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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

January 24, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Ronald G. Waters
191st Legislative District

SUBJECT: Re-introduction of Legislation

In the near future, I plan to introduce the legislation listed below. If you wish to be added as a co-sponsor, please contact Danielle Bowers at 717-772-6955 or dbowers@pahouse.net.

#1 – (Prior House Bill 1083 – Honorary High School Diplomas for Deceased High School Students) This bill will give school board directors the authority to establish a program that provides for granting an honorary high school diploma posthumously to the family of a deceased student.

#2 – (Prior House Bill 1082 – Drug Treatment Alternative Sentencing) This bill provides for a Drug Treatment Program as an additional sentencing alternative for a conviction in violation of the Controlled Substance, Drug Device, and Cosmetic. Upon successful completion of the program, any records of arrest or prosecution shall be promptly expunged.

#3 – (Prior House Bill 1081 – Cell Phones in School Zones) This bill amends Section 102 of Title 75 of the PA Consolidated Statutes, and adds a new section 3315 to prohibit a driver of a vehicle or school bus from using a mobile phone within a school zone when the safety lights are flashing. Exceptions would include law enforcement officers and emergency vehicle operators when on duty, and persons reporting an accident or emergency.

#4 – (Prior House Bill 1079- Juror stipend Increase) This bill will increase the rate of compensation for jurors to \$40 per day for each day the juror is required to report for service. (HB 1129 of last session)

#5 – (Prior House Bill 1077 – Credit Scoring) This bill will prohibit an insurer from denying, canceling, or refusing to renew, or raise premium of a personal insurance policy due in whole or in part to an insured's credit history and provides penalties for such prohibited practices.

#6 – (Prior House Bill 1076 – School District Loan Interest) This bill will require the Commonwealth to compensate school districts for interest incurred by school districts on loans they secure in order to continue operations when the state does not make basic education funding payments to them because that portion of the budget is not completed by the June 30th deadline.

#7 – (Prior House Bill 1074 – Prohibiting the sale of "Bidi's or Beedies" to Minors) This legislation would prohibit the sale of "bidis" or "beedies" to minor's. Studies show that the nicotine content in bidis is far higher than regular cigarettes, and have three times more carbon monoxide and five times the amount of tar as filtered cigarettes which can lead to oral cancer, lung cancer and other health problems. (HB 1125 of last session)

#8 – (Prior House Bill 1073 – ID Swipe Machines) This bill will require the PA Liquor Control Board to require any limited licensee that sells alcoholic beverages for consumption on or off the premises to install, maintain and use electronic age verification equipment (ID Swipe Machines) to verify a customer's age for alcoholic sales.

#10 – (Prior House Bill 1071- Capital Projects Oversight Board) This bill provides for oversight and review of capital projects; establishes the Capital Projects Oversight Board and provides for its powers and duties.

#11 – (Prior House Bill 1070 – Child Firearm Safety Lock Mechanisms) This bill would make it unlawful to sell, deliver, or transfer any firearm to another licensee unless the firearm is equipped with a locking devise. Failure to comply would result in a revocation or suspension of licenses and a civil penalty.

#12 – (Prior House Bill 1088- Taped Police Interrogations) This bill will require law enforcement officials to audiotape custodial and non-custodial interrogations of individuals who are suspected of committing a felony. The taping will be done with or without the suspect's consent.

#13 – (Prior House Bill 1087- Public Welfare/Life Insurance) Providing for treatment of life estates, annuities, and other contract in determining eligibility for medical assistance.

#14 – (Prior House Bill 1086- False Child Abuse Allegations) This legislation amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the PA Consolidated Statutes, providing for immunity from liability; and providing for false reports of child abuse or neglect.

#15 – (Prior House Bill 1085- Written Jury Instructions) This bill provides that all instructions to a jury regarding applicable law and conduct of deliberations must be in plain and understandable language. In addition, each juror must be provided with a written copy of the instructions for use during deliberations.

#17 – (Prior House Bill 1084 – Nursing Home Surveillance Cameras) This bill provides for electronic monitoring in nursing homes, personal care homes and assisted living facilities.

#18 – (Prior House Bill 1080 – Gun Possession) This bill amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for sentences for carrying a firearm without a license.

#19 – (Prior House Bill 1078 – Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit) This bill amends the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for apprenticeship training tax credit.

#20 – (Prior House Bill 1075 – Mandatory Medical Testing for Inmates) This bill amends Title 61 (Penal and Correctional Institutions) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, amending the heading of Title 61; adding definitions; and providing for prerelease testing.

#21 – (Prior House Bill 1072 – Mandatory Voter Registration for Inmates upon Release) This bill provides released prisoners with access to voter registration materials; imposing duties on the Department of Corrections; and making an appropriation.

22 – (Prior House Bill 2676 – Merger of PA Probation and Parole with DOC) This legislation would establish the Board of Probation and Parole as an independent administrative board within the Department of Corrections. The merger would result in more efficient and streamlined administration of services, cost savings for the taxpayers, and would improve public safety.

23 – (Prior House Bill 2660 - Electronic Communications for Prison Inmates) This legislation would allow prison inmates to send electronic communications (e-mail) to their attorneys, family members, and friends. Specifically, inmates would be provided with the capability to send e-mails, but would not be provided with access to the Internet. (The Department of Corrections currently allows inmates to receive e-mail from the public.) This program would be funded through the Inmate General Welfare Fund and a fee would be assessed to inmates for use of the e-mail system.

25 – (Prior House Bill 1347- Grandparents Visitation) An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in custody, further providing for declaration of policy; and providing for grandparent custody or visitation rights when parents were never married.

26 – (Prior House Bill 1348 – Wrongfully Convicted Compensation) This bill provides for the payment of damages to certain persons who were wrongly convicted.

27 – (Prior House Bill 1547 - Amends the Liquor Code (Act 21 of 1951)) to change the standard of review in appeals taken on board decisions; to raise fines; to change the renewal process of a liquor license where the renewal is objected to; and, to prevent the transfer of a liquor license in certain circumstances.

28 – (Prior House Bill 1871 – Plain Language Legislation) An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for notice of election of tort options and for definitions. This bill is designed to provide clearer definitions and better communication among insurance providers and policyholders.

29 - (Prior House Bill 2541 – Provide Contact Info All Children in Foster Homes) An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for contact information of a county agency to be provided to a dependent child.

#30 – (Prior House Bill 2661 – Mental Health Court- An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for a mental health court division.