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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Members of the House of Representatives
From: Representative Gary Haluska
Date: May 23, 2011
Subject: **Firefighter Sales Tax Exemption**

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would exempt individual firefighters from paying sales tax on personal purchases of firefighter equipment. My new legislation is the same as my previous bill from this session – HB 791 – except that I have added the requirement that firefighters will need to provide identification to show his or her status as a firefighter in order to purchase firefighter equipment and be exempt from paying the sales tax. The new bill also explains that the new exemption from sales tax would be included on the sales tax exclusion list that is made available to retailers.

As you may already know, under Section 204 of the Tax Reform Code of 1971, fire departments are exempt from paying sales tax on purchases made for the department. However, while firefighters routinely buy their own helmets, suits, etc, for their jobs, they are not exempt and are required to pay the state sales tax of 6%. These brave men and women put their lives on the line to help protect and save Pennsylvanians every day. I believe it is unjust for the state to require them to pay sales tax on items they are buying to use to help keep our communities safe.

If you would like join us in co-sponsoring this important piece of legislation, please contact Marilyn via e-mail mjuran@pahouse.net.

MAY 25 2011