



# HARRISBURG *Report*

From State Senator  
**Stewart J. Greenleaf**

SUMMER 2013

Dear Friends,

In my last Legislative Update and in recent e-Newsletters, I discussed the state budget, taxes, and the economy. In this update, I would like to share some of the legislation that I have introduced this session, some bills having already been approved by the State Senate.

For the most recent news and information, please visit my Facebook page and website, [www.senatorgreenleaf.com](http://www.senatorgreenleaf.com). Feel free to call or visit my district office for information about legislation or any state government related issues or needs.

Sincerely,

Stewart J. Greenleaf

## Amendments to the State's Clean Indoor Air Act

Since being signed into law in 2008, Pennsylvania's Clean Indoor Air Act has saved lives and protected thousands of hospitality workers from secondhand smoke.

According to a study by the Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco, it is estimated that the reduced indoor air pollution will save the lives of 52 employees each year and millions of tax dollars in smoke-related healthcare costs.

Indoor air pollution from secondhand smoke dropped 87% since the ban took effect.

Unfortunately, because of exceptions in the law for casinos and several other hospitality venues, not all employees and patrons are receiving equal protection.

I have reintroduced legislation, SB 80, to eliminate the exceptions for drinking establishments, casino floors, private clubs, fundraisers, tobacco promotion events, full service truck stops, and residential facilities. In addition to failing to offer all workers and patrons equal protection, the exceptions create confusion and make it more difficult to enforce the law. They also create an uneven playing field when some establishments must

comply while others do not.

Diseases resulting from tobacco use cost Pennsylvania \$5.2 billion annually in healthcare costs, as well as additional millions in lost productivity. Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including at least 60 known to cause cancer. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, secondhand smoke is proven to cause lung cancer, heart disease, serious respiratory illness including bronchitis and asthma, low



May 14, 2013 — Senator Greenleaf speaks at a news conference at the State Capitol to rally support for his legislation to remove exceptions from the state's indoor smoking ban, so the law will cover all businesses and equally protect all workers and patrons from secondhand smoke. Senator Greenleaf was the author of the 2008 Clean Indoor Air Act.

birth weight, and sudden infant death syndrome.

## Senate Passes Legislation Permitting the use of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles

On March 13, the Senate passed SB 83, my legislation that would authorize the operation of low-speed electric vehicles on certain roadways in the Commonwealth.

A low-speed electric vehicle, also referred to as a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV), is any four-wheeled electric vehicle with a top speed of at least 20 mph, but not

greater than 25 mph.

SB 83 would allow NEVs on roads with a speed limit of 25 mph or less. The Secretary of Transportation and local governments could approve travel on roadways with posted speed limits between 25 and 35 mph. However, it also gives them the discretion to prohibit the operation of these vehicles on any roadway under

their jurisdiction.

These low-speed vehicles are safe for travel on neighborhood streets and can provide a great alternative for short trips—using less fuel, causing less pollution, and reducing traffic congestion.

NEVs are currently street-legal in 46 states. SB 83 awaits action in the House Transportation Committee.



## Fighting Human Trafficking

This session, I have reintroduced legislation to fight human trafficking. Human trafficking is the crime of using force or coercion to subject people to sexual or labor exploitation. It is modern day slavery and one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world. It happens throughout Pennsylvania—in rural and suburban communities—not only in large cities.

SB 75 would aid prosecutors in convicting human traffickers. So far, there has only been one conviction under Pennsylvania's current statute, because the law's definition of 'human trafficking' is vague and lacks the teeth needed to effectively prosecute.

SB 75 would enact tougher penalties for trafficking and would tighten the definition of human trafficking to make

it easier for prosecutors to effectively charge traffickers.

SB 75 strengthens human trafficking laws through three facets, known as the "3 Ps":

- Prosecuting human traffickers with a tougher felony grading system.
- Preventing further instances through the establishment of the PA Council for Prevention of Human Trafficking.
- Protecting victims so they can share their story without fear of retaliation, while also forcing seizure of a perpetrator's property and assets, with the proceeds used for further human trafficking prevention and education resources.



