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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG


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MEMO

June 7, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Tony DeLuca 

SUBJECT: Proposed legislation: Criminal records checks

In the coming weeks I will be amending the School Code to expand the list of offenses included in background checks for prospective employees and to require criminal records checks of all employees every seven (7) years.

Currently, all prospective employees are required to submit, with their employment applications, such background checks. However, after being hired, no further review of such records is required. This legislation would require all employees to submit initial records checks within 2 years of the date the legislation passes and then every 7 years thereafter. This change to the School Code would enable school districts to have accurate, up to date information, and protect our school children even further.

In the past, we overwhelmingly passed legislation denying state pensions for teachers convicted of sexual assault and other offenses. My proposal would go one step further, by requiring regular review of all school employees' child abuse and criminal histories, not just when they are hired, but every seven years.

We require continuing education for teachers; we should also require continuing protection for our children and our schools.

Should you wish to add your name as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please contact my office via email at chaldi@pahouse.net Thank you.

JUN 14 2011