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MAY 16 2011



Senate of Pennsylvania
RICHARD ALLOWAY, II
SENATOR

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TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Richard Alloway *Rich*

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship Memo – Audio tapping on School Busses

DATE: May 16, 2011

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation which would allow for audio tapping on school busses. Currently video tapping can be done on school busses but audio tapping is not allowed as some feel that it is a violation of the Wiretap Act.

For two decades, school districts have used video monitoring of school buses for student security and discipline purposes. This has been a valuable tool in resolving discipline action and has helped reduce violent acts on school buses because the students know that there is a camera on the bus.

As technologies advanced in the video surveillance systems used in school buses audio capabilities were also incorporated. School districts also found that this enhanced capability enabled them to have a more accurate account of the situation and also helped in reducing verbal bullying.

Allowing school buses an exemption from the Pennsylvania Wiretapping laws will be a measure towards a safer school bus environment. In this day and age where bullying is very prevalent in and out of school, having all the resources available to control behavior and resolve issues will help ensure a safe ride for all students. When schools and contractors have the use of audio in conjunction with the video discipline issues are resolved faster and with more certainty.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Melissa Knepper at mknepper@pasen.gov or by phone at 772-2929.