

Memorandum

To: All House Members

From: The Honorable Vanessa Lowery Brown

Date: January 23, 2013

Re: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: Former HB 720, PN 1816
Pawnbrokers License Act

In the near future, I will be re-introducing former House Bill 720, Printer's Number 1816, which provides for the identity of a pledger, pawn tickets, hold orders and related procedures, as well as for pledge and penalties.

Specifically, this legislation mandates that the identity of a pledger include the name, address, age, sex, and race. In addition, this measure requires that a pledger provide a valid form of photo identification issued by a Federal or state government agency, and that a digital photograph of the pledger be taken at the time of the transaction.

Moreover, when an appropriate law enforcement official has probable cause to believe that property in the possession of a pawn broker has been misappropriated (stolen), the official may place a written order on the property, which shall not exceed ninety (90) days. During this instance, pawn brokers would be compelled to release the property under a hold order to law enforcement officials for its use in a criminal investigation.

Finally, any individual, partnership, association, corporation, or a business entity that commits a violation of this act shall, upon conviction, have its license revoked, and such an individual partnership, association, corporation, or business entity shall also be deemed ineligible to apply for a pawnbroker's license for five (5) years following the date of conviction for the initial offense.

It should also be noted that last session this measure received third consideration and final passage in the House (196-0).

With these concerns in mind, and once again with your overwhelming support, I believe that this legislation will enable law enforcement officials to conduct proper investigations and, as a result, will provide better protections for Pennsylvania's consumers and pawnbrokers.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this legislation, please contact Brandon Flood in my office at (717) 783-3822 or at BFlood@pahouse.net.

Previous Sponsors: SHAPIRO, BARBIN, BROWNLEE, D. COSTA, DAVIDSON, GEIST, KORTZ, MANN, MIRABITO, MOUL, MUNDY, PARKER, PASHINSKI, VULAKOVICH, DELUCA AND KIRKLAND.