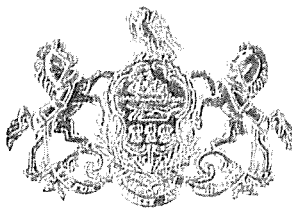


THE STATE CAPITOL
SENATE BOX 203028
ROOM 9 EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3028
PHONE: (717) 787-3817
FAX: (717) 783-1900
EMAIL: mwaugh@pasen.gov
WEB: www.senatorwaugh.com

Majority Caucus Chairman



Senate of Pennsylvania
MIKE WAUGH
SENATOR

MEMORANDUM

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SENATE FIREFIGHTERS AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES CAUCUS,
MAJORITY CHAIRMAN

TO: All Senators

DATE: April 3, 2012

FROM: Senator Mike Waugh

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MIKE".

SUBJECT: Request to co-sponsor legislation
Public Safety Fee to Fund Fire and EMS Grant Program

APR 03 2012

I am introducing legislation that amends the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program.

Under this legislation, funding for the existing grant program will be increased, and the program will be expanded to include municipal fire and EMS, through a new 25% fee on the sale of "consumer fireworks" sold at facilities licensed by the Department of Agriculture. (Note that this fee would not apply to sparklers and other novelties sold at road-side tents and other retailers such as Walmart).

According to the most recent data available from the Department of Revenue, there is about \$40 million worth of consumer fireworks sold annually in Pennsylvania. However, Pennsylvania residents are effectively prohibited from purchasing consumer fireworks at these fireworks stores. On the other hand, these fireworks facilitates, generally located near the borders of the state along major highways, can freely sell these consumer fireworks to out-of-state residents. I would encourage you to watch the following YouTube video, which is a segment of a New York news story that does a good job summarizing the result of Pennsylvania's fireworks law <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGcsU78jLJs>

Though Commonwealth citizens cannot patronize these stores, they, and the first responders who serve them, bear the risk of these facilities and the fireworks they sell. The Pyrotechnic Public Safety Fee imposes a commonsense fee on these potentially dangerous products to provide much needed funding for a most important grant program for our first responders.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Debbie Clark in my office at 787-3817 or dclark@pasen.gov.