

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Specialty License Plates

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House Transportation Committee

PUC Hearing Room No. 1  
North Office Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Wednesday, May 2, 2001 - 9:30

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**BEFORE:**

Honorable Richard Geist, Majority Chairman  
Honorable Ellen Bard  
Honorable Russell Fairchild  
Honorable Teresa Forcier  
Honorable Dick Hess  
Honorable John Pippy  
Honorable Stanley Saylor  
Honorable Jess Stairs  
Honorable Jere Strittmatter  
Honorable Frank Dermody  
Honorable Susan Laughlin  
Honorable David Levdansky  
Honorable Joseph Markosek  
Honorable Anthony Melio  
Honorable Joseph Petrarca  
Honorable Dante Santoni, Jr.  
Honorable Stephen Stetler

T2001-071

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Eric Bugaile**  
Majority Executive Director

**Dana J. Alwine**  
Majority Counsel

**Kristine Caber**  
Majority Administrative Assistant

**Jason Wagner**  
Majority Research Analyst

**Lynn Benka-Davies**  
Minority Research Analyst

**Paul Parsells**  
Minority Executive Director

**Marilyn Antes**  
Minority Committee Secretary

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Written Testimony Submitted By:

The Honorable Linda Bebko-Jones

1                   CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Good morning everyone. If  
2 you guys are ready on the television, we'll get started  
3 here. Just a couple opening remarks. We have specialty  
4 license plates that exist in Pennsylvania. We have a lot  
5 of wonderful groups across the state who want their own  
6 plates.

7                   We also have a mechanism that was in 1470 so  
8 that we can have personalized specialty plates which would  
9 raise a bunch more money for both the state and the  
10 organizations for the dedicated monies. So what we want to  
11 do now is hear from the members and others who have  
12 interest in particular plates so that we can put together a  
13 comprehensive piece of legislation, one that the Governor  
14 can sign and one that the groups that have these plates  
15 will be happy with.

16                   The past history of this is that I've been the  
17 prime sponsor of the hunter/angler plate. And I'm proud to  
18 say I'm the only member of the General Assembly that has  
19 had the Governor veto a bill twice. So what we want to do  
20 now is come up with something that we all agree to, send it  
21 to the Governor, and hope that we can, the three branches  
22 of government can work together.

23                   And to do that, we're going to take testimony  
24 from members on the particular plates that they have  
25 because we know that they represent a lot of groups out

1 there that want to do this. So we're going to start off  
2 this morning by seniority, I guess, with one of the deans  
3 of the House, Jess Stairs from Westmoreland County. Jess.

4 REPRESENTATIVE STAIRS: Thank you, Mr.  
5 Chairman. I appreciate your kindness in letting me go  
6 first because I have a meeting at this same time. So I can  
7 leave and -- but I appreciate it. I will set the precedent  
8 for the rest of the members. I will be very brief.

9 I know you have five minutes. But I will be  
10 very, very brief and maybe give Representative Sather a  
11 chance to make some remarks, too. But my particular  
12 request is for Purple Heart. They presently have a  
13 specialty plate.

14 And I think that these, these individuals have  
15 served their country notably. And I think we should give  
16 them a little extra special recognition. So I would  
17 suggest that as we do this, that we reduce that to zero,  
18 have no charge or, under the worst case scenario, maybe a  
19 \$10 charge for the Purple Heart because of their dedicated  
20 service to our country, being veterans, representing us and  
21 serving their country very well.

22 So I appreciate that consideration as we move  
23 this bill. And that concludes my remarks. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you very much. He  
25 has a question, Jess. Representative Melio.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Is there a maximum or a  
2 minimum required when you get these special plates? Like  
3 sometimes it's 500. I know we probably don't have 500  
4 Purple Heart people.

5                   REPRESENTATIVE STAIRS: Yeah. I don't know  
6 the numbers. And maybe PennDOT -- you know, I'm aware that  
7 we have a purple heart plate now. There is a plate like  
8 that. And my request is to, you know, to waive the fee on,  
9 for these special individuals, yes.

10                  CHAIRPERSON GEIST: For the members' benefit,  
11 PennDOT will be here tomorrow to answer questions so, on  
12 numbers and problems that they have and why they oppose  
13 issuing any more plates. We're going to hear their side of  
14 it. Right now, we want to hear the side of the people who  
15 really want the special plates.

16                  Next up is my good friend from Blair County  
17 and Huntingdon County, Representative Larry Sather.

18                  REPRESENTATIVE SATHER: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Chairman, members of the Transportation Committee. Thank  
20 you for giving me this opportunity to give some input onto  
21 House Bill 1090. House Bill 1090 is a new piece of  
22 legislation that has not been previously introduced. It  
23 makes an emergency services plate.

24                  Now, the intent of this is that your police,  
25 fire, and EMS people would have a distinguishing plate.

1 The cost of that would be \$35. Fifteen dollars of that  
2 would be set aside in a special fund that would, can only  
3 be used for emergency services incident safety funds.

4 All of you I'm sure are aware that we've had  
5 some incidents on our highways most recently of another  
6 PennDOT worker. And we want to educate more or further  
7 educate the police and fire and EMS personnel, when they're  
8 at a scene of an accident, a fire, to be safe out there.

9 And these funds would be used for that  
10 exclusive purpose. The plate would be designed with  
11 PennDOT and PEMA assistance on it. And we would hope that  
12 you would consider this and any future legislation that  
13 might develop.

14 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: We would like to consider  
15 this plate. It's a wonderful plate. And we'd also like to  
16 be able to personalize it. So we're going to push for  
17 this.

18 REPRESENTATIVE SATHER: I appreciate that for  
19 all consideration of all the members. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you, Larry. Next  
21 up, Honorable Chuck McIlhinney, Jr., Bucks County.

22 REPRESENTATIVE McILHINNEY: Good morning  
23 everyone. And thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the  
24 opportunity to address the committee this morning on House  
25 Bill 988. Very simply, this legislation permits PennDOT to



1 design and issue a breast cancer awareness registration  
2 plate for motor vehicles that do not exceed 9,000 pounds.

3           The plate would bear a \$35 fee in addition to  
4 the annual registration fee. And \$15 of that fee would be  
5 deposited into the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast  
6 cancer research, education, screening, and treatment. Mr.  
7 Chairman, I believe it's critically important that we not  
8 only garner greater public attention toward this dreaded  
9 disease but also that we create an efficient, effective,  
10 and practical funding mechanism for people to donate more  
11 money to research, education, and treatment.

