

Report to the People of the 154th Legislative District



from *State Representative*
LAWRENCE H. CURRY

Democratic Chairman, House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee



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House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee action

With my support, these bills were voted favorably from the committee and are awaiting action by the full House:

H.B. 92 would include people acting under a power of attorney as among those who may be reported and investigated for suspected exploitation of an older adult or their resources.

H.B. 210 would permit reimbursements to non-relative caregivers and would increase the reimbursement for a caregiver's expenses:

- \$600/month for out-of-pocket purchases of supplies and goods – up from \$200/month;
- \$6,000 one-time grant for home modifications or assistive devices – up from \$2,000.

H.B. 511 would prohibit your health care provider from imposing fees or other restrictions on your community pharmacy not imposed for mail-order prescriptions.

I am a co-sponsor of H.B. 1019, which would establish a uniform statewide system for hospitals to report

suspected cases of abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment, serious physical or bodily injury, or a suspicious death of a senior citizen.

I also intend to support H.B. 893 when it is scheduled for committee action. This bill would require background checks for people taking care of our seniors in a variety of settings including long-term and adult daily living facilities and assisted-living residences, or as personal care home workers.



Rep. Curry, Democratic chairman of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee.

Protect your voting rights GOP bill erodes your ability to vote

Under the guise of addressing voter fraud, House Republicans pushed through a bill that could result in seniors, college students and others being unable to vote.

House Bill 934 would require all voters show a valid photo ID every time they vote. And taxpayers would be stuck with the estimated \$10 million tab for PennDOT to provide photo IDs and do educational outreach.

Currently, only first-time voters must show an ID, and it does not have to include a photograph.

The Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission says there have been only four cases of misrepresentation at Pennsylvania polls out of 19.4 million ballots cast since 2004. We already have a law outlining penalties for voter fraud, so there is no need for this bill.

“What’s the big deal in showing my driver’s license when I vote?” you may ask. It may not be a big deal for those who drive.

But according to PennDOT, for a non-driver over the age of 18 to get a photo ID, they’d have to show their Social Security card plus one form of identification, such as:

- Birth certificate with raised seal, and marriage or divorce documents if the last name has changed;
- Certificate of U.S. citizenship or naturalization; or
- Valid U.S. passport.

The applicant would also have to show two proofs of residency, such as:

- Tax records or W-2 form;
- Lease agreement or mortgage documents.

“There isn’t the evidence of fraud to justify infringing on the privacy of citizens who are exercising their constitutional right to vote.”
– Rep. Curry.

Many senior citizens, college students or lower-income residents may not have all of these documents to get a voter ID card. Nor may they have transportation to PennDOT to get a photo ID.

Our bipartisan election boards do a good job in guarding against voter fraud and abuse. We don’t need this bill.

Please contact your state senator and tell him or her H.B. 934 is bad for democracy in Pennsylvania.



Corbett's reverse Robin Hood budget

State spending plan asks citizens to pay more so big business can pay less

Gov. Corbett and Republican leaders forced a budget through the legislature that is balanced on the backs of taxpayers, seniors and students.

They refused to return more than \$500 million in surplus to taxpayers, instead stashing it away out of the reach of those who need it now. They refused to implement a fair tax on the natural gas industry or close a loophole that allows large corporations to dodge paying taxes in Pennsylvania on profits they earn here.

Local residents are seeing their school property taxes increase because of the state funding decrease:

- Cheltenham Township – 9.3% cut
- Jenkintown School District – 6.2% cut
- Springfield Township – 10.1 % cut
- Philadelphia – 21.6% cut

Budget cuts threaten the vitality of our local economy and the livelihoods of thousands of local residents.

Health care, social services and education are main targets of the Republican cuts, and they just happen to be some

of our area's biggest employers. Nearly 200,000 people in Montgomery and Philadelphia counties work in the health and social services industries and almost 70,000 in education. How can anyone call 'responsible' a budget that could push hard-working taxpayers from the payrolls to the unemployment rolls?

Fee on out-of-state drilling companies – ZERO!

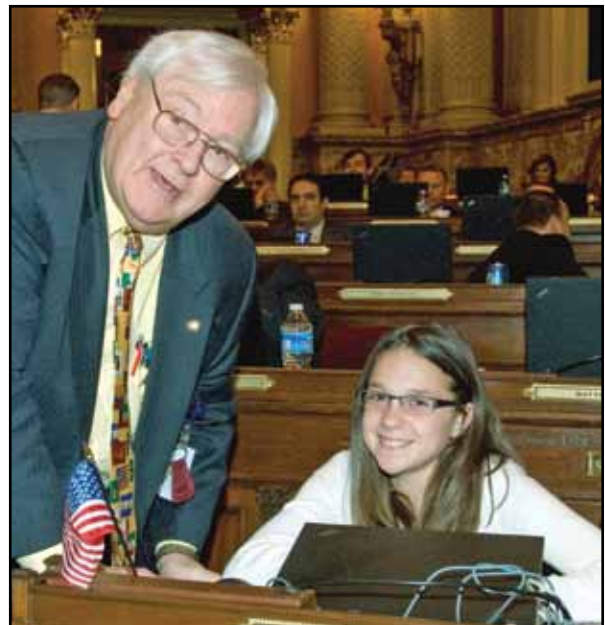
While the cuts in this budget are resulting in higher local taxes, **it asks nothing of the out-of-state drilling companies that are making millions harvesting our Marcellus Shale** (see page 4). Nor does it make any effort to close the Delaware loophole that allows big corporations to skirt Pennsylvania taxes.

