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MEMO



Senate of Pennsylvania

December 1, 2010

**TO:** ALL SENATORS  
**FROM:** Stewart J. Greenleaf *Stewart*  
**SUBJECT:** Cosponsorship -- **Beer keg tagging**

I am reintroducing **Senate Bill 44**, providing a tracking system for beer kegs (containers for 128 fluid ounces or more of malt or brewed beverages). In an effort to curtail underage drinking, the legislation requires each purchaser of a beer keg to complete a numbered form listing his or her name and address. The beer distributor will then place an identification tag on the keg that corresponds to the number on the form completed by the purchaser.

The Liquor Control Board will implement the legislation through regulations. The unlawful removal of a tag is a summary offense.

Keg tagging will make it more difficult for adults to buy beer for minors. This legislation will help police track down and prosecute adults who let minors drink beer at keg parties.

The legislation is supported by the Pennsylvania DUI Association as well as Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Prior studies have shown the public supports keg registration. A 2001 statewide poll revealed that 67% of Pennsylvanians favor a keg-tagging law and 69% of parents with teenagers favor such a law. A 2002 poll revealed that 89% of police chiefs, 86% of police officers and 80% of district justices favor a keg-tagging law.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 31 states have requirements for keg registration. The Maine Bureau of Liquor Enforcement reported "an 80% reduction in keg parties in the State of Maine since the passing of the law in regards to registration of kegs. The registration of kegs has also led to several convictions for procuring liquor to minors that would have otherwise been impossible."

During the 2009-2010 legislative session, the Senate Law and Justice Committee reported Senate Bill 44 from committee.

*If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Pat Snively of my office by e-mailing her at [psnively@pasen.gov](mailto:psnively@pasen.gov).*