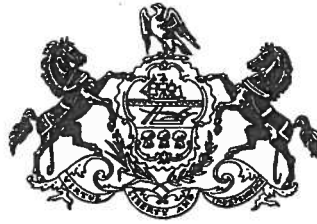


MEMO



DEC 14 2010

Senate of Pennsylvania

December 14, 2010

TO: ALL SENATORS  
FROM: Stewart J. Greenleaf *Stewart*  
SUBJECT: Cosponsorship – **SafeRide Home**

I am reintroducing **Senate Bill 1084** that amends the Liquor Code by requiring the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) to establish a statewide SafeRide Home Program aimed at providing intoxicated patrons with safe transportation home.

While the General Assembly has enacted numerous laws to crackdown on drunk driving, and the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and municipal police have aggressively enforced the laws to prevent and deter drinking and driving, the statistics show that thousands of Pennsylvanians still get behind the wheel when they are intoxicated. According to 2009 Crash Facts and Statistics issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, 12,712 alcohol-related crashes occurred. Alcohol-related deaths in 2009 were 36% of the total traffic deaths, the same as in 2007 and 2008. PSP enforcement statistics for 2009 showed that DUI arrests (16,900) were up over 4% from 2008.

A statewide SafeRide Home Program would represent another tool to combat drunk driving. The goal of the program is to provide an alternative means of transportation, thus decreasing the crashes, injuries and deaths that happen when an intoxicated patron attempts to drive home. Wisconsin passed a law in 1999 setting up a SafeRide program. An analysis in 2004 concluded that the program avoided alcohol-related crashes that would have resulted in over \$1 million in economic loss. In addition, Aspen, Colorado has had a successful “Tipsy Taxi” program since 1983, which provides a free ride home for those who have no other way to avoid getting behind the wheel while intoxicated. It is a partnership between local law enforcement and the community to encourage residents and tourists to make correct choices.

Under my legislation, the PLCB is required to create a SafeRide Home Program throughout the state. The program is funded through a fee assessed by the PLCB on liquor licensees that serve alcohol by the drink. To help implement the program the PLCB may work in collaboration with other state and local government agencies and private organizations. This program will help keep an intoxicated person out of his or her vehicle, which benefits not only the potential drunk driver but everyone else on the road.

The Senate Law and Justice Committee held a public hearing on the bill in a prior session.

*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).*