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Senate of Pennsylvania
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SEP 21 2012

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Richard Alloway II *Rich*

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship Memo – Administrative Law Procedure and Office of Administrative Hearings

DATE: September 21, 2012

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that will amend Title 2 (Administrative Law and Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, extensively revising provisions on practice and procedure and judicial review of administrative adjudications; and establishing the Office of Administrative Hearings.

This legislation in addition to extensively revising Title 2 (Administrative Law and Procedure) would create a separate panel of administrative law judges with the executive branch in place of agency employee hearing officers. This legislation would create a separate agency within the executive branch that conducts virtually all formal hearings for Commonwealth agencies. A central hearing panel ALJ (Administrative Law Justice) would hear all "adjudications" of Commonwealth agencies and would replace all present agency hearing officers. This agency would

The implementation of this structure would insure imparity and fairness in adjudications and prevent command influence of Administrative Law Justices. Additionally the benefits include, substantial protections for the independence of Administrative law Justice's and an appointment of a chief Administrative Law Justice who can monitor the performance of the central hearing panel.

Currently, 26 states have implemented a Central Hearing Panel/Office of Administrative Hearings.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Melissa Knepper at mknepper@pasen.gov or by phone at 772-2929 prior to September 28, 2012.