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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

DAVE REED
62ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Dave Reed 

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation
Increasing the Penalty for "Hit and Run Involving a Fatality" (former HB 197)

DATE: January 12, 2011

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce House Bill 197, legislation amending the Vehicle Code (Title 75 Pa.C.S. section 3742) to increase the hit and run penalty when the victim is killed. Currently, in a "fatal hit and run" the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment is *one* year. However, if the person complies with the law and stops after hitting the pedestrian, they can be sentenced to a minimum of *three* years imprisonment if found to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

If intoxicated, many folks will choose to flee the scene of the accident to avoid being prosecuted for DUI and later turn themselves in after they have sobered up for the lesser penalty. Instead, if they would have stayed at the scene and offered immediate assistance or called for an ambulance, perhaps the victim might have survived.

After speaking with Lt. Brad Shields of the State Police, we agreed that the law must promote individuals to stop at the scene of the accident rather than encourage them to flee the scene to receive a lesser penalty. Therefore, my legislation will increase the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for a "hit and run involving a fatality" to *three* years.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Cheryl Griffith in my Harrisburg office at 705-7173 or via e-mail at cgriffit@pahousegop.com. Thank you.

Previous cosponsors include:

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