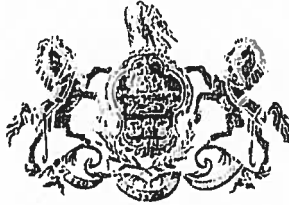


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Majority Caucus Chairman



Senate of Pennsylvania
MIKE WAUGH
SENATOR

MEMORANDUM

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EMERGENCY SERVICES CAUCUS,
MAJORITY CHAIRMAN

DATE: February 9, 2011

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Mike Waugh 

SUBJECT: Request to co-sponsor legislation

Requiring Districts to Use Prototype School Designs

I am reintroducing legislation that requires school districts to use standardized, pre-approved designs when constructing a new school building. This was Senate Bill 645 from the 2009-10 Session.

This bill, which amends *Act 14* of 1949 (the *Public School Code*), builds upon my previous proposal to provide an incentive to school districts that use standardized designs when constructing a new building. Under this bill, however, school districts are **required** to use these plans in order to receive the state reimbursement for construction. A district may build with a custom design, but it will not receive the state reimbursement.

Under certain conditions, the state Department of Education may exempt school districts from participating in the program for a particular project, and still provide state subsidies. In such a case, the school district must prove that a standardized design is not feasible for that particular project due to specific geographic or other limitations of that area; or that the project involves unique remodeling, rehabilitating or expansion of an existing structure.

When the department exempts a school district from using a standardized design for these reasons, it shall provide written notice, sent to the school district, of the exemption. Such notice shall also be made available to the public by the school entity.

This bill directs the state Department of Education to divide Pennsylvania into six regions – northwest, northeast, southeast, southwest, north central and south central. The department shall