

HARRISBURG *Report*

From State Senator
Stewart J. Greenleaf

FALL 2012

Dear Friends,

The 2011/2012 Legislative Session has seen the enactment of important new laws to strengthen Pennsylvania's economy, increase government accountability and transparency, and improve public safety.

The state budgets for FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13 controlled state spending and continued the phase-out of the job-crushing Capital Stock and Franchise Tax. Passing responsible budgets is one of the most important things the Legislature can do to protect taxpayers and encourage economic growth. The General Assembly has taken a number of steps this session to encourage job creation including expanding Keystone Opportunity Zones and permanently establishing the Industry Partnerships Program as part of the state's workforce development strategy.

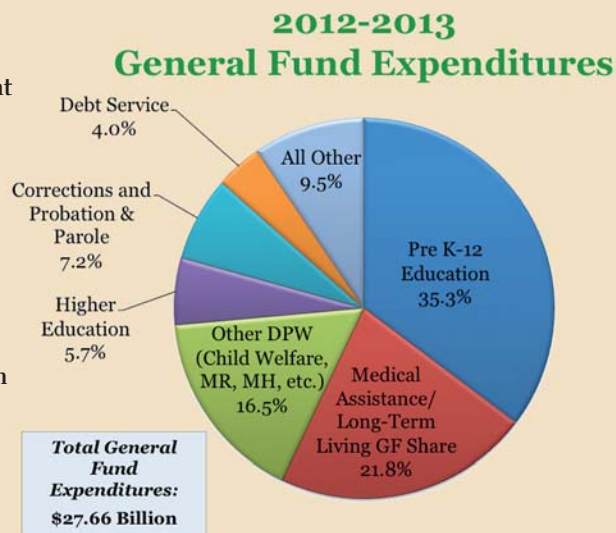
In December, the PennWATCH online budget database will be unveiled, giving taxpayers the ability to review state government spending. Also, penalties have been increased for violating the Sunshine Law.

In July, my Criminal Justice Reform Act was signed into law to better manage the treatment of non-violent offenders in order to increase public safety and save taxpayer money.

Two of my bills have recently been signed into law – one that authorizes the testing of gasoline octane for accuracy and a measure to help prevent auto theft.

In 2013 I will continue to work toward passing a fiscally-responsible state budget that does not increase taxes, but protects funding for education and critical government services.

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. I invite you to contact me regarding any of these or other important state issues.



Stewart J. Greenleaf
Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf

Jobs and Economy

This session, the General Assembly approved several measures aimed at improving the state's economy and creating jobs. Act 16 of 2012 authorized the creation of up to 15 new Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zones providing tax benefits to employers who create jobs in designated zones. Created in 1999, the Keystone Opportunity Zone Program (KOZ) encourages businesses to locate in underutilized areas through greatly reduced state and local taxes. Also, through Act 67 of 2012, the Legislature has permanently established the Industry Partnerships Program as part of the state's workforce development strategy, bringing together businesses and organizations within an industry to address common workforce needs.

Notable tax reform efforts include the continued phase out of the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax and Act 25 of 2011 that gives voters a stronger say over property tax increases by reducing the number of exceptions school districts can use when seeking to raise taxes above inflation without a referendum.

Other job-creation efforts include Act 85 of 2012 which increases the tax credit for employers who create a new job that is filled by an unemployed individual from \$1,000 to \$2,500, and makes the tax credit available to more small businesses. Act 60 of 2012 provides for the long-term solvency of the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.

Fighting to Stop Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, generating billions of dollars by using force, fraud and coercion to subject people to sexual or labor exploitation. This modern day slavery takes place in suburban and rural Pennsylvania communities as well as large cities.

On August 30, I introduced SB 1587, which would more clearly define the crime of human trafficking and increase fines and penalties. The bill would implement participation in the national human trafficking hotline, create the Pennsylvania Council for the Prevention of Human Trafficking, increase training for first responders, and expand the resources available to victim service providers. On October 25th, HB 235 was signed into law, implementing the Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline provision of my bill.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline has seen a steady increase in



September 25, 2012 - Senator Greenleaf spoke at a news conference at the State Capitol on his legislation to fight human trafficking.

reporting over the last five years with more than 19,000 calls in 2011. The United Nations estimates 2.5 million people worldwide are subject to forced labor or sexual exploitation, including 1.2 million children.

**You can reach the
Human Trafficking Resource Center
Hotline at 1-888-373-7888**

Criminal Justice Reform Act Signed into Law

On July 5th, my Criminal Justice Reform Act, Act 122 of 2012, (SB100) was signed into law. It is aimed at saving taxpayer money and improving public safety by enhancing Pennsylvania's Corrections system to better treat non-violent offenders and reduce recidivism. The law enacts a variety of

evidence-based practices that have been highly successful in other states to improve public safety and save taxpayer money spent on prisons. The Criminal Justice Reform Act is estimated to save \$253 million over the first five years.

The new law strengthens the state's probation and parole system, reduces recidivism, and expands the use of alternative sentencing for non-violent offenders.

Pennsylvania's inmate population has increased by over 500% since 1980, and corrections costs are draining public resources. I believe the real impact of this legislation will be realized by future generations for whom the costs of mass incarceration will be greatly reduced.



October 25, 2012 - Senator Greenleaf spoke at the Governor's signing ceremony for SB 100, The Criminal Justice Reform Act.

