

CHRIS ROSS, MEMBER
158TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 835, UNIONVILLE, PA 19375
E-Mail Address: ross@pahousegop.com
Web Site Address: www.repress.com

DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATION:
692 UNIONVILLE ROAD
WILLOWDALE TOWN CENTER
KENNETT SQUARE, PA 19348
PHONE: (610) 925-0555
FAX: (610) 925-5408



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
110 RYAN OFFICE BUILDING
PO BOX 202158
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2158
PHONE: (717) 783-1574
FAX: (717) 705-2095

COMMITTEES
URBAN AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

MEMBER
POLICY COMMITTEE
ENERGY TASK FORCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Chris Ross *CR*

DATE: October 31, 2011

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation - Amending Act 47 (Municipalities Financial Recovery Act)

In response to the recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in City of Scranton v. Firefighters Local Union No. 60 (10/19/11), I soon plan to introduce legislation that amends Act 47, known as the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, to clarify language regarding arbitration awards in addition to arbitration settlements.

City of Scranton v. Firefighters Local Union No. 60 held there is a distinction between the terms "arbitration settlement" and "arbitration award" and as such an Act 111 "arbitration award" is not impinged upon by the provisions of section 252 of Act 47. A failure to maintain the past application of the provisions of section 252 of Act 47 will be costly to distressed municipalities. Interest arbitration awards to public safety employees could cost Scranton as much as \$10 million.

What's more, the ruling may in the future compel our municipalities to pursue bankruptcy rather than Act 47 assistance. Bankruptcy will create unintended long-term consequences for these communities and their residents.

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Dixie Minnich at 783-1574 or dminnich@pahousegop.com. For additional information about the legislation, feel free to contact Christine Goldbeck at cgoldbec@pahousegop.com.

CR/dlm