



State Representative Brendan F. Boyle

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170th Legislative District

BOYLE LEGISLATION WOULD REQUIRE FAIR HIRING PRACTICES

I plan to introduce legislation to create the Pennsylvania Fair Employment Opportunity Act, which would prohibit employers or employment agencies from discriminating against unemployed workers in job advertisements and hiring.

Currently, some job advertisements circulating stipulate that candidates must “be presently employed” or specifically state that “unemployed need not apply.”

I am truly surprised and saddened by the idea that employers are excluding thousands of qualified and capable workers from even applying for consideration for a work opportunity – especially in light of our current economic conditions. More than 500,000 Pennsylvanians are out of work. What’s more, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that more than 44 percent of these individuals have been looking for jobs for more than six months.

My legislation would create a complaint process within the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and authorize administrative fines for employers or employment agencies that run such advertisements or refuse to consider unemployed candidates.

It would also support efforts to help residents seeking reemployment. “Unemployed need not apply” ads and similar actions by employers are unnecessary road blocks and should be prohibited.

This proposal is part of JumpstartPA, the House Democratic job creation plan emphasizing infrastructure maintenance and repairs, restoration of education cuts made in the Corbett budget, worker training, and tax credits to help employers hire more workers.

House panel to hold public hearing on Boyle’s legislation to ban sex offenders from collecting state pensions

On Feb. 23, the House Democratic Policy Committee will host a public hearing on my legislation that would prohibit public employees who are convicted of or plead guilty to sex crimes from collecting retirement benefits.

The hearing will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MaST Charter School on Byberry Road in the Somerton neighborhood of Philadelphia.

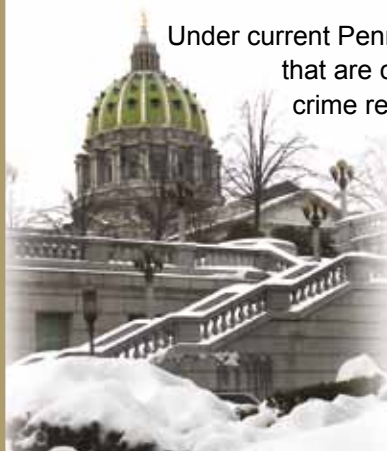
Under my proposal, any public official or public employee who is convicted or pleads guilty to perpetrating a sex crime within the scope of their official duties will lose all rights to payment of retirement or other benefit payments. The legislation would apply to crimes that require Megan’s Law registration.

Public officials and public employees are entrusted to serve the best interests of the citizens of the Commonwealth. Committing a sex crime against a child is a direct breach of public trust.

Recently, the *Philadelphia Daily News* reported that former city employees who have been convicted of felonies, including sex crimes against children, are still permitted to collect pensions.

Under current Pennsylvania law, public employees that are convicted or plead guilty to any crime related to public employment lose

all rights to retirement or other benefits or payments. However, there are no provisions regarding loss of retirement or other benefit payments for public employees who commit sex crimes involving minors.



Basketball Classic

I hosted my Third Annual Basketball Classic on Dec. 3rd and 4th at Lincoln High School.

Approximately 200 seventh- and eighth-grade students from local schools, for a total of 16 teams, competed in the tournament.

The champions were St. Matthew's in the girls division and St. Bede's in the boys division.

The event raises funds for the Fraternal Order of Police Survivors Fund.



Constituent of the Year



During a ceremony at the basketball classic I honored Billy Gibson, a 14-year-old local Boy Scout, with the "Chuck Null Constituent of the Year" award for his leadership and community service.

Billy received the award for his work organizing the clean-up and renovation of the Trevoze Road Veteran's Memorial Monument. Billy chose to refurbish the monument as an organizational leadership project on his road to becoming an Eagle Scout.

Billy organized for the plaques on the monument to be refurbished and re-polished. The plaques are engraved with the names of individuals who were or are residents of the Somerton area and served in WWI and/or WWII.

He also organized the removal of trees that were around the monument, which now allow for it to be visible when driving by, and improved the aesthetic through utilizing new soil and plants.

Although this was, in and of itself, a commendable Boy Scout project that he was able to organize through the assistance of local organizations, businesses and individuals who donated their time and effort to this, there is something else that makes Billy stand out.

After the completion of the project, he personally contacted my office to get citations for these individuals and organizations that helped him with this project, rather than to focus the praise on himself.

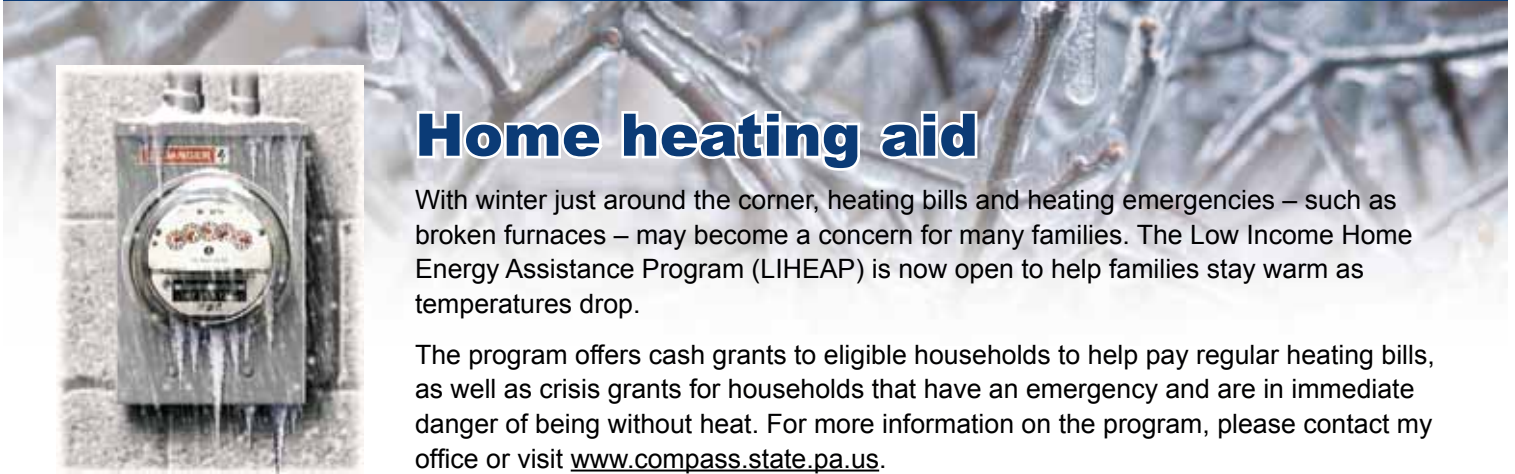
Billy Gibson has shown uncommon leadership and selflessness throughout his work on this project and that is why he was selected to receive The Chuck Null Constituent of the Year Award.

The Constituent of the Year Award was named in honor of Chuck Null, an active member of the Somerton neighborhood, St. Christopher's Parish, and Northeast Philadelphia. He gave much of his time to working in his community, giving back to others, and working for the betterment of his neighborhood. Sadly, Chuck lost his battle with cancer several years ago. In honor of his service, his big heart, and his desire to always help others, the Constituent of the Year Award has been created to keep alive his memory.





Rep. Boyle reads to students at Just Children Daycare.



Home heating aid

With winter just around the corner, heating bills and heating emergencies – such as broken furnaces – may become a concern for many families. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now open to help families stay warm as temperatures drop.

The program offers cash grants to eligible households to help pay regular heating bills, as well as crisis grants for households that have an emergency and are in immediate danger of being without heat. For more information on the program, please contