



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **KATE KLUNK** SERVING THE 169TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



New Law Helps PA's Disabled Veterans

A new law recognizing the service and sacrifice of disabled veterans across the state recently took effect. Act 27 of 2024 exempts 100% of their benefit payments from income calculations for any Commonwealth program.

This ensures veterans who receive disability compensation do not have those payments counted against them when applying to programs such as the Real Estate Tax Exemption, Education Gratuity Program, Veterans Temporary Assistance Program and Military Family Relief Assistance Program. It also extends the exclusion of the veterans' compensation benefits to their unmarried surviving spouses. The law took effect in mid-August.

I was proud to support those who fought to defend our freedom and protect our nation.

BIPARTISANSHIP AT WORK: Updating PA Dog Law for Out-of-State Boarders

Lawmakers in the General Assembly reached across the aisle to make Pennsylvania more dog friendly. In the House, I teamed up with my fellow "border district" colleague, Rep. Christina Sappey (D-Chester), and introduced House Bill 2354. In the Senate, Sens. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-28) and Elder Vogel Jr. (R-47) offered Senate Bill 82. These bills eliminate the Commonwealth's Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) requirement to board out-of-state dogs at Pennsylvania kennels. Gov. Josh Shapiro recently signed the Senate's initiative into law as Act 47 of 2024, benefiting dog and kennel owners residing and operating on state lines.

Since 1975, animal health regulations required dogs imported to Pennsylvania to have a health certificate. This provision was added to the Dog Law last year in an effort to protect animal health and is enforceable by state dog wardens.

State Dog Law required an interstate CVI to import dogs from another state. CVIs are valid in Pennsylvania for 60 days, regardless of the state of origin. This posed an expensive burden to dog owners in neighboring states who regularly board across state lines, which was ultimately impacting our boarding kennels and their potential to do business.

Most responsible dog owners take their animals for regular veterinary care, so obtaining a new certificate of health from the vet every two months is both expensive and time consuming. Privately owned dogs present a low risk to compromising dog health and introducing dangerous transmissible diseases. Our proposals offer significant cost savings for dog owners, and positively impact the boarding businesses that serve them.

While we come from different parties and different parts of the Commonwealth, we all want a government that works for the people, our businesses and our four-legged friends. I am grateful for the bipartisan, bicameral support this initiative received on its path to becoming state law.

Save Money on Your Energy Bills with PA Power and Gas Switch

Did you know there is something you can do now to save money on your electric and natural gas bills? Consider visiting www.PAPowerSwitch.com and www.PAGasSwitch.com to shop for a better rate through energy suppliers that serve our area. Just be mindful of contracts that have sign up and termination fees and variable rates. Remember to set a reminder for when your rate expires. If you have any questions about how to use these websites, please contact my office at **717-630-8942**. We're happy to help!

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE **KATE KLUNK**

DISTRICT OFFICE:

118 Carlisle St., Suite 300, Hanover, PA 17331

Phone: 717-630-8942

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CAPITOL OFFICE:

Room 113 Ryan Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17120-2169

Phone: 717-787-4790



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to subscribe to my email newsletters!



Save the Dates for My **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

Document Shredding and Hard-to-Read License Plate Replacement

**Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to noon at
my district office, 118 Carlisle St., Hanover.**

Protect yourself from identity theft by safely and securely shredding documents that contain personal information like Social Security and bank account numbers. Additionally, staff will be available to help you obtain a replacement license plate if yours is damaged. RSVPs are required for the license plate replacement portion of the event. Please call **717-630-8942** to let us know you're coming or visit my website at **RepKlunk.com/Events**.

Pastries and Policy

**Thursday, Oct. 17, from 9-11 a.m. at
Britton Coffee, 2633 Baltimore Pike, Hanover.**

Learn about the latest happenings in Harrisburg and ask about state-related matters during this informal presentation. RSVPs are required. Please call **717-630-8942** to let us know you're coming or visit **RepKlunk.com/Events**.



Deadline for Popular Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program Extended

The deadline for senior citizens and Pennsylvanians with disabilities to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2023 has been extended to Dec. 31.

Income limits for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program increased this year to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters. If you were earning too much to qualify before, you may be eligible now. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income.

The program is open to residents aged 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older.

Remember – you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Apply online at **my.path.pa.gov** or contact my office for help. My staff and I were glad to offer Property Tax/Rent Rebate assistance events earlier this year to help those in need file their applications.

As of July 1, rebates are being distributed as required by law.