May 7, 2013 — Senator Greenleaf speaks at a news conference at the State Capitol to rally support for SB 75, the Senator's legislation to fight human trafficking.

## Bills Approved to Strengthen Transparency and Efficiency of State Government

I am pleased to report that the Pennsylvania Senate unanimously passed three bills to strengthen transparency and efficiency in state government. These bills would improve access to lobbying disclosure and campaign finance data and create an online voter registration system.

### Lobbyist Expenditures Would be Reported Electronically

Senate Bill 308 will require lobbyists to register and report expenditures electronically, making this information available more quickly and accurately. Many reports are still filed on paper and entered manually. SB 308 requires the Department of State to post the information on its public website within a week.

In the past, it has often taken months after lobbyist disclosure documents were completed and filed before

the information was posted on the Department's website. Publishing all of this information on the internet in a timely manner is an important part of improving transparency in state government.

### Campaign Finance Reports Would be Submitted Electronically

Senate Bill 120 requires all campaign finance reports filed with the Department of State to be submitted electronically. Only about 35 percent of reports are currently filed electronically. SB 120 also requires any candidate committee or Political Action Committee (PAC) which raises or spends \$10,000 or more in a calendar year to file additional reports. Fees for late filing are increased from a maximum of \$250 to a maximum of \$500.

Electronic filing provides the additional benefits of improving accuracy

and cutting costs. The majority of states already require electronic filing of campaign finance information.

### Online Voter Registration

Senate Bill 37 will allow residents to register to vote online through a system developed by the Department of State. About 16 other states now provide online voter registration as an option. Most have reported significant cost savings as a result.

The Department of State has spent more than a year preparing to implement this online voter registration system by working on technical and security-related issues. The system will make it easier to register to vote and will likely increase voter participation. It will also modernize the registration process and cut costs for counties.



April 16, 2013 — Students of Gwynedd Mercy Academy visited the State Capitol and met with Senator Greenleaf.



April 10, 2013 — Residents of Southampton Estates visited the State Capitol and met with Senator Greenleaf.

## Senate Passes Resolution Creating Violence Prevention Task Force

On January 29th, the Pennsylvania Senate adopted my Senate Resolution 6 assembling an advisory committee to study the causes of violence and recommend preventative measures to the Senate by December 31, 2013.

In light of the Sandy Hook shooting,

Boston bombing, and other violent acts in recent months and years, the committee will study the underlying causes of these tragedies.

The committee will be free to examine all issues surrounding cases of violence including firearms, bullying, mental health,

and violence prevention. I believe this committee will provide meaningful direction and help the Legislature address many of the complex issues related to mass shootings.

The task force is composed of 25 experts on the subject of preventing violence.





**April 13, 2013** — Senator Greenleaf spoke at a symposium held at Gwynedd Mercy College on gun violence and violence prevention. From left: The Honorable D. Brooks Smith, Judge of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals; Marianne Comfort, Institute Justice Team, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; Senator Greenleaf; Dr. Kathleen Owens, President, Gwynedd-Mercy College; and Charles H. Ramsey, Philadelphia Police Commissioner.



**April 20, 2013** — Senator Greenleaf speaks at the annual Upper Moreland Little League Opening Day ceremony.



**May 24, 2013** — Senator Greenleaf presents a Senate Citation to Linder Opticians in Willow Grove in honor of their 100th anniversary. From left: Nancy Fagan, Senator Greenleaf, Marilyn Zembower, Doug Zembower, Sandie Mahnke, and Joe Handschuh.



**March 19, 2013** — Senator Greenleaf and the members of the Hatboro-Horsham High School Marching Band on the Senate Floor. The Senator presented the Marching Hatters a Senate Citation congratulating them on winning the 2012 Cavalcade of Bands Grand Championship.



**March 13, 2013** — Senator Greenleaf and Wanda Kester, Manager of the Ben Wilson Senior Center in Warminster, at the Center's Senior Expo.



**April 23, 2013** — Ray Stahl, Vice President and Treasurer of the Upper Moreland Historical Association, presents Senator Greenleaf with an honorary lifetime membership in the organization.



