

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the House of Representatives

**FROM:** Representative Bryan Barbin

**DATE:** June 17, 2011

**SUBJECT:** **Legislation Affecting Pre-Release Placement of Prison Inmates**

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require that pre-release inmates be transferred to a facility in the county wherein the crime which led to the incarceration occurred for the last 50% of their sentence. In addition, my legislation would place further restrictions on pre-release plans and unsupervised time.

Pre-release programs, such as work release, educational/vocational training release, community corrections and group home residency, are designed to provide qualified prison inmates with counseling, training and access to other community resources so they can take steps necessary for successful reintegration into the community. Specifically, my legislation would grant pre-release inmates one hour per day of unsupervised time for the sole purpose of looking for employment. In addition, my legislation would require the pre-release inmates be transferred to one of the following locations in the county of original jurisdiction for the last 50% of their sentence:

- A pre-release center or community correctional facility.
- If the county does not have a prerelease center or a community correctional center in one of the following:
  - A residence where the inmate is subject to electronic monitoring. In order to apply this clause, there must be no individual in the residence who is receiving assistance under Article IV of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L. 31, No. 21), known as the Public Welfare Code.
  - A county prison.

Requiring pre-release inmates to serve the last 50% of their sentence in the county of original jurisdiction and mandating additional restrictions will ensure that inmates are not placed or concentrated in one specific area of the Commonwealth, which is currently the case in Cambria County. I believe this legislation is one way in which we can strengthen and modernize Pennsylvania's corrections system.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Valerie Hubbard in my office at 717-783-1491 or by e-mail at [vhubbard@pahouse.net](mailto:vhubbard@pahouse.net).