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Democratic Caucus Administrator



Senate of Pennsylvania

May 31, 2011

COMMITTEES

**COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRATIC CHAIR**

APPROPRIATIONS

LAW & JUSTICE

POLICY

PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

URBAN AFFAIRS & HOUSING

The Honorable Dominic Pileggi
Republican Floor Leader
350 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Jake Corman
Republican Appropriations Chairman
281 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Jay Costa, Jr.
Democratic Floor Leader
535 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Vincent Hughes
Democratic Appropriations Chairman
545 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators Pileggi, Costa, Corman and Hughes:

Please consider this letter as my formal request that three bills that I introduced which are currently in Appropriations be considered by the committee and moved for a final vote in the Senate in the coming weeks. The bills each were reported out of their respective committees unanimously and I would expect the same of final passage. The bills are Senate Bill 157, Senate Bill 158 and Senate Bill 502.

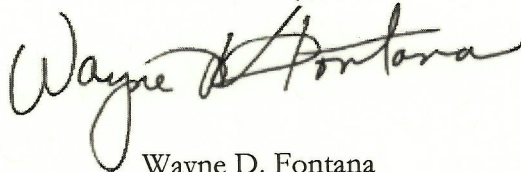
Senate Bill 157 would establish a task force within the Department of Education on homeless children's education. The task force would study the homeless child population and their education needs and then make recommendations on how best to serve this population. As I wrote to you in March, 25% of children will likely be living in poverty by the end of this year, even with gains in employment. SB 157 has 23 co-sponsors from all areas of the state and on both sides of the aisle who each share an interest in making sure that education is one constant that these children can count on as their families wrestle with larger issues. It is supported by the Education Law Center, the Homeless Children's Education Fund and the People's Emergency Center.

Senate Bill 158 amends the New Home Construction Local Tax Abatement Act to address an issue with the timing of when an application must be filed. Specifically, it will provide that the application may be applied for between the time that the building permit is issued and six months following the date of occupancy. Under the current law, homeowners had to go through an appeal process to get the abatement because they had not purchased the home at the time that the occupancy permit had been granted. SB 158 has 17 co-sponsors and is supported by the PA Builders Association and the Realtors Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh.

Finally, Senate Bill 502 amends the Game Code to give the Commission the authority to implement an adult mentored hunting program. As you know, the youth mentored hunting program has been immensely successful. Based on that model, this program would allow adults who are unsure of whether they want to participate in the sport to try it out. All regulations and guidelines would be set by the Commission so that they retain control of who participates in the program and what requirements are needed for participation.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this request and for addressing this issue. I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss this with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne D. Fontana". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "F".

Wayne D. Fontana
42nd Senatorial District

WDF/amd