

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2012

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Rep. Babette Josephs

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Resolution to amend House Rule 32

I will be introducing a Resolution, in the near future, that would amend House Rule 32 to require amendments to a Commonwealth land conveyance or land granting bills considered by the House, and land conveyance bills that come back from the Senate for concurrence that have been amended with additional conveyances of Commonwealth lands, be accompanied by a memorandum from the Department of General Services that states: the use to which the property is presently employed; the full consideration for the transfer, if any; a departmental appraisal of the property, including its valuation and a list of recorded liens and encumbrances, if any; the use to which the property will be employed upon its transfer; the date by which the land is needed for its new use; and the legislative district or districts in which the land is located. This memorandum would be filed with the Chief Clerk and the Speaker of the House before being considered by the House. The memorandum would be required to contain a statement by a responsible person in the Department of General Services stating whether or not the administration favors the transfer which is the subject of the bill under consideration.

As you know, House Rule 32 currently prohibits any committee from reporting out a bill without such a memorandum. Too often the spirit of this rule is flouted by loading up these bills with amendments in the House and the Senate. Not only do these conveyances bypass the scrutiny of the House State Government Committee, but the House does not even have the benefit of basic information about the conveyance from the Department of General Services.

If you would be interested in cosponsoring this bill, please contact Jenn at 787-8529 or at Jbelz@pahouse.net.