12           I want to share some of the statistics that  
13 underscore the urgency of these goals. An estimated  
14 180,000 new cases of breast cancer are expected to occur  
15 among women in the United States in 2001. It is estimated  
16 that there will be nearly 50,000 deaths from breast cancer  
17 alone this year.

18           Breast cancer currently ranks second among  
19 cancer deaths in women. The breast cancer awareness plate  
20 allows Pennsylvania motorists to help promote awareness  
21 through the plate itself and, in so doing, contribute money  
22 to research, education, and treatment.

23           Mr. Chairman, I urge the members of the  
24 committee to support House Bill 988 so that we can better  
25 combat breast cancer. Thank you for letting me speak to

1 you this morning.

2 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you. I think it's a  
3 very noble plate, and we'd like to do it.

4 REPRESENTATIVE McILHINNEY: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Next up, a member of this  
6 committee, Pete Daley, Washington County, a former member.  
7 Excuse me.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DALEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
9 Chairman.

10 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: It seems like you've never  
11 left us.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DALEY: Well, after being with  
13 you for 14 years, I feel the same way. Thank you, Mr.  
14 Chairman, for giving us all the opportunity in this forum  
15 to discuss all the plates that members have, specifically  
16 the one I've supported and introduced, a freestanding bill  
17 as well as amendments.

18 It is a plate for women's health issues.  
19 Fundamentally, if you remember, Rachelle Letcanage  
20 (Phonetic), Miss Pennsylvania who was crowned in June of  
21 2000, took it upon herself to support and lobby the  
22 legislature for the passage of this particular plate.

23 Primarily, her concern as a practicing nurse  
24 at Allegheny General Hospital was endometriosis. And we  
25 have asked her to broaden that scope to women's health

1 issues. As you know, \$15 of the cost of the plate, the  
2 registration would go to the Health Department for women's  
3 health research projects.

4 Twenty dollars, of course, goes to PennDOT to  
5 cover the cost of the plate. And we ask that PennDOT and  
6 the Department of Health would, would come up with a design  
7 of the plate. One-third of the net revenue would go to  
8 endometriosis research. Two-thirds would go to other  
9 health issues for women.

10 The research must be funded within  
11 Pennsylvania for Pennsylvania research locations, and  
12 research to be funded must be medical or other life science  
13 research. We believe sociologically and social issue  
14 service projects would overburden the limited resources  
15 that would be generated by this plate.

16 Of course, the object would be to seek a cure  
17 for medical disorders and diseases first. And the Health  
18 Department hopefully would devise the criteria and process  
19 for awarding the research funds. This is very similar to  
20 the last issue.

21 And if you've seen other states, they do have  
22 women's health issue plates which has a ribbon on the  
23 plate, which is similar to the breast cancer awareness  
24 issue. And we'd ask for your support.

25 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you. It's an

1 excellent plate, and we hope that we can move it with the  
2 package. Next up, the leader of the ambulance core, Tim  
3 Solobay.

4           REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: Thank you, Mr.  
5 Chairman. My bill, House Bill 818, is a reintroduction  
6 from a bill we put in last session, 904. It will develop  
7 an emergency services plate. The plan for this -- right  
8 now, there is a fire fighter plate that active fire  
9 fighters in Pennsylvania are able to purchase to have on  
10 their vehicle.

11           The emergency services plate will be a plate  
12 for those folks who are not emergency service providers or  
13 on a second vehicle that would like to be supportive of the  
14 emergency services. The \$15 that will be granted by this  
15 plate will go to a special fund that will help enhance  
16 emergency services throughout Pennsylvania.

17           And we would ask that the committee would  
18 support this and add this plate bill to your package of  
19 bills for plates.

20           CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you very much.

21           REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: All right. Thank  
22 you. Short and sweet.

23           CHAIRPERSON GEIST: We're trying to collect  
24 all this stuff. What we really want to show is that we  
25 have the interest in this. I know that there's a lot of

1 technical opposition from the Department, that there's a  
2 lot of interest across the board on these plates in the  
3 citizenry.

4           And there certainly has to be a way for us to  
5 find a solution that's going to satisfy everyone. And one  
6 of the things that we had in 1470 that everybody voted for  
7 was the ability to have these plates personalized which  
8 would add quite a bit more revenue into those funds.

9           And if somebody in the hunter/angler plate  
10 wants to have .357 Magnum and they're willing to pay for  
11 that, I think that's fine. And if we have a motorcycle  
12 plate and if Charles wants to personalize his plate with  
13 BMW on it, I think that he should be able to do that and so  
14 forth.

15           So we need to collect this information, I  
16 think show the will of the House and the will of those  
17 people that you represent so that we can do it and do it  
18 right.

19           REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: Thank you, Mr.  
20 Chairman.

21           REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Just one question, Mr.  
22 Chairman.

23           CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Yes.

24           REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Tim, how does your  
25 license plate differ from Sather's plate? They're both

1 EMS.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: I did not, I did not  
3 see the proposal on Larry's plate. This one would  
4 basically, again, would be an emergency service plate. It  
5 would be a special design that we would do with the folks  
6 at emergency services to provide a concept.

7 I would have to look at Larry's bill. I did  
8 not see his bill. So I'm not sure what he is looking to  
9 provide on that.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chairman.

12 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: You and Representative  
13 Sather need to get together on -- you're kind of  
14 overlapping.

15 REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: All right.

16 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Come up with a solution.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: Sure. Not a problem.

18 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: All right. Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Next we would like to call  
21 the leader of aviation in Pennsylvania, Representative Russ  
22 Fairchild.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCHILD: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Chairman. With your help, we've been able to, I think,  
25 make great strides in some aviation issues in Pennsylvania.

1 I'm here today. I was approached by members of the  
2 aviation community to recognize the fine tradition of  
3 aviation in Pennsylvania.

4           What I would like to do is just read a couple  
5 statistics into the record, if you would allow me.

6 Aviation in Pennsylvania provides the Commonwealth's  
7 residents and businesses with more than a direct efficient  
8 link to the world.

9           Pennsylvania's systems of 142 public use  
10 airports generates billions of dollars of economic activity  
11 and creates hundreds and thousands of quality jobs. In  
12 addition, Pennsylvanians increasingly depend upon the  
13 aviation to support their health, welfare, and safety.

