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Majority Caucus Chairman



Senate of Pennsylvania
MIKE WAUGH
SENATOR


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SEP 20 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Mike Waugh 

SUBJECT: Request to co-sponsor legislation – *Emergency Services Notification
Amend Title 35*

DATE: September 19, 2011

I plan to introduce legislation that amends *Title 35 (Health and Safety)* by adding a new section regarding the discontinuation of volunteer emergency services.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide greater transparency and public involvement whenever a municipality seeks to discontinue the services of a volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance service. This bill would require that a notice of intent to discontinue be published, and a special public meeting held devoted solely to the discussion of discontinuation. The purpose of the special public meeting is to provide a forum for stakeholders, including the emergency services organizations and the public, to discuss the implications of a proposed discontinuation of services.

It is important to point out that this bill in no way affects the current authority of local governments to determine the emergency response that best serves their community. The proposal merely seeks to ensure that when a community volunteer fire or ambulance service is proposed to be discontinued, those affected are afforded an opportunity to be heard, and fully informed of the decision.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please call Debbie Clark in my office at 787-3817 or email her at dclark@pasen.gov.