

TO: All members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Rep. Harry Readshaw

DATE: February 11, 2011

RE: Co-sponsorship: Extending benefits to police chiefs or heads of police departments (HB 331, PN 363 of 2009)

I will be re-introducing House Bill 331 of 2009 that will amend Act 204 of 1984, known as the "Police Chief's Act", to insure that police chiefs or heads of police departments of political subdivisions who do not participate in the collective bargaining unit receive at least the same dollar increase and benefits as is given to the highest ranking officer in the bargaining unit.

In 1984, the General Assembly passed Act 204, which afforded protection to chiefs of police and ranking police officers who had been removed from the collective bargaining unit of the political subdivision as a result of assuming the ranking officer position within their department. In 1989, a decision of the Commonwealth Court essentially removed the protections of Act 204 by holding that it was only applicable when a chief or ranking officer was "forcibly removed" from the bargaining unit, as a result of an adversarial proceeding before the PA Labor Relations Board. Chiefs of Police and ranking officers typically remove themselves voluntarily from the collective bargaining table, thus the court's decision does not involve all chiefs and ranking officers.

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Margaret Tricarico at mtricarico@pahouse.net or 717-772-5568 (Democratic Caucus Ext. 6168).

Thank you.

Prior co-sponsors: READSHAW, ADOLPH, BELFANTI, D. COSTA, DALLY, DERMODY, DeWEESE, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HORNAMAN, KORTZ, MAHONEY, McCALL, McILVAINE SMITH, MURT, MUSTIO, PASHINSKI, PETRARCA, PETRI, PRESTON, QUINN, REICHLEY, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, VULAKOVICH, YOUNGBLOOD AND MOUL