14           The economic impact of aviation in  
15 Pennsylvania is significant. Aviation's total economic  
16 impact comprises 4 percent of the total estimated gross  
17 state product and produces over 5 percent of all jobs in  
18 Pennsylvania.

19           The 16 airports in the Commonwealth that have  
20 scheduled commercial services amount for 35,500 full-time  
21 jobs with a payroll of 1.3 billion. The total number of  
22 jobs in Pennsylvania attributable to these airports is more  
23 than 282,900 with an annual payroll approaching 5.5 billion  
24 and a total economic impact of more than 11.8 billion on  
25 the state's economy.

1           So you can see it's a, it's a great industry  
2 for Pennsylvania. And in addition, I think an aviation  
3 plate would recognize our civil air patrol volunteers, our  
4 Air National Guard, our civilian pilots, our ex-military  
5 pilots.

6           It would recognize that Pennsylvania was the  
7 first state in the nation to establish an overland air  
8 route. And it would certainly recognize Piper Aircraft and  
9 the fine tradition of that fine airplane not only in the  
10 United States but in the world.

11           We also have others in Pennsylvania. In the  
12 southeast, we have Boeing. And generally, I feel that it  
13 would be a fine plate in question. And replying to a  
14 former question, I don't think the numbers would be a  
15 problem in Pennsylvania.

16           And on a general issue on these plates, I  
17 believe the administration should move forward. There's  
18 other states that have a lot of these types of plates. Of  
19 course, we have to use caution in design so that we do not  
20 get plates that you're unable to see the numbers. That  
21 obviously becomes a safety issue.

22           CHAIRPERSON GEIST: We don't want to ship the,  
23 to sink the Niagara again.

24           REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCHILD: I didn't want to be  
25 specific, but you're exactly right. Yes, that obviously



1 created problems. And with a little additional oversight,  
2 I think that type of problem can be eliminated. And these  
3 types of plates recognize good causes and good issues for  
4 Pennsylvanians.

5 And when you drive around the country, you  
6 know, it's kind of interesting to see some of the aspects  
7 of other states that promote these plates. Thank you, Mr.  
8 Chairman.

9 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Russ, for the members of  
10 the committee and especially for the TV audience, in House  
11 Bill 1470, which we all voted on, the, established a new  
12 plate fund. And issuance of any special fund plate is  
13 dependent upon compliance with the following conditions and  
14 requirements. And we better go back and fine-tune this.

15 A letter of request describing the proposed  
16 purpose and data concerning the fund recipient must be  
17 submitted to PennDOT by the organization; a letter must  
18 also include proposed graphic design for the plate; a  
19 written agreement to fray all costs associated with initial  
20 procurement of not less than 20,000 license plates and any  
21 subsequent follow on procurement; costs include  
22 correctional, industrial, industry, labor, overhead,  
23 equipment, transportation, and all the materials associated  
24 with each plate; a minimum of 5,000 initial applications; a  
25 recognition that any special fund plate program has a

1 10-year life cycle and after 10 years, all plates may be  
2 recalled at the discretion of the Department, just as with  
3 all plates; a recognition that upon plate discontinuance,  
4 the special fund recipient is responsible for all closing  
5 costs associated with remaining plate and material  
6 inventories; and any subsequent plate redesigned by a fund  
7 recipient must meet and recognize all the above  
8 requirements.

9           So we kind of covered that ballpark pretty  
10 well. We also covered the language for the specialty  
11 plates there. And we went out and investigated with the  
12 plate companies and the people that make the machines in  
13 New York and others how easily it really is to manufacture  
14 a special plate so that if we wanted to charge, it was \$300  
15 for a special plate and then 150 that would go to the  
16 aviation fund and 150 of it would go to PennDOT.

17           So there's a lot of things that we see that  
18 are a real benefit for the state of Pennsylvania and for  
19 the people that want the plates. And we want to thank you  
20 for working with us to help create that.

21           REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCHILD: Thank you. And I  
22 also think it's important that citizens understand that  
23 none of these funds come out of the, the tax, general tax  
24 dollars. In other words, if you want to subscribe to a  
25 plate as an individual, that's what pays for the plate.

1           These are not tax dollars. So it's kind of a  
2 break-even type of thing. And I think as you, as you  
3 noted, with the advance in technology, we can certainly  
4 manufacture these at a lower cost. I don't want to scare  
5 the aviation community. I hope you were kidding when you  
6 said \$150 per plate.

7           CHAIRPERSON GEIST: No. That only is for the  
8 people that want the specialty plate personalized.

9           REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCHILD: Oh, personalized?

10          CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Right.

11          REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCHILD: Well, that's --

12          CHAIRPERSON GEIST: And then you can pay an  
13 additional fee above that. And, you know, you would  
14 probably have on yours "Cessna."

15          REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCHILD: Yeah. No.  
16 I -- but I mean, as long as it's -- I think as long as it's  
17 a break-even, we certainly don't want to dip into  
18 taxpayers' money. And individuals and groups are welcome  
19 to suggest how much money they want to put into special  
20 funds.

21          CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you very much.

22          REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCHILD: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Chairman.

24          CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Next up, Representative  
25 Sheila Miller.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: Good morning, Chairman  
2 Geist and members of the committee. Thank you for the  
3 opportunity to testify today about my proposal to create a  
4 specialty license plate to enhance two very important  
5 programs for agriculture in Pennsylvania.

6                   The first one is the highly successful  
7 Agriculture Preservation Program. And I initially  
8 introduced legislation to create a specialty plate for this  
9 program several, several sessions ago and then also the Ag.  
10 in the Classroom Program, which was added to my specialty  
11 license plate legislation later in cooperation with  
12 Representative John Gordner of Columbia County.

13                   He was interested in assisting that program  
14 through a special license plate for agriculture. As  
15 Chairman for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania,  
16 Vice-Chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
17 Committee and as a farmer myself, I understand the  
18 important role agriculture plays in our Commonwealth.

19                   I have served on the Berks County Agricultural  
20 Land Preservation Board for more than a decade. And I'm  
21 continually reminded about the interest in this program  
22 each month as I see lengthy and ever-increasing lists of  
23 farmers who would like to preserve their farms for future  
24 generations.

