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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**RICHARD ALLOWAY, II  
SENATOR**

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**NOV 15 2011**

**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** Senator Richard Alloway, II *Rich*  
**RE:** Introduction of Legislation—Sale or Purchase of American Alligator  
**DATE:** November 15, 2011

In the near future, I plan on introducing legislation amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the sale or purchase of American Alligators.

Specifically, this legislation provides that no person shall purchase or sell an American Alligator within this Commonwealth. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a public zoological garden receiving government grants or appropriations, or a private zoological park or garden that is open to the public and accredited by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

Alligators typically grow one foot per year for the first five years, and may continue to grow to lengths beyond 12 feet, reaching as much as 1,000 pounds. While alligator hatchlings can be purchased or sold for \$50 to \$100, they can quickly become too big to care for and investing in the proper indoor setup for this aquatic reptile can be an extremely costly endeavor. Once captive, these reptiles cannot be released into the wild and Zoos and other institutions capable of housing an alligator cannot take surplus animals from the pet market. Consequently, it is necessary to stop the unregulated sale of alligators in Pennsylvania, for reasons which include human health and safety and as a prevention of cruelty to animals.

Alligators are regulated in many states including New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Arizona, Delaware, and Florida.

If you are interested in joining me as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please contact Melissa Knepper at [mknepner@pasen.gov](mailto:mknepner@pasen.gov) or by phone at 787-4651.