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House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

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March 3, 2011

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representative Mike Carroll

SUBJECT:

Legislation - Expansion of Campus Police Powers (formerly HB 2592 and 2593 last session)

I will be introducing two pieces of legislation from last session that will expand the powers and duties of campus police for community colleges, and private and public colleges and universities.

The first piece of legislation amends the act of April 9, 1929 (P>L> 177, No. 175), known as the Administrative Code of 1929, which grants community college campus police and state college and university campus police the power and duty to enforce good order on the grounds and in the buildings of the campus. Under my proposal, campus police will be given the same law enforcement and arrest powers granted to municipal police contained within Chapter 89, Subchapter D (Municipal Police Jurisdiction), of Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedures) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. However, the jurisdiction of Campus Police will be limited to the grounds and in the buildings of colleges and universities. HB2592-Previous cosponsors: YUDICHAK VEREB, CALTAGIRONE, MURPHY, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, CARROLL, CHRISTIANA, CONKLIN, DEASY, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD FARRY, FLECK, GIBBONS, GROVE, HARPER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, PALLONE, READSHAW, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT, GINGRICH, SWANGER, PASHINSKI and HORNAMAN.

The second piece of legislation amends Title 22 (Detectives and Private Police) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statues, which grants campus police on private college and university campuses the authority to enforce good order on the grounds and in the buildings of the campus. Similar to the first piece of legislation, this bill would give campus police the same law enforcement and arrest powers granted to municipal police. HB2593-Previous cosponsors: YUDICHAK, VEREB, CALTAGIRONE, MURPHY, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, CARROLL, CHRISTIANA, CONKLIN, DEASY, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FARRY, FLECK, GIBBONS, GROVE, HARPER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, PALLONE, READSHAW, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT, GINGRICH, SWANGER, PASHINSKI and HORNAMAN.

Both pieces of legislation require a school to meet all guidelines established within the Administrative Code as well as regulations promulgated by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission. Also, neither piece of legislation requires private colleges or universities, state colleges or universities, or community colleges to opt-in. The legislation does offer those schools that do opt-in the opportunity to enter into reciprocal agreements with the municipalities in which the campus resides.

Currently, our municipal and State Police are burdened with responding to emergency calls on college and university campuses throughout the Commonwealth. If a student violates Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and Title 75 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statues, campus police do not have the authority to arrest the individual. By granting campus police these powers, we would be reducing the burden on local and State Police, and ensuring the safety and welfare of our higher education students throughout the Commonwealth.

If you would like to co-sponsor one or both pieces of legislation please contact Sandy Mutzabaugh at smutzaba@pahouse.net or 787-3589 or in-house extension 6544.

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