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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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Co-sponsorship Memorandum

To: All House Members

From: John P. Sabatina, Jr., Member *JPS*
174th Legislative District

Date: January 27th, 2011

RE: Changes to the PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency

I will soon be introducing legislation that would make a number of changes in the way the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency conducts its business.

Primary changes include allowing several categories of members (the Attorney General, judges and General Assembly members) to appoint temporary delegated replacements for the statutorily defined members, permit the appointment of advisory committees, and enhance and define the roles of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee and the Targeted Community Revitalization and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee.

The PCCD is potentially one of the commonwealth's most valuable assets in reducing and preventing crime. We need to be sure that its deliberations are not hamstrung by the conflicts in scheduling that judicial and legislative roles frequently create. PCCD sessions, legislative sessions, and court calendars frequently coincide.

In addition, we need to enhance the participation of specialized committees that can address the most pressing need involving criminality that is also the least controversial - the prevention of crime in the first instance by addressing its root causes.

This bill is a composite of several PCCD reform proposals that had broad bipartisan and bicameral support last term, but never quite made it to the Governor's desk.

If you wish to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Nicole Vargas in my Harrisburg Office at 717-772-4032 or nvargas@pahouse.net.