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Senate of Pennsylvania

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

TO: All Senators

DATE: November 18, 2011

FROM: Senator John P. Blake

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.P. Blake".

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship: District Attorneys opt-out of serving on prison boards

In the near future, I will introduce legislation to amend Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) to grant District Attorneys in 3rd, 4th and 5th class counties the option of serving on their respective county prison Board of Inspectors. Counties of the 6th, 7th, and 8th class currently have this option.

Under current law, District Attorneys in 3rd, 4th, and 5th class counties must serve on their county prison Board of Inspectors. There is a perceived conflict of interest as they must occasionally prosecute inmates, guards, or employees of said prison. As a result of this conflict, District Attorneys are potentially liable for any incidents that may occur at the prison. My legislation would allow counties to opt out of the requirement of District Attorney representation on the prison board, via resolution of the county commissioners.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact my office at 717-787-6481. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle Mullins at kmullins@pasenate.com.