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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members and Legislative Assistants

**FROM:** Representative Dom Costa *DC*

**DATE:** September 4, 2012

**SUBJECT:** **Legislation – Authorizing Volunteer Fire Departments to Conduct Small Games of Chance Events at the Same Location**

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In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation amending the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, allowing volunteer fire departments to combine fundraising efforts by removing the limits on small games of chance events at a joint location.

As you may be aware, Act 2 of 2012 recently amended the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, providing for significant changes to the way eligible organizations conduct small games of chance. In order to accomplish the sorely needed increases in prize limits included in Act 2, compromises were made regarding increased reporting and accountability of the organizations conducting the games.

As legislators, we must always monitor the unintended consequences of the legislation we enact. In doing so, it has become clear that Act 2 created unnecessary restrictions on the ability of certain eligible organizations to successfully conduct small games of chance – specifically volunteer fire departments. In many cases, neighboring, licensed fire departments combine fundraising efforts by conducting small games of chance events at a joint location. Act 2 limited licensed organizations ability to conduct small games of chance solely to the single premises listed on their license. There is an exception for a limited number of annual special event permits, which allows for joint events at a shared location, but it can be a burdensome process to apply for the permit and the limitation in of itself is not the intent behind the accountability standards Act 2 sought to establish.

My legislation will allow volunteer fire departments with small games of chance licenses to combine their fundraising efforts without the onerous restrictions created by Act 2. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in support.

Should you wish to be included as a co-sponsor, please contact Maribel Echevarria in my office at 717-783-9114 or e-mail at [mechevar@pahouse.net](mailto:mechevar@pahouse.net).