

Dear,

On March 31, 2021 Governor Cuomo signed the Marijuana Regulation and Tax Act (MRTA) legislation which legalizes 21+ adult use of cannabis. The Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc. (ACASA), the Allegany County Health Department, the Allegany County Sheriff's Office, and Partners for Prevention in Allegany County (PPAC) want to make sure that your town/village is aware of the impact that this can have on your local community.

Adults can now possess up to 3 ounces of cannabis and 24 grams of cannabis concentrate outside their home and possess up to 5 pounds of cannabis in their home, which must be kept in a secure location away from children.

Adults are also allowed to grow up to 3 mature and 3 immature plants at their residence or if there are two adults in a household, 6 mature and 6 immature plants can be grown at home for their own personal consumption. Currently, growing your own cannabis is not legal. Home grow will be permitted under the bill subject to possession limits in 18 months after first adult-use sales begin for adult recreational use and subject to regulations of the Medical Program being promulgated no sooner than 6 months.

The legislation will create a two-tier licensing structure that will allow for a large range of producers by separating those growers and processors from also owning retail stores. The legislation creates licenses for producers and distributors, among other entities, and the legislation will implement strict quality control, public health, and consumer protections.

The MRTA allows for a Municipal Opt-Out, which allows cities, towns, and villages to opt-out of allowing adult-use cannabis retail dispensaries or on-site consumption licenses by passing a local law by December 31, 2021 or 9 months after the effective date of the legislation. Once this date has passed, municipalities will not be permitted to pass an opt-out law.

To receive more information on cannabis, municipalities can reach out to the ACASA's Community Educator Ann Weaver at aweaver@alleganycouncil.org or (585) 593-1920 ext.713.

The *Office of Cannabis Management Fact Sheet* and *Sample Cannabis Local Law Opting Out of Retail Sales* have been included with this letter.

“Thank You” for your time,