC-info. (1-800-232-4636)

#### **FREE CREDIT REPORTS**

Just a reminder that you are still authorized by law to get a free copy of your credit reports every 12 months. However, beware of unofficial sites, or even the sites of the credit reporting agencies themselves, that may end up charging you for this free information.

To get your free credit reports, you need to use the official website and toll-free phone number: [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) and 1-877-322-8228. If you want to mail in your request, you can print out the official request form from the website or call Senator Farley's office (455-2181) for a copy of the form.



SENATOR FARLEY JOINS LOCAL RESIDENTS TO ADVOCATE FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE BATCHELLERVILLE BRIDGE.

#### **UNCLAIMED FUNDS**

Also beware of entities which advertise that they can help you recover unclaimed funds from the state. You can do this yourself, for free, by calling the state comptroller's office at 1-800-221-9311 or visiting their website at [www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm).

#### **APPLIANCE SWAP-OUT**

In February 2010, consumers may be eligible to obtain a rebate on the purchase of certain energy-efficient appliances to replace older appliances. Details of the program, and an online application form, will be available by visiting [www.NYApplianceSwapOut.com](http://www.NYApplianceSwapOut.com) or calling 1-877-697-6278.

## SENATOR FARLEY'S GOVERNMENT RESOURCE GUIDE



### Senior Citizens

The NYS Office For The Aging has a Senior Citizens' Help Line at 1-800-342-9871. Their website is [www.aging.ny.gov](http://www.aging.ny.gov), which includes access to their publication "Senior Citizens' Resource Guide."

The Epic (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage) program can be called at 1-800-332-3742 or visited at [www.nyhealth.gov/health\\_care/epic/](http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/epic/).

The federal Social Security Administration can be contacted at 1-800-772-1213 or [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

For information on Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

### Veterans

For information and assistance on veterans' issues, you can contact New York's Division of Veterans' Affairs at 1-888-VETS-NYS (1-888-838-7697) or at <http://veterans.ny.gov>. They can also provide you with the phone number or address for your local veterans' counselor.

The federal Department of Veterans Affairs can be reached at 1-800-827-1000 or at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

For questions on health care benefits for veterans, call toll-free 1-877-222-8387

### Consumer Assistance

#### NYS Consumer Protection Board:

1-800-697-1220 or [www.consumer.state.ny.us](http://www.consumer.state.ny.us)

#### NYS Attorney General's helpline:

1-800-771-7755 or [www.oag.state.ny.us](http://www.oag.state.ny.us)

#### Federal Trade Commission:

1-877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357) or [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

#### U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

( for information on product safety and recalls, and to report unsafe products ): 1-800-638-2772 or [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

#### U.S. Food and Drug Administration:

1-888-INFO-FDA (1-888-463-6332) or [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

#### NYS Banking Department:

1-877-BANK-NYS (1-877-226-5697)

or [www.banking.state.ny.us](http://www.banking.state.ny.us)

**U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency** (which regulates national banks, i.e. those with an N.A. in their official name):

1-800-613-6743 or [www.helpwithmybank.gov](http://www.helpwithmybank.gov).

#### NYS Insurance Department:

1-800-342-3736 or [www.ins.state.ny.us](http://www.ins.state.ny.us)

### Do Not Call Registry

Because of changes in federal law, your existing registration is no longer subject to an expiration date.

If you wish to add a phone or cell phone number to the Registry, or file a complaint about a violation, call toll-free at 1-888-382-1222 or visit [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov).

### New York State Government

For a one-stop connection to online state resources, please visit the website [www.nysegov.com](http://www.nysegov.com). This site includes web links to all New York State agencies, to local municipal websites, to veterans and military websites, and to federal websites.

**Also, here are some toll-free numbers that may be helpful:**

**NYS tourism information:** 1-800-225-5697

**NYS traffic and transit information:** 511 or 1-888-465-1169

**Thruway road conditions:** 1-800-Thruway (1-800-847-8929)

**Empire State Development Small Business Division:** 1-800-STATE-NY (1-800-782-8369)

**Labor Department:** 1-888-469-7365

**Unemployment Insurance:** 1-888-209-8124

**Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP):** 1-800-342-3009

**Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance:** 1-800-342-3009

**Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for**

**Persons with Disabilities:** 1-800-624-4143

**Child Abuse:** 1-800-342-3720

**Domestic Violence:** 1-800-942-6906

**Drug abuse:** 1-800-522-5353

**Public Service Commission (for utilities issues):** 1-800-342-3377

### Federal Government

The federal government has established a single website that serves as a portal to all federal government information on the Internet. Visit [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov) or call 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636).



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

**HUGH T. FARLEY**

44<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

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