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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

November 7, 2011

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Introduction of Legislation -
Municipal Police Officers

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Ron Marsico

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ron Marsico".

Today, more than ever, police agencies need to work efficiently, effectively and cooperatively to maximize their ability to serve and protect our citizens. Subchapter D of the Judicial Code furthers this goal by giving "municipal police officers" the authority to act beyond their jurisdictional boundaries where an officer is in hot pursuit of a traffic violator or criminal suspect, when requested to lend assistance to another department, when executing a court order or if an officer witnesses a crime being committed while in another jurisdiction on official business. However, it defines "municipal police officers" to include only police officers employed by a municipality, including a home rule municipality.

On the other hand, the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Act (53 Pa.C.S. § 2161, commonly referred to as Act 120) recognizes the role in public safety played by officers serving with airport authority, college and university and certain other police departments, by requiring they receive the same training and certification as officers serving with a municipality. There is no rational basis to prohibit these trained and certified officers from having the same limited authority to come to the aid of an officer in a nearby jurisdiction or follow a criminal beyond the jurisdictional border.

To remedy this, I will soon introduce legislation to include within Subchapter D's definition of "municipal police officer" those police officers who must receive training and be certified under Act 120.

If you would like to co-sponsor this bill, please contact Anna or Michelle at 783-2014 or via e-mail at mmoore@pahousegop.com. Thank you.