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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

CHAIRMAN, HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES COMMITTEE

POLICY COMMITTEE

CAUCUSES
FIREFIGHTERS & EMERGENCY SERVICES
LOCAL TAX REFORM
RURAL HEALTH CARE
SPORTSMEN
TIMBER

APPOINTMENTS
STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT
COUNCIL ACT - REVIEW COMMITTEE
CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE MATT BAKER

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2011

RE: PROPOSED LEGISLATION - INCREASE VLAP LOAN
AMOUNTS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENTS

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation which amends Act 208 of 1976 known as "The Volunteer Loan and Assistance Program Act" (VLAP) which provides 2% loans to Volunteer Fire and EMS departments. This legislation increases the maximum program loan amounts by using a 2007 Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment to make these loans amounts comparable to the value of today's dollar. This legislation was House Bill 2385 of last Session.

Furthermore, this legislation will allow Volunteer Fire/EMS departments, who have merged into one entity, to apply for up to ten (10) loans at one time for a period of ten (10) years from their merger date. Current practice only allows a Fire/EMS department to carry three (3) VLAP loans at a given point in time. This current provision penalizes Fire/EMS departments who have recently merged. For example, if four (4) departments were to merge, they would be limited to only three (3) loans rather than the twelve (12) that they would have been eligible for had they not merged.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Gina Strine in my office at 772-5769 or via email at Gstrine@pahousegop.com

Thank you!