Getting What You Pay for at the Gas Pump

For many years I have had a special interest in consumer protection issues in the Legislature. On November 1st, the Governor signed into law my legislation (SB 341)



that would provide better assurance that motorists are getting the octane they are paying for at the gas pump. The bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture to conduct random testing of octane levels in gasoline.

Pennsylvania is one of only three states that does not test octane levels at gas pumps.

Consumers deserve to have assurance that they are getting what they pay for. With the economy underperforming and prices of food and gas rising, people need to be certain they are not getting short-changed.

202 Parkway Designated as "Scenic Byway"

In December, the highly anticipated 202 Parkway will open, easing transportation between many local communities and the surrounding region. In June of this year, my legislation (SB 1551) was signed into law designating the 202 Parkway as a Scenic Byway. The special designation prohibits the use of billboards and large advertising signs within view of the Parkway.

The 202 Parkway will feature some of the most scenic landscapes in our region, and deserves this special designation.



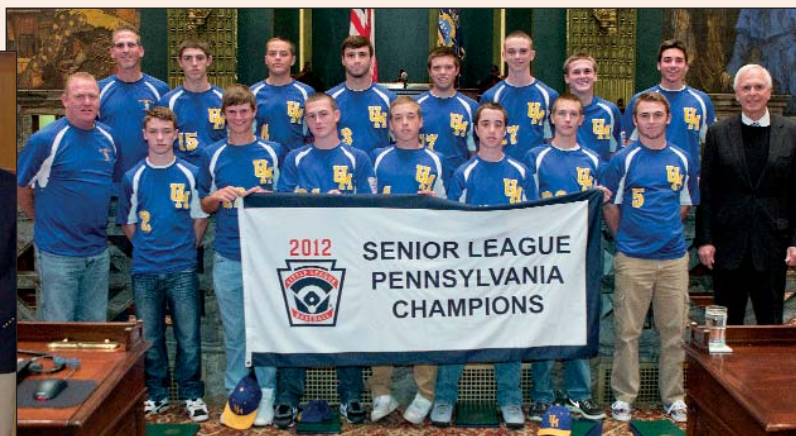
May 1, 2012 - Senator Greenleaf spoke at a clean indoor air rally at the Capitol about his efforts to eliminate the exemptions in Pennsylvania's Clean Indoor Air Act, the Senator's 2008 legislation that banned smoking in most indoor public places in the state.



July 12, 2012 - Senator Greenleaf held a Senate Judiciary Committee public hearing to receive testimony on juvenile justice issues.



July 24, 2012 - Senator Greenleaf presented a \$500,000 state grant to Lower Gwynedd Township for improvements along Bethlehem Pike.



September 24, 2012 - Senator Greenleaf presented a Senate Citation to the Upper Moreland Little League Senior Baseball Team in honor of winning the PA District 22 Championship, the PA Section 8 Championship and the PA State Championship.



August 18, 2012 - Senator Greenleaf with members of the Second Alarmers Rescue Squad at Community Night.

Below: October 22, 2012 - Senator Greenleaf presented Senate Citations to three members of the Enterprise Fire Company of Hatboro in honor of their 50 years of service.



SENATOR STEWART J. GREENLEAF

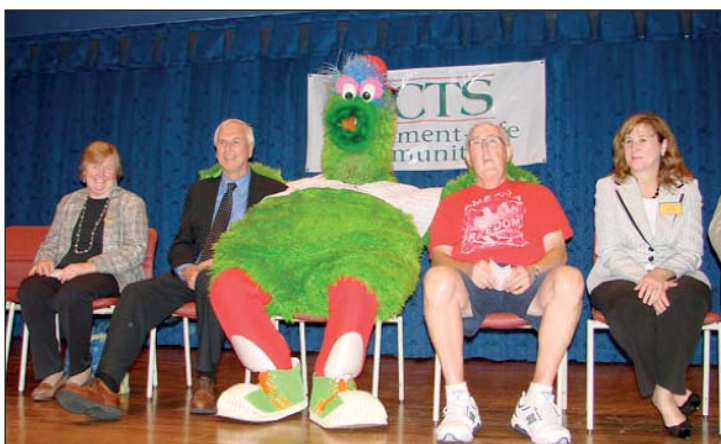
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September 21, 2012 - Senator Greenleaf attended Retirement – Life Communities' 7th Annual Senior OlympiACTS held in honor of Healthy Aging Month at Brittany Pointe Estates. From left: State Representative Kate Harper, Senator Greenleaf, The Phillie Phanatic; Doug Rogers, Brittany Pointe Estates Chaplain; and Susan Arcadia, Executive Director.

HEMAP Mortgage Assistance Program Resumes Accepting Applications

On August 9th, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency announced that it will resume accepting applications for the Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP) aimed at helping those in danger of home foreclosure.

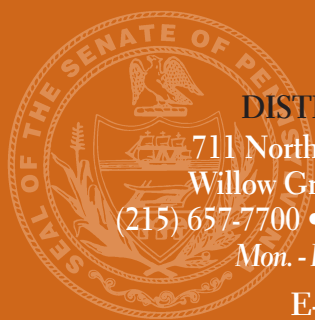
Homeowners who are at least three months delinquent on their mortgage may be eligible for assistance through HEMAP.

Homeowners interested in more information about HEMAP may contact PHFA toll-free during weekday business hours at **1-800-342-2397**.

Information also is available online at:
www.phfa.org/counseling/hemap.aspx

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