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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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December 22, 2010

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives

**FROM:** Representative Bill Kortz *BK*

**RE:** Legislation – Changing minimum age for all judges to 25 (**Former HB 917**)

**MEMORANDUM**

I will soon be introducing legislation that would change the minimum age for all judges in the commonwealth's judicial system to 25 from the present minimum of 21.

The present minimum was instituted at a much different era and expectation of the role of what were then known as Justices of the Peace. Today, the roles of the various levels of judgeships are gradually melting away. We need to be sure that our entire judiciary brings to the bench a solid combination of knowledge, experience, and maturity.

As a practical matter, since Common Pleas and higher judgeships require being a member of the bar, candidates seeking those offices will usually have long attained the age of 25, absent extraordinary circumstances. However, the more numerous Magisterial District Judge positions are open to a more directly political, less credentials-based process. That may have been appropriate at some time past, but no longer. The role has simply changed.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Stephanie Jackson in my office at 787-8175, or e-mail at [sjackson@pahouse.net](mailto:sjackson@pahouse.net).

**Previous co-sponsors:** Baker, Boback, Boyd, Briggs, Denlinger, Freeman, Gergely, Haluska, Harhai, Hornaman, Kessler, Kirkland, Longiotti, Mahoney, Pallone, Pashinski, Sainato, Vulakovich, Williams