25                   I also have served on the Agriculture

1 Awareness Foundation Board in the past. And I know the  
2 importance of teaching students about food and fiber  
3 production in the classroom. The Ag. in the Classroom  
4 Program aids teachers in learning how to incorporate this  
5 information into their normal lesson plans for science,  
6 math, English, and other subjects that they teach every  
7 day.

8           Agriculture is not only a valuable contributor  
9 to our economy as our leading industry, but it is also a  
10 vital part of our state's heritage. Our agricultural  
11 exports help feed our nation and the world. Our farms  
12 provide key links to other important areas, including the  
13 environment and tourism.

14           We have an important story to share about  
15 Pennsylvania's agriculture contributions to our country's  
16 safe and plentiful food supply, whether it's in the schools  
17 or as we travel highways and spread the word to motorists  
18 who might be behind us viewing our specialty license plate  
19 for agriculture.

20           I've been especially pleased during the past  
21 two years to see the General Assembly and the  
22 Administration continuing their efforts to protect the  
23 future of agriculture in our Commonwealth through  
24 additional funding for farmland preservation.

25           And we have recently been recognized as a

1 national leader in this whole area, preserving more than  
2 164,000 acres. But there's a lot more to do. By creating  
3 a specialty license plate for agriculture, we can collect  
4 the additional funding for farmland preservation and for  
5 ag. education programs.

6 And I believe Chairman Geist did go over how  
7 this would work. But for the agriculture plate, we'd be  
8 splitting it 50/50 between ag. education and farmland  
9 preservation. I strongly believe that this license plate  
10 is long overdue.

11 We need to catch up with other states that  
12 have already created an agricultural plate for their number  
13 one, in our case, our number one industry. And Chairman  
14 Geist and members of the committee, I'm happy to answer any  
15 questions.

16 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: We believe that after you  
17 get this passed, that you'll be named the best milker on  
18 the farm.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: Well, since I'm in the  
20 beef production, I'm going to make sure that there's a  
21 Hereford on that.

22 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: All right. Thank you very  
23 much. Next up is Mr. Hardwood himself, Jim Lynch.

24 REPRESENTATIVE LYNCH: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Chairman, committee. Thank you for the opportunity to be

1 here. I should be wearing green, I guess, today. This is  
2 the third session, Mr. Chairman, that I've introduced a  
3 legislation to create a license plate honoring the Irish  
4 immigrants to Pennsylvania.

5 Now, fully, one-tenth of all Pennsylvanians  
6 claim some sort of Irish ancestry. And it was closer to  
7 100 percent on St. Patrick's Day. But the rest of the  
8 year, a full 10 percent do. The Irish were a very  
9 important part of the history of Pennsylvania. So much so  
10 that it's not just history. It's a legacy. It is part of  
11 what we are.

12 They were important in the creation of our  
13 state as we know it. The license plate -- we have a  
14 suggested plate. We have a suggested plate. We have a  
15 suggested plate. And again, the purpose of the money that  
16 would be gained from this plate would be to build and  
17 maintain and preserve the Irish heritage through a memorial  
18 that was to be erected in Philadelphia.

19 And I thank you for your time. If anybody has  
20 any questions, I'll be more than happy to answer them.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Could you explain the  
22 letters on it?

23 REPRESENTATIVE LYNCH: The letters?

24 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Yeah.

25 REPRESENTATIVE LYNCH: Oh, I'm sorry. At the

1 bottom here is in Gallic, An Gorta Mor, which means a great  
2 hunger translated in English, a great hunger. Is that what  
3 you're referring to, Representative?

4 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Uh-huh. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HESS: That is green isn't it,  
6 Jim?

7 REPRESENTATIVE LYNCH: It's faded over the  
8 years because this is the third session that I've  
9 introduced this. And in the filing cabinet, it has faded  
10 over the years.

11 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: No orange plate, Jim?

12 REPRESENTATIVE LYNCH: Pardon me?

13 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: No orange plate?

14 REPRESENTATIVE LYNCH: No. We're not going to  
15 be dealing with politics.

16 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you very much.

17 REPRESENTATIVE LYNCH: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Next up is one of the  
19 bright young stars in the General Assembly, Jeff Coleman.

20 REPRESENTATIVE COLEMAN: Chairman Geist,  
21 members of the committee, let me begin my brief visit with  
22 you this morning by saying thank you for your support and  
23 cosponsorship of the Friend for Life in Pennsylvania  
24 license plate.

25 Since its introduction a few weeks ago,



1 members haling from both sides of the aisle have been so  
2 kind to promote its bill and its mission. And for that, I  
3 am truly grateful. A little over 100 days ago, my 18-month  
4 campaign for the Pennsylvania House ended; and a serious  
5 effort to keep my commitments began.

6           At every opportunity in that campaign, I  
7 talked about the importance of citizens that are young,  
8 like me, again being inspired by the political process. I  
9 talked of politics at sidelined party labels and a renewed  
10 sense of public service that put principles first.

11           My district has nearly 70 percent of its  
12 voters in the other party. And they did just that. Now,  
13 in my 5th month in office, I've had the opportunity to talk  
14 to over 2,500 students in young citizen forums about  
15 turning their cynicism about politics and service into a  
16 genuine crusade to change what's wrong with the system by  
17 putting creative solutions to old problems into the public  
18 debate.

19           Mr. Chairman, the Friend for Life in  
20 Pennsylvania specialty plate does just that. Instead of  
21 stoking the coals of the old rhetoric and chants on street  
22 corners, bumper stickers and divisive TV ads by special  
23 interest groups, this license plate makes its preference in  
24 a way that it is responsible and measured but clear in its  
25 mission of promoting the gift of life through adoption.

1           In the past few weeks, Mr. Chairman, the  
2 powerful lobbies opposing this sensible bill have rolled  
3 out that rhetoric once again from arguments about the  
4 separation of church and state to confusing statements  
5 about why Pennsylvania motorists should not be forced to  
6 put an adoption plate on their bumper, on their private  
7 vehicles.

8           Their intent to obscure the mission of this  
9 bill has been very obvious. But in E-mail after E-mail and  
10 call after call to my office, the message and intent of  
11 this plate was not muddied. Its intent is clear, and the  
12 purpose of supporting Pennsylvania's adoption agencies was  
13 not obscured by the professional critics and the special  
14 interest groups.

