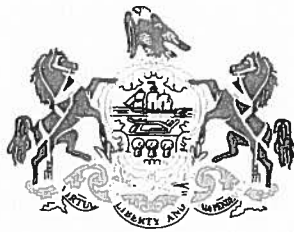


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LIQUOR CONTROL
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DATE: December 20, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Tim Krieger *TK*
57th Legislative District

SUBJECT: Request for Cosponsorship -- Eliminate Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) and Use the National Instant Check System (NICS)

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation which will eliminate the Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) and switch to using the National Instant Check System (NICS). The PICS system duplicates the background check which is already completed when a NICS check is conducted and as a result wastes taxpayer dollars.

In a report issued by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee in 2006, about two-thirds of PICS revenues come from the General Fund. With the elimination of PICS, the revenues from the General Fund will be available to fund other programs throughout the Commonwealth. The switchover from PICS to NICS was one of the recommendations issued by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee. While the committee did note that this may diminish the comprehensiveness of the background check, I do not believe it will.

Currently, NICS only checks for Federal prohibitors. However, a plan is currently in place to make system changes to NICS so that NICS will have the capabilities to also check for state prohibitors. This change, scheduled for roll out in April 2012, will maintain the comprehensiveness that currently exists. With this in mind, the effective date of my legislation is June of 2012 or 60 days after notice has been made in the PA Bulletin that NICS maintains a state prohibitor database, whichever is later.

I believe that my legislation will help streamline the background check process and provide substantial savings to the Commonwealth by eliminating duplicative processes.

If you would like to join me in sponsoring this bill, please contact Nancy Shenk at 260-6146 or via email at nshenk@pahousegop.com.