

MEMO



Senate of Pennsylvania

December 10, 2010

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**TO:** ALL SENATORS  
**FROM:** Stewart J. Greenleaf *Stewart*  
**SUBJECT:** Cosponsorship -- **Missing children**

I am reintroducing **Senate Bill 182**, amending the Crimes Code, Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, to address the problem of missing children. There are three important parts to this comprehensive legislation.

The Crimes Code is amended to make it clear that children abducted as part of a domestic dispute or custody battle should be considered missing children. Questions have been raised in the law enforcement community whether the provisions of the Crimes Code relating to reports of missing children apply to children who are part of a domestic dispute. My legislation makes it clear that they do apply.

A Missing Children Information Clearinghouse is established in the State Police to act as a central repository for information on children reported missing. The clearinghouse will cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies in the investigation of missing children.

School districts must obtain proof of identity information from the parent or guardian enrolling the child. The information must identify both the child and the parent or guardian. If the child is transferring from another school, the new school must request the child's record directly from the old school.

This legislation is based in part on a clearinghouse already established in the State Police without statutory authorization and suggestions from the State Police on how to improve the clearinghouse. In addition, the 1987 Attorney General's Family Violence Task Force issued a report recommending such a unit in the State Police.

The Senate passed this legislation during two prior legislative sessions but the legislation failed to receive a final vote in the House of Representatives because some House members were concerned with the use in the legislation of Social Security numbers as a means to identify children and their parents. The legislation no longer contains any references to Social Security numbers.

*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).*