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MEMORANDUM

Date: June 17, 2011

To: Members of the House of Representatives

From: Representative Randy Vulakovich

Subject: Revision and Clarification of the May 27, 2011
Co-Sponsor Memorandum
Allegheny County Detectives Legislation

As you all may know, I recently circulated a co-sponsorship memo regarding the introduction of legislation which would amend the Second Class County Code to additionally provide for the county detectives that serve in Allegheny County. However, once I circulated this memo I realized and it was brought to my attention that my legislation needed clarification. Currently, Allegheny County employs county detectives that fall under the purview of the District Attorney's Office and the actual police department. The intent of my legislation was to address those county detectives employed by the District Attorney's office. With this in mind, I have made a necessary change to my legislation to reflect this.

The laws governing retirement packages for individuals employed by the Commonwealth or local governments are all varied. However, one provision that is generally included in all of these laws permits certain law enforcement personnel to be provided with a retirement package that grants them the ability to retire at an earlier age than other employees due to health and safety concerns.

Unfortunately, when the Second Class County Code (Allegheny County) was enacted, it was done so with provisions that prohibit a county detective assigned to the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office from retiring until they reach the age of 60. This provision runs contrary to the provisions in place in other counties which state that county detectives may retire at the age of 50 as long as they have 20 years of service.

With this in mind, I will be introducing legislation in the near future which will amend the Second Class County Code in order to permit county detectives assigned to the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office and that are employed by Allegheny County to retire at age 50, provided they have 20 years of service. The financial impact of this change can be described as minimal at best. In fact, according to the Allegheny County District Attorney's Detectives, this legislation may only impact 8 out of their 23 detectives over the course of the next twenty years.

Passage of this legislation will remove retirement provisions that are not equitable across the board. Additionally, by permitting the county detectives assigned to the District Attorney's Office in Allegheny County to retire earlier, the General Assembly will be taking another step in protecting law enforcement personnel.

Please join me in my efforts to accomplish these goals.

As per my previous co-sponsorship memo, the following Members have already signed on: F. Fabrizio, F. Farry, J. Stern and R. Swanger. If you wish to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation or remove your name from the new version of the legislation, please contact Pat Geiger at 717-260-6407 or by e-mail at pgeiger@pahousegop.com. Thank you.

RV/pg