

JANE M. EARLL
49TH
SENATORIAL DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE
ROOM 177 MAIN CAPITOL
SENATE BOX 203049
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3049
(717) 787-8927
FAX: (717) 772-1588

DISTRICT OFFICE
200 WEST 11TH STREET
ERIE, PA 16501
(814) 453-2515
FAX (814) 871-4640

JAN 25 2011



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E-MAIL: jearl@pasen.gov

WEB PAGE: <http://www.senatorearl.com>

January 25, 2011

TO: ALL SENATORS

FROM: SENATOR JANE M. EARLL 

Re: CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMO #1
Merit Selection

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce two pieces of legislation from last session that establish merit selection for Commonwealth, Superior and Supreme Court judges in Pennsylvania. They were SB 860 and SB 861, and the co-sponsors were as follows:

- SB 860-Leach, M. White, Folmer, Piccola, Erickson, Ferlo and Rafferty
- SB 861-Leach, M. White, Folmer, Piccola, Erickson, Ferlo and Rafferty

The first piece of legislation would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to establish the appointment of these judges, and the second piece would implement the details of merit selection in Pennsylvania.

Under this merit selection plan, the Governor would nominate judges to be confirmed by the Senate from a list of judges recommended for appointment by a non-partisan citizens' Appellate Court Nominating Commission. Judges would serve an initial term of four years followed by a retention election as is the current practice.

If you would like to co-sponsor these bills, please contact Lauren Clark at either 787-8927 or lclark@pasen.gov.