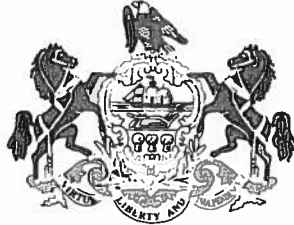


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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Nick Miccarelli *NAM*

DATE: April 5, 2012

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship- Amending Chapter 57 of "Title 53 relating to taxicab and limousine service in city of the first Class

In the near future, I will introduce a bill to amend Chapter 57 of Title 53 to accomplish several goals related to the taxicab industry in Philadelphia, which provides service to the largest airport in the Commonwealth and supports tourism and gaming institutions we recently authorized in and around Philadelphia.

The bill addresses the pressing need for wheelchair accessible taxicabs in Philadelphia through a measured increase to the maximum number of taxicab medallions available for issuance, currently 1,600. Over the next 10 years, that maximum will increase to 1,750 through authorization of no more than 15 new medallions each year.

Wheelchair accessible taxicabs are significantly more expensive than standard vehicles. For that reason, most existing medallion owners have been reluctant to convert their existing taxicabs to address this need. There is no consensus on the number of wheelchair accessible taxicabs needed in Philadelphia, nor the interest of those with disabilities to use standard taxicab service over paratransit or other available services. This measured increase in the number of medallions will permit an analysis of usage patterns to determine if the need has been met or additional medallion may be required.

In the event additional wheelchair accessible taxicabs are not necessary, these additional medallions may be issued with special conditions, such as requirements that the vehicles used to provide taxicab service will be new or more spacious.

The bill also contains several corrections and clarifications related to the regulations of taxicabs and limousines in Philadelphia that have been at issue in the courts. These issues include the clarification of the Legislature's intent to place all taxicabs with rights in Philadelphia under the purview of Chapter 53.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Debby Garger in my Harrisburg Office at 787-3472 or by email to dgarger@pahousegop.com