"This budget is unduly harsh on seniors and families, and in no way 'shares the pain' as Gov. Corbett promised."

– Rep. Curry.



Learning the ropes at the Capitol. Rep. Curry greets local teens Lucy Keyser (right) and Helena and Claire Lippay (above) who served as guest pages at the state Capitol. Also pictured is the girls' mom, Ann MacHabbie.



Setting a standard of care. Rep. Curry addresses the Hemophilia Awareness Rally in April. His H.B. 635 would create a standard of care for Pennsylvanians with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders, allowing them continued access to the seven state-recognized hemophilia centers.



Eat your veggies. Curry cuts the ribbon for the official opening of the Jenkintown Farmer's Market located at the Town Square. Pictured with Curry is Kate Pettit, Jenkintown Farmer's Market organizer.



BPA: A serious threat

Exposure to this chemical may be worse than we thought

Bisphenol-A, or BPA, is an estrogen-like chemical found in many everyday items, including:

- Plastic baby bottles and sippy cups;
- Reusable plastic bottles and food containers;

- Drink and food cans;
- Dental sealants;
- Cash-register receipts.

When a container made with BPA is heated, the chemical leaches into the food, and then enters your body where it can cause a range of health

problems including autism, learning disabilities and early puberty in children, breast and prostate cancer, heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

The American Medical Association adopted a new policy urging that BPA-containing products be clearly identified.

New research suggests that we have underestimated our dietary exposure to BPA:

- University of Missouri researchers found that when a person consumes BPA through food, the active form of the chemical may remain in the body for longer than expected.
- University of Michigan researchers found BPA reduces thyroid function.

My H.B. 192 would ban BPA from infant and toddler products manufactured or sold in Pennsylvania, and prohibit manufacturers from replacing it with any other chemical that could cause birth defects or health problems for children.

The chairman of the House Health Committee refuses to move the bill out of committee and to the full House for a vote.

Visit my website at www.pahouse.com/Curry to learn more and urge passage of my bill protecting infants and toddlers from this dangerous chemical.

To reduce exposure to BPA:

- Use fresh foods instead of canned products whenever possible
- Avoid polycarbonates – plastics marked with recycling code #7 or the letters “PC”
- Look for plastics with recycling labels #1, #2, and #4 as they do not contain BPA
- Avoid putting any plastic containers in the microwave
- Wash all plastic containers on the top shelf of your dishwasher or by hand
- Look for stainless steel reusable water bottles that do not have a liner as some metal bottles lined with an epoxy-based enamel coating could leach BPA

Curry's SIDS bill now law of the land

New parents now receive information on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Sudden Unexpected Death of Infants, focusing on safe sleeping practices for babies, thanks to passage of my bill.

To help reduce SIDS, the Academy of Pediatrics recommends:

- Placing the infant on his or her back on a firm mattress;
- Removing bulky blankets and comforters from the crib; and
- Never letting the infant share a bed with parents or siblings.

Visit my website at www.pahouse.com/Curry to see a safe sleep video.



Outstanding student! Rep. Curry meets with Springfield High School student Erin Agnew (left), who was chosen to serve on the State Board of Education. Also pictured with Curry is Springfield School District Superintendent Dr. Wendy Royer.





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Marcellus Shale industry insiders should not be setting Pa. drilling policies

As a member of the House Democratic Policy Committee, I have attended hearings on a wide variety of issues, including the Marcellus Shale.

Governor Corbett's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission released its report on the development of the shale in July.

It is astounding that those who stand to profit most from our Marcellus Shale natural gas reserve are being allowed to drive the conversation regarding a severance fee and regulation of drilling operations.

The report does little to ensure Pennsylvania citizens profit from the natural gas reserve or protect our environment.

A natural gas severance fee should be based on the value of the natural gas, which studies have put in the billions of dollars. This is money we need to educate our children, care for our seniors and people with disabilities and ensure revenue is in place to clean up after drilling companies are long gone.



Visit my website at www.pahouse.com/Curry to join my fight for a natural gas severance fee and responsible regulation of the Marcellus Shale drilling industry. Or scan this QR Code with your smartphone to link to my website.

Curry announces \$852,405 in H2O grants for two major sewer projects

Jenkintown Borough:

\$800,000 to assist with the repair of sanitary sewer lines to address inflow and infiltration for the Jenkintown Borough Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

Cheltenham:

\$52,405 to assist with the Sanitary Sewer Infiltration and Inflow Remediation Project to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and improve the quality of water of Tookany Creek.

H2O PA provides grants to independent agencies, municipalities or municipal authorities for the construction of drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer projects or to help repair, rehabilitate or remove high-hazard unsafe dams.



Mass transit milestone. Rep. Curry joins SEPTA, local and state officials, and members of the community to celebrate the completion of Cheltenham and Ogontz Bus Loop renovations. The \$3.4 million project resulted in a safer, more customer-friendly transit hub.