**April 10, 2013** — At the State Capitol, Senator Greenleaf presented certificates of recognition to Nick Arcidiacono and George Griffin, both students from Archbishop Wood High School who were chosen to play for the Pennsylvania team in the Big 33 Football Classic on June 15th. The best 34 players from Pennsylvania play against the best 34 from Maryland. Players are nominated by their coaches. From left: Nick Arcidiacono, Senator Greenleaf, George Griffin.



**April 12, 2013** — Senator Greenleaf updates residents on state legislative issues at a Montgomery Township legislative breakfast.



**April 25, 2013** — Senator Greenleaf questions Lancaster County District Attorney, Craig Stedman, during a Senate Judiciary Committee public hearing on determinate sentencing at the Philadelphia Bar Association.

**March 18, 2013** — Rosemary Rau, Commodore of the Philadelphia Canoe Club, accepts a Senate Citation from Senator Greenleaf in honor of the Club's 100th Anniversary. The Senator has been a life-long member of the Philadelphia Canoe Club.





**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**



## Senate Passes Amendments to the State's Puppy Lemon Law

**O**n March 12, the Pennsylvania Senate unanimously passed SB 82, my amendments to Pennsylvania's Puppy Lemon Law which I authored in 1997. The bill would strengthen the Puppy Lemon Law to better help consumers recover losses from the seller of a sick dog or cat.

Under the current law, consumers may only seek reimbursement for the treatment of curable conditions. SB 82 would expand consumers' rights to seek reimbursement for the treatment of incurable conditions such as hip dysplasia.

The bill extends from 30 to 90 days the time period for a congenital condition to be certified by a vet in order to recover losses from a seller. Also, the time period for a veterinarian to certify an illness (contagious or infectious disease) would be extended from 10 to 14 days.

Not only would these changes help consumers recover expensive veterinary costs, but it also takes an important step towards stopping puppy mills where irresponsible breeding and inadequate care is the cause of many pet health problems.

SB 82 currently awaits action in the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

## Natural Gas Health Registry

**C**itizens across Pennsylvania are highly concerned with the possible negative health consequences associated with natural gas drilling. I have introduced legislation to fund the creation of a health registry to monitor the health effects of intensive natural gas drilling. SB 790 would allocate \$3 million annually from the shale gas impact fee to the Department of Health to collect health data in areas of drilling as well as conduct research to determine if health services are adequate in drilling areas. Training would be provided to health-care professionals in occupational and environmental medicine.

The funding would also be used to research the effects of air quality on health in areas where wells are drilled. The research would examine the impacts of short and long-term exposure to air contaminant emissions from natural gas production on respiratory-related hospital admissions, emergency room visits, and premature deaths.

Already this year, Geisinger Health Systems, Guthrie Health, and Susquehanna Health have joined together to study the health effects of shale gas drilling. Funding from the shale impact fee can be used to enhance this effort and expand its scope.

## Senate Passes Lyme Disease Prevention and Education Bill

**O**n April 29, the Senate unanimously passed SB 177, my legislation to create a task force within the Department of Health to provide greater public awareness and education about Lyme disease. Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted primarily by ticks. Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases pose a serious threat to the quality of life of Pennsylvanians.

Lyme disease is very prevalent in our area, and according to the Centers

for Disease Control, Pennsylvania ranked first in the nation in 2011 and most likely will be number one again in 2012 for the highest number of confirmed Lyme disease cases. Lyme disease cases in Pennsylvania have more than doubled between 2006 and 2011.

The bill requires the Department of Health to create a public education program on the dangers of lyme disease and measures to prevent and treat it. It will ensure that medical professionals, insurers, and patients are well

educated about all treatment options.

The Department of Health would begin a tick collection, testing, and surveillance program to better understand and monitor the full range of tick-borne diseases and their geographic hot spots.

A 20-member task force would be appointed to investigate Lyme disease and make recommendations.

SB 177 currently awaits action in the House Human Services Committee.

### Receive Newsletters Via E-Mail

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