15           Here's how one E-mail read from a writer in  
16 Central Pennsylvania: "Dear Representative Coleman, I'm  
17 writing to thank you for what you are doing. The position  
18 you are taking and the manner in which you are approaching  
19 it are appreciated and refreshing. So much effort is lost  
20 these days in arguing over causes instead of coming up with  
21 solutions."

22           Mr. Chairman, I'm here today to respectfully  
23 ask the members of this committee to send this bill to the  
24 floor for a vote by all the members of the House. Yes,  
25 good people on both sides of the aisle hold deep

1 convictions about abortion and will no doubt continue to  
2 engage in an ongoing dialogue about the law, the  
3 constitution, and the medical argument surrounding this  
4 issue.

5 I ask you, however, to join me today, whether  
6 you've labeled yourself pro life or pro choice, in  
7 promoting the idea that in Pennsylvania there is a better  
8 way, a better way to make more children find loving homes  
9 with good parents and give the gift that has truly no  
10 price, the gift of life.

11 Thank you for the brief chance to visit with  
12 you this morning. I'd be happy to entertain any questions  
13 that you might have.

14 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you very much.

15 REPRESENTATIVE COLEMAN: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: No questions. Next up is  
17 I guess Mr. Transit in Pittsburgh, Joe Markosek.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MARKOSEK: Thank you very much,  
19 Chairman Geist, ladies and gentlemen. I'm very happy to be  
20 invited here to speak in front of the committee. And even  
21 more happy --

22 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: This is your committee.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MARKOSEK: -- privileged and  
24 flattered to serve on the committee. Thank you very much.  
25 House Bill 943 is a bill that I've introduced in past

1 sessions already as well. It is a bill that would provide  
2 a free fire fighter license plate and registration for  
3 volunteer fire personnel in Pennsylvania.

4           There would be a cost to this obviously. I  
5 don't have the exact numbers. I would have to do a fiscal  
6 note. But I think we all know that whatever the cost would  
7 be in encouraging volunteer fire fighters in Pennsylvania,  
8 we are in fact saving the Commonwealth a great deal of  
9 money, as we all know, those of us that have volunteer fire  
10 in our districts, what it would cost if we had to switch to  
11 a paid system.

12           And this, the idea of this came several years  
13 ago from one of our volunteer fire chiefs in my district  
14 who said, you know, we're having a hard time recruiting new  
15 volunteers for volunteer fire. And I'm sure we've all,  
16 perhaps, experienced that in our districts.

17           Some of that sense of volunteerism that  
18 perhaps was there at one time is not as great today. And  
19 the numbers of volunteer fire, firemen, fire women are  
20 dwindling. And this would suggest that it's just one, a  
21 small way of perhaps encouraging young people especially to  
22 join as volunteer fire persons in our Commonwealth.

23           So with that, I just want to thank the  
24 committee and appreciate the consideration.

25           CHAIRPERSON GEIST: I have one question. If

1 we were to give the free plate and then if we offer the  
2 personalization of that plate, that would be for a fee  
3 basis. And you have designated no fund then for that money  
4 to go into.

5 So if you could work with the brain trust on  
6 the committee because the language we had in 1470, you  
7 know, I'm sure that volunteer firemen, they're going to  
8 want to personalize these things.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MARKOSEK: Mr. Chairman, I'd be  
10 happy to work with the committee intelligentsia to come up  
11 with appropriate language to take care of that.

12 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you very much. Any  
13 other questions? Tony.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Joe, if somebody became  
15 a volunteer fireman to get the free plate and then decided  
16 that after they got the plate, they didn't want to fight  
17 fires anymore, how would you --

18 REPRESENTATIVE MARKOSEK: Well, in that case,  
19 it's not spelled out in the bill. We would be happy to  
20 perhaps consider language to that, you know, to cover that.  
21 But in my own opinion, just having been asked that question  
22 off the top of my head, I would say, Tony, that they would  
23 no longer be eligible for this.

24 I think the registration goes for a year. So  
25 you'd probably finish out the year. But beyond that, if

1 you could not -- or if your chief would in some way notify,  
2 would have some system that the chief would know who his  
3 full, full members are and who, who's left, that there be  
4 some notification to PennDOT that this person was no longer  
5 eligible.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Okay. Also,  
7 Representative Solobay and Sather have similar plates.  
8 Maybe you should see if they can --

9 REPRESENTATIVE MARKOSEK: We'd be happy to  
10 work with anybody on this.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Chairman.

13 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: I agree with Tony. You  
14 guys are all going to have to get together and come up with  
15 a consensus on these plates. At this time, we're going to  
16 take a 5-minute recess. And we'll come right back with  
17 Representative Mark McNaughton.

18 (A brief recess was taken.)

19 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Okay. If everybody can  
20 get settled again. We'll keep moving through here. Our  
21 next presenter is a leader in the House and one of the  
22 future leaders of Pennsylvania, Representative Mark  
23 McNaughton.

24 REPRESENTATIVE McNAUGHTON: Good morning,  
25 Chairman Geist and members of the committee. And thank you

1 for the opportunity to discuss the warrants of the  
2 specialty license plate that I am proposing, the organ  
3 donor registration plate.

4 I'm the prime sponsor of House Bill 1097,  
5 which calls for the creation of an organ donor license  
6 plate to benefit Pennsylvania's Organ Donation Awareness  
7 Trust Fund established as part of Act 102 of 1994. This  
8 trust fund, administered by the State Department of Health,  
9 is the sole source of funding for the various promotional  
10 and educational activities authorized by Act 102.

11 All money in the trust fund is privately  
12 donated by Pennsylvanians. Motorists already have the  
13 opportunity to donate a dollar to the trust fund when  
14 obtaining or renewing a driver's license, photo ID card,  
15 and vehicle registration.

16 They'll have an opportunity to do much more if  
17 this plate is made available. Fifteen dollars of every \$35  
18 application fee charged for this organ donor license plate  
19 will go to the trust fund. This revenue will go a long way  
20 in helping to fund the public awareness campaigns and the  
21 education programs that are so necessary to promote organ  
22 donation. The Department of Health embarked on this last  
23 year.

24 The design of this license plate incorporates  
25 the nationally recognized organ donor logo. This logo is a

1 powerful symbol of the lives that have been saved as well  
2 as those that could have been saved. Today, more than  
3 65,000 people in the United States are awaiting organ  
4 transplants.

