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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Member
75th Legislative District

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February 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Matt Gabler
SUBJECT: Introduction of Legislation -- Clarifying the Liquor Code for Military Exceptions

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation to amend the Liquor Code – Act 21 of 1951, Section 491 (2) – to clarify an ambiguity that has been brought to my attention by a constituent of mine who is a veteran of the United States Coast Guard.

As you know, the Liquor Code requires most liquor transported, possessed or consumed in Pennsylvania to be subject to state liquor taxes. Certain exceptions are provided. Section 491 (2) allows certain consumers to possess and transport up to one gallon of liquor that has not been taxed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania if it has been purchased at a military package store.

The current language of the Liquor Code refers only to liquor purchased at package stores that fall under the regulations of the Department of Defense. My constituent has pointed out to me that the Coast Guard technically falls under the Department of Homeland Security. My bill will clarify the Liquor Code by clarifying that the exception applies to all liquor stores located on military installations, to include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. I believe that this clarification will ensure that our veterans of all of our military forces are treated equally and fairly with respect to this statute.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Alex Baldivieso at (717)260-6142 or abaldivi@pahousegop.com.