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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Stephen Barrar 

SUBJECT: Introduction of Legislation—Increased Penalties for Abandoned Vehicles

DATE: March 31, 2011

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that will increase the penalties for abandoning a vehicle.

Title 75 (Vehicles) defines an “Abandoned vehicle” as a vehicle that is left unattended for a period of over 48 hours on a public roadway, or left unattended for over 24 hours in a private lot or roadway. This definition excludes those vehicles that are used for construction or road maintenance purposes.

Furthermore, Section 3712 of Title 75 (Vehicles) prohibits persons from abandoning vehicles on public property or private property, without the consent of the property owner. It also creates penalties that are as follows: the first offense is a summary offense plus a \$500 fine and the cost of vehicle removal, the second offense is a summary offense plus a \$1,000 fine and the cost of vehicle removal, the third offense, and any subsequent offenses, is a misdemeanor of the third degree plus the cost of vehicle removal.

Throughout the Commonwealth, too many vehicles are purposely left abandoned on our streets and highways creating a safety and environmental problem. This practice then creates an unnecessary burden on our law enforcement personnel and their resources.

Therefore, my proposed legislation will add a 30-day license suspension for the first offense, a 60-day license suspension for the second offense, and a 90-day license suspension for the third offense and any subsequent offenses. These increased penalties will act as an additional deterrent to the abandonment of vehicles, and stricter enforcement of these penalties will help to increase state police revenue.

If you wish to join me in sponsoring this legislation, please contact Gina Buffington in my office at 783-3038 or email gbuffing@pahousegop.com.

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