5 More than 5,000 of those individuals are  
6 Pennsylvanians. And it is estimated that nationally, as  
7 many as 13 people die per day waiting for a transplant.  
8 Pennsylvania must do its part to promote organ donation.  
9 While most citizens support the idea, almost half of the  
10 families still decline to donate when presented with the  
11 opportunity.

12 We've got to get the message out that donating  
13 your organs may be the greatest gift you can give. And  
14 I -- this personally hits home with me, Mr. Chairman. My  
15 son passed away three years ago. We were able to donate  
16 his organs to save the lives of five individuals and also  
17 his heart valves to assist three other individuals at an  
18 opportunity for life.

19 And I believe that this license plate can do  
20 that and much more if we approve the organ donor awareness  
21 license plate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you very much. Next  
23 up is --

24 REPRESENTATIVE HESS: Mark, I just want to say  
25 I hope you continue pushing that. We've talked privately



1 before. And I think this is great. I have a brother who  
2 was the recipient of a liver. And I'm very much aware of  
3 what you're doing. And keep up the good work.

4 REPRESENTATIVE McNAUGHTON: Thank you very  
5 much.

6 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Next up is Representative  
7 Gordner.

8 REPRESENTATIVE GORDNER: Thank you, Mr.  
9 Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee.  
10 I appreciate you having this event this morning to hear  
11 some more about the specialty plates. I am here on behalf  
12 of House Bill 825. And this would provide for a special  
13 plate for recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

14 I did introduce House Bill 825 with over 40  
15 cosponsors. The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to  
16 any officer or enlisted person in the armed forces of the  
17 United States who has distinguished himself or herself in  
18 actual combat in support of operations by heroism or  
19 extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial  
20 flight.

21 The first metal, the first Distinguished  
22 Flying Cross metal was authorized by Congress in 1926 and  
23 awarded to Charles Lindbergh. This is one of those plates  
24 that if you can get 500 folks to sign up for it, you can go  
25 ahead and ask PennDOT to give the authorization.

1           We have contacted the Distinguished Flying  
2 Cross Society in Washington, D.C. And they acknowledge  
3 that across the nation, there have been several thousand of  
4 these awarded to members of the armed forces for their  
5 extraordinary achievement.

6           But they do not have a good breakdown as to  
7 the number of folks in Pennsylvania. They guess that there  
8 are at least several hundred folks living but certainly  
9 less than 1,000. I was contacted by a constituent of mine  
10 about this who would like this specialty plate.

11           And he was involved in a, in action in World  
12 War II in which there was a combat involved and some  
13 losses. And he was involved in a flight over Germany.  
14 Since I've introduced it, I've received letters from other  
15 folks in Allentown, State College, Reading who would be  
16 interested in also getting this plate.

17           Again, I would mention that last year,  
18 February 22nd, this committee did report out this bill,  
19 which I appreciate. I would again ask the House  
20 Transportation Committee to report out House Bill 825 to  
21 allow those members of our armed services who were given  
22 this award for their extraordinary participation in aerial  
23 flight to receive this special license plate.

24           And I thank you for the Transportation  
25 Committee this morning.

1                   CHAIRPERSON GEIST: We thank you very much.  
2 Next up -- I don't see Bob Flick here -- Keith McCall, a  
3 leader in transportation. And he is accompanied by his  
4 brain trust of transportation, our good friend from the  
5 committee days of old, Bob Mustin.

6                   REPRESENTATIVE MCCALL: Thank you, Chairman  
7 Geist, distinguished members of the Transportation  
8 Committee. I'm here to testify on behalf of House Bill  
9 637, which would establish a missing in action plate. The  
10 good part about my legislation is that it is not a special  
11 fund plate. We aren't creating any special funds.

12                   And I think we all know that over the course  
13 of time, we have heard on many occasions that every, every  
14 month, another body is found and returned home to America,  
15 which gives a lot of families in this country great hope.  
16 I think it is critical and incumbent upon us that we never  
17 forget the men and women who fought and died in wars and  
18 who are missing in action.

19                   And that's why I'm proposing a missing in  
20 action plate, that we never forget that these men are still  
21 missing and their families are still suffering. And I  
22 think it's incumbent upon us to keep alive the memory for  
23 the families and for the men that are missing in action.

24                   And I'm simply asking that we pass House Bill  
25 637 to keep alive that remembrance with the words

1 designated on that MIA plate that you are not forgotten.  
2 And I would ask that the committee strongly consider the  
3 legislation.

4 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MCCALL: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Next up is Daryl Metcalfe.

7 And we just saw Daryl's photograph in the A.B.A.T.E.  
8 Newspaper. And Daryl, it's all yours.

9 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chairman. And thank you, committee members, for allowing  
11 me to come before you this morning to ask for your support  
12 of House Bill 958. In just a few weeks, we will celebrate  
13 the 70-year anniversary of the designation of the rough  
14 grouse as our state bird.

15 One of my constituents had contacted me last  
16 session and requested that I propose legislation that would  
17 allow us to have a rough grouse license plate, and we did  
18 that last session. And it didn't -- I don't believe it  
19 came out of committee last session. It didn't come before  
20 the committee. But I would appreciate your consideration  
21 this session to move this bill out.

22 House Bill 958 affords us the opportunity to  
23 do something substantive to ensure that the population of  
24 that superb game bird will flourish here in Pennsylvania  
25 and remain a rich symbol of our Commonwealth's storied

1 legacy.

2           There are many important factors affecting the  
3 abundance of the rough grouse that are within our ability  
4 to control. And I think that we should, that we do have an  
5 obligation to manage those factors in order to preserve the  
6 bird as a lasting icon of our state.

7           My bill permits PennDOT to issue license  
8 plates with a message "rough grouse" and their design for  
9 motor vehicles not exceeding a gross weight of 9,000  
10 pounds. And a plate would cost \$35, 15 of which would be  
11 deposited into a special account in the state treasury for  
12 use by the Game Commission in forest habitat management and  
13 educational programs related to the rough grouse.

14           This bill creates an effective and a practical  
15 vehicle for generating the money necessary for the healthy  
16 management of the population of the rough grouse here in  
17 Pennsylvania. And I would ask that the members of the  
18 committee support House Bill 958 so that we can protect the  
19 population of the rough grouse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
20 And thank you, committee members.

21           CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you very much,  
22 Daryl. Daryl, will you get together with Eric? The  
23 hunter/angler plate and your plate have a lot of crossover,  
24 as do other plates that people talked about today. So  
25 before this thing finally gets homogenized, we need to make

1 sure they're in place on the same page.

