

HAROLD JAMES, MEMBER  
186TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

125 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202186  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2186  
PHONE: (717) 783-1792  
FAX: (717) 787-7172

1610 SOUTH BROAD STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19145  
PHONE: (215) 952-3378  
FAX: (215) 952-1141

EMAIL: HJAMES@PAHOUSE.NET  
WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/JAMES



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG


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PA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS,  
TREASURER

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives

**FROM:** Representative Harold James 

**DATE:** July 25, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship Memo – Enabling Distressed Municipalities to Impose Tax on Liquor and Malt and Brewed Beverages

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In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation amending Act 47 of 1987, the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, to enable distressed municipalities to levy a tax on liquor and malt and brewed beverages. Ordinances would be modeled after the First Class School District Liquor Sales Tax Act of 1971, which authorizes a tax of 10% of the sale price.

Under the provisions of Act 47, nearly two dozen municipalities across our Commonwealth are financially distressed. The recent addition of our capital, Harrisburg, has renewed debate over the efficacy of the options it provides. I believe it is time for new thinking about this enduring problem. By enabling distressed municipalities to adopt ordinances levying this tax, we empower local officials and give hope to those municipal leaders who are eager to emerge from distress and thrive again.

I plan to introduce this legislation by August 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to co-sponsor this bill, please contact Debbie Wegert at [dwegert@pahouse.net](mailto:dwegert@pahouse.net) or 717.783.1792 (Caucus Extension 6189).