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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House of Representatives

From: Representative Gary Haluska

Date: February 16, 2011

RE: Co-Sponsorship - Re-Introduction of Sale of Unused School Buildings
Legislation (Prior HB 520)

What happens when an old school building is sold? It goes to the highest bidder, of course, and that brings some money into the school district. Too often, however, the building is purchased by someone who does not intend to occupy or rent it. Instead, they will strip it of its value and then let it sit idle. Eventually, these abandoned buildings become a problem for the boroughs, cities and townships in which they are located.

I have prepared legislation to address this problem. It will amend the Public School Code to provide that the price for which an unused and unnecessary school building may be sold is fair market value (unless it is donated to a local government or qualifying nonprofit corporation). This would be determined within one year prior to the sale by a state-certified real-estate appraiser or by taking the average of two or three such appraisers. If a school building could not be sold for fair market value within a ten-year period and is not donated to a municipality or qualifying non-profit corporation, it would have to be demolished at the school district's expense.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please e-mail Marilyn at mjuran@pahouse.net.

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