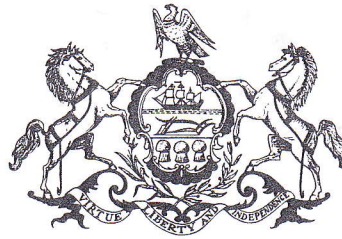


PATRICK J. HARKINS, MEMBER
1ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

125 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202001
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2001
PHONE: (717) 787-7406
FAX: (717) 780-4775

460 EAST 26TH STREET
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16504
PHONE: (814) 459-1949
FAX: (814) 871-4854



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

LABOR RELATIONS
EDUCATION, SECRETARY
LIQUOR CONTROL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Patrick J. Harkins *P.J.H.*

DATE: January 3, 2011

SUBJECT: **Co-Sponsorship – Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law Amendment**

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that will amend the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law to allow any enforcement officer or investigator employed by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission or the Pennsylvania Game Commission to be eligible for the benefits provided by the law.

Commonly referred to as Heart and Lung Act coverage, the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law provides a full range of disability benefits to most state employees who have law enforcement authority under Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. However, officers from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Pennsylvania Game Commission are currently denied these temporary disability benefits including credit for vacation and retirement during their period of recovery from work-related injuries.

This legislation addresses this inequity by allowing any enforcement officer or investigator of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission or Pennsylvania Game Commission, who has been injured or exposed to certain diseases in the performance of their job duties, to be awarded payment of their salaries, as well as medical and hospital expenses, without the reduction of their usual sick leave period. Any payments made to an enforcement officer or investigator of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Pennsylvania Game Commission will be made from the appropriations of their respective employers. It is my hope that this extension of benefits will ensure the safety and health of the many officer and investigators of both commissions.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Terra Heilman by email at theilman@pahouse.net.

JAN 18 2011