

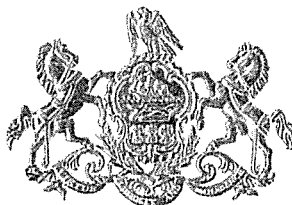
STATE SENATOR  
LISA BAKER  
20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

172 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
SENATE BOX 203020  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3020  
717-787-7428  
FAX: 717-787-9242

22 DALLAS SHOPPING CENTER  
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY  
DALLAS, PA 18612  
570-675-3931  
FAX: 570-674-5037  
TOLL FREE: 1-888-736-1153

2512 ROUTE 6  
HAWLEY, PA 18428  
PHONE: 570-226-5960  
FAX: 570-226-5964

lbaker@pasen.gov  
senatorbaker.com




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Senate of Pennsylvania

MAY 15 2012

May 15, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:**  Senator Lisa Baker  
**SUBJECT:** A Comprehensive Update to Title 35, the Emergency Management Code

Please join me in co-sponsoring comprehensive legislation to update Title 35, the state's Emergency Management Services Code, which was last overhauled in 1996.

This bill incorporates nearly two decades worth of improvements to the state, regional, county and municipal emergency response network, fueled by the events of September 11, 2001, Hurricanes Katrina and Irene, the Valentine's Day snowstorm, and other natural and manmade disasters. In response to these significant tragedies and sweeping post-9/11 changes to federal and state law, Title 35 must be updated, to provide a more efficient and effective framework for the Commonwealth and local governments to prepare for and respond to all-hazard disasters.

This legislation is the product of years of negotiations among numerous stakeholders, including the Pennsylvania State Police, the Keystone Emergency Management Association, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and first responders. It was the subject of a hearing before the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee on May 14, 2008, and has been continuously reviewed and strengthened since then.

The bill's two main updates to existing law include 1) outlining the role of the regional counter-terrorism task forces, created after 9/11 but not reflected in current law, and 2) codifying the shift of the Office of Homeland Security from PEMA to the State Police.

If you wish to co-sponsor this bill, please contact Liz Clancy by email at [LClancy@pasen.gov](mailto:LClancy@pasen.gov) or by phone at 787-7428. Thank you.