2 REPRESENTATIVE METCALFE: Okay. Super. Thank  
3 you very much.

4 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: All right. Thank you.  
5 Next up is a member of our committee, Teresa Forcier.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FORCIER: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before  
8 this fine committee. I guess what I would like to say  
9 today is that I've been working with AMA, the American  
10 Motorcycle Association, and A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania to  
11 create an AMA plate for vehicles and motorcycles.

12 Now, we certainly are open to a plate that  
13 just says "motorcycle" because we know there is a large  
14 group out there of the motorcycling community that are very  
15 supportive of this type of plate. I have been working with  
16 PennDOT. And I have not really prepared legislation  
17 because of being told that the Governor was not going to  
18 approve any of these plates.

19 However, if there would be a plate created,  
20 the extra \$15 would go to motorcycle safety. And even in  
21 particular, A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania has Operation Save a  
22 Life. And there's also the Pennsylvania Motorcycle Safety  
23 Program in which you can take the class, and which I have  
24 done that.

25 And once you pass the test, they stamp your

1 permit; and you get your license. And that program, of  
2 course, is free, paid for by the registrations and permits  
3 from motorcyclists. But that is always in need, that  
4 program is always in need of extra funding.

5 I am also working with Senator Robbins on a  
6 Veterans plate. And what we're going to do is at first we  
7 were kind of looking at specific Veterans. But we think  
8 what would be the best is just a general plate that says  
9 "Veterans."

10 So with that, I also would like to thank  
11 Charles Umbenhauer for being here today and listening to  
12 the process and working with me specifically on the  
13 motorcycling issues and the plate itself. And I am open  
14 for any questions or comments.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Teresa, would you have  
16 it the A.B.A.T.E., or would you have it the AMA, or would  
17 you have it motorcycle?

18 REPRESENTATIVE FORCIER: What I'm working on  
19 right now would be AMA. And that's what I've been working  
20 at. I really was looking into even, say, per se Harley  
21 Davidson plates; but that is a nonprofit. So that would be  
22 out of the question.

23 As far as our general motorcycling plate, that  
24 may be, may have potential. We certainly can look at that.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Would the public know

1 what AMA stands for other than the motorcyclists?

2 REPRESENTATIVE FORCIER: On the plate would  
3 say "AMA", and it would say "American Motorcycle  
4 Association."

5 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Chairman.

7 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Teresa, one question.  
8 Since we changed the language in 1470, there's parts in the  
9 bill that need rewritten, especially for the  
10 personalization of the specialty plate. And I would  
11 think -- and I know Charles would have BMW on his  
12 motorcycle if he could.

13 And I'm sure that maybe you would have Harley  
14 or whatever model. So we want to make sure you work with  
15 Eric to get more consistent with the language throughout.  
16 And then what fund -- we want to make sure the dedication  
17 is there.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FORCIER: Okay. Most  
19 certainly.

20 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FORCIER: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Next up is Jerry Nailor,  
23 Cumberland County.

24 REPRESENTATIVE NAILOR: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Chairman. I appreciate this opportunity. House Bill 571



1 would provide for special vehicle registration plates for  
2 our submarine veterans in the United States of America.  
3 This bill has been introduced, I believe, for 5 sessions  
4 now. This session, it has 44 cosponsors.

5 Our neighboring states of New Jersey and  
6 Maryland have already provided these plates for  
7 submariners. In New Jersey, it's for submarine veterans.  
8 And in Maryland, it's for the Silent Service, which is  
9 another name for those who served in submarines.

10 Submarine veterans in Pennsylvania were  
11 honored by the Governor and by our House of Representatives  
12 on April 11th, year 2000, celebrating their 100th  
13 anniversary of the United States Naval Submarine Forces. A  
14 special day was proclaimed for them on April 11th, 2000.

15 Pennsylvania's proud submarine veterans have  
16 requested their state government to establish a special  
17 vehicle registration plate to commemorate their value in  
18 service and the sacrifice of their members. As you're  
19 probably aware, the survival rate of those who served in  
20 submarines, particularly in World War II, were among the  
21 worst of any of the units serving in World War II.

22 They would only like to receive the same  
23 recognition that has already been bestowed upon their  
24 brothers in arms in our neighboring states. I personally  
25 and the 44 cosponsors, of which many of you are on the

1 bill, strongly support that effort.

2 And I thank you for this opportunity to  
3 request that, Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you very much. A  
5 little humor here. You know the Governor torpedoed this  
6 bill.

7 REPRESENTATIVE NAILOR: The Governor did  
8 torpedo this bill. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you. Next is Harry  
10 Readshaw. Harry, I'm sorry. But come on up.

11 REPRESENTATIVE READSHAW: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Chairman, committee members. I am thankful for the  
13 opportunity to say a few words about House Bill 940. But  
14 generally speaking, I think the specialty license plate,  
15 specialty license plates present a unique opportunity to  
16 support a noble special interest and establish funding for  
17 that which is only supported by those folks that have  
18 interest in that particular cause.

19 More specifically, House Bill 940, which I'm  
20 sure everyone is aware by now, 4 years ago, I began a  
21 campaign to restore and repair the Pennsylvania monuments  
22 at the Gettysburg National Battlefield. There's 147 in  
23 number.

24 Our first goal was to raise \$167,000 which  
25 would in fact repair and restore those monuments. We have

1 achieved that goal. And the second phase of our endeavors  
2 is to raise \$450,000 to endow all those monuments to ensure  
3 that they will be kept in a good state of repair for  
4 generations to come.

5           There is one piece missing. And this is where  
6 House Bill 940, which would establish a Gettysburg Civil  
7 War memorial registration plate, is important because the  
8 \$15 from the sale of every plate would go to the Gettysburg  
9 National Park, specifically for the monuments of  
10 Pennsylvanians, to take care of catastrophic losses but not  
11 limited to weather-related damage and damage which is  
12 caused by vandalism.

13           I believe if you would concur with me and see  
14 that House Bill 940 was voted out of committee, it would be  
15 the final piece that would in fact provide not only repair  
16 and restoration and endowments but would provide the  
17 funding for vandalism which is caused to our monuments, as  
18 many of you are aware of.

19           So I thank you for the opportunity. I would  
20 ask that, you know, this be considered. And if there's any  
21 questions, I'll be glad to respond to them.

22           CHAIRPERSON GEIST: How many cosponsors in the  
23 House do you have on that?

24           REPRESENTATIVE READSHAW: Approximately 30.

25           CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Thank you. Any other

1 questions? (No response.) Thank you very much. Next up  
2 is Peter Zug. Is he here? (No response.) Katharine  
3 Watson? (No response.) And Bob Flick, Representative  
4 Flick? (No response.) Excuse me just a second.

5 (Discussion off the record.)

6 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: At this time, we'll take a  
7 short break because Peter Zug is on his way over from the  
8 Main Capitol Building; and then we'll resume.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Mr. Chairman.

10 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Yes.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: If they're not here,  
12 could you tell us what their plates are so we could at  
13 least know what they are?

14 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: They'll be here. I have  
15 confidence. No House member's ever late.

16 (A brief recess was taken.)

17 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Okay. We'll continue once  
18 again. And we'd like to introduce Peter Zug from Lebanon  
19 County.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ZUG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
21 members of the Transportation Committee. I appreciate you  
22 reopening the issue of special license plates. I think  
23 that's important to the Commonwealth and its people. As a  
24 member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission from Pennsylvania,  
25 I have seen Maryland develop a successful funding source

1 for its Chesapeake Bay Trust through the issuance of  
2 special license plates.

3 The Bay Trust uses its proceeds to issue  
4 grants for stream cleanups, tree and marsh grass plantings,  
5 erosion control projects, water quality monitoring, and  
6 provides educational material to install, to instill in  
7 people of all ages a better understanding of the Chesapeake  
8 Bay.

9 Maryland created their plate in 1990. And  
10 their plate now appears on over 800,000 vehicles. Their  
11 plate cost is \$20, with \$12 going to trust and \$8 going to  
12 the state. Maryland also has created a special Limited  
13 Edition Bay Series plate.

14 These limited edition plates feature the  
15 letters B-A-Y, Bay, and range in price from 100 to \$500 for  
16 those who wish to increase their contributions to the Trust  
17 Bay restoration activities. It's a little bit unique. I  
18 don't think we have that in Pennsylvania, but it's  
19 certainly, I think, something to look at.

20 Following the Maryland model, I believe we can  
21 establish a similar program in Pennsylvania. The  
22 importance of the Bay Trust Program in Pennsylvania is  
23 based on the quantity of water supplied by Pennsylvania to  
24 the Chesapeake Bay.

25 Approximately 50 percent of all the fresh

1 water flowing into the bay comes from the Susquehanna  
2 River. It is important that we continue to monitor and  
3 improve our resources. The license plate will both show  
4 pride in resources and provide funding for our cause.

5 It is my hope that we can move ahead with a  
6 special license plate to promote public awareness and  
7 participation in restoration and protection of the  
8 Chesapeake Bay Watershed, which is, I think most of the  
9 members of the committee live in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: I think, just a little  
11 quick mathematics, that if you extrapolated those numbers  
12 to Pennsylvania and you got to take that kind of success,  
13 the equivalency for the Department would be better than  
14 what one cent a gallon brings in from the pump.

15 So that we, these plates can have a real  
16 impact on the state.

17 REPRESENTATIVE ZUG: Sure. I agree with you.  
18 And actually take over some of the grant funding proposals,  
19 which is what they do in Maryland. One of the things that  
20 I didn't touch on and I actually, in the bill that I had  
21 Eric draft was a renewable resource of license plates.

22 So not only do you pay up front when you get  
23 the license, you pay every year. That's a program I don't  
24 think we have yet in Pennsylvania. But if the people who  
25 are buying the plates know that beforehand, they have the

1 opportunity then to contribute to their cause every year  
2 knowing that before they purchase their initial plate.

3 CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Well, that's one of the  
4 things that we want to institute in Pennsylvania. So we on  
5 this committee are looking forward to putting all this  
6 together in the, into one fabric and see if we can send it  
7 to the Governor. And if I'm really lucky, I can have the  
8 worn bill vetoed three times. But I think this time.

9 We want to thank everybody for coming this  
10 morning. Representative Flick and Representative Watson,  
11 we can try to work them in tomorrow. Tomorrow we're going  
12 to do the roundtable discussion with PennDOT, State Police,  
13 Wild Resources Fund, and the Maryland Department of  
14 Transportation.

15 And we would hope that all the committee  
16 members are able to attend. And at this time, this  
17 committee will be recessed after Tony's question.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Yeah. Peter, I just  
19 wanted to -- what is it going to say on the plate? I  
20 missed that. Is it going to be Chesapeake --

21 REPRESENTATIVE ZUG: Well, we don't really  
22 have the design. The design was left up to the Bay  
23 Commission to come up with. And I'm not sure what the  
24 agreement will be with PennDOT in the future, if they'll be  
25 special colors that you do now like --

1                   REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Will it just say Bay or  
2 Chesapeake Bay?

3                   REPRESENTATIVE ZUG: It may say Chesapeake Bay  
4 Watershed since we really have the watershed. But again,  
5 that really hasn't been designed yet. And it comes to, I  
6 think, part of whether we can negotiate with PennDOT  
7 whether you have special colors like you do or you just  
8 have, like, college plates that have a special LH on it or  
9 some, something on the traditional license plates we have  
10 in Pennsylvania. So I think that's really the preliminary  
11 stages.

12                   REPRESENTATIVE MELIO: Thank you, Mr.  
13 Chairman.

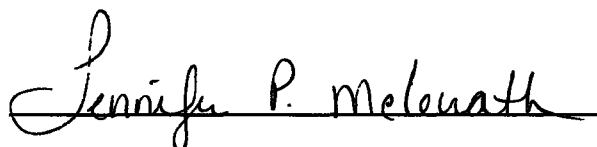
14                   CHAIRPERSON GEIST: Hearing no other  
15 questions, we'll be in recess until tomorrow. Thank you  
16 all very much.

17                   (Whereupon, at 10:37 a.m., the hearing  
18 adjourned.)

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25



1 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
2 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes  
3 taken by me during the hearing of the within cause and that  
4 this is a true and correct transcript of the same.

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11 JENNIFER P. McGRATH

12 Registered Professional Reporter

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17 My Commission Expires:  
18 April 30, 2005

19  
20  
21  
22  
23 JENNIFER P. McGrath, RPR  
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