

GORDON DENLINGER, MEMBER
99TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



House of Representatives

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 10, 2011

FROM: Representative Gordon R. Denlinger 

TO: All House Members

SUBJECT: Reintroduction of Legislation
(**Prior HB 901** – Corrective Lenses)

As you may know, an individual who wears corrective lenses may qualify to serve as a municipal or state police officer, so long as he or she meets current vision acuity standards (for both uncorrected and corrected vision). I feel strongly that the same type of accommodation should be extended to hearing impaired individuals. I believe that our communities and our Commonwealth could benefit from the service of highly qualified and dedicated hearing impaired individuals, who are not able to serve under current law.

That is why I intend to reintroduce two very important pieces of legislation in the near future. These bills will allow certain hearing impaired individuals to qualify to serve as municipal and state police officers. Specifically, my legislation will allow individuals, who wear hearing assistive devices and whose hearing, with the use of such devices meets current acuity standards, to become candidates for municipal police officer or State Trooper.

My first bill proposes to amend provisions of Title 53 relating to the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission. This proposal would establish, in statute, minimum hearing acuity standards for municipal police officers that may be met using a hearing assistive device. The specific standards are those currently established in regulation. An applicant must have audio acuity sufficient to distinguish a normal whisper at a distance of 15 feet. If the applicant fails this test, he or she must take and pass a decibel audio test.

My second proposal proposes to amend the Administrative Code to apply these same standards to candidates for State Trooper. As with the first proposal, this bill would allow the candidate to meet the minimum qualifications using a hearing assistive device.

If you would like to be a co-sponsor of this legislation, please contact Jessica Murphy in my office at Jlmurphy@pahousegop.com.

(Previous cosponsors: DENLINGER , BENNINGHOFF , BELFANTI , BEYER , BOYD , BRENNAN , CLYMER , DAY , FAIRCHILD , FLECK , GEIST , GINGRICH , HUTCHINSON , MANN , D. O'BRIEN , PERRY , ROAE , ROCK , ROHRER , STERN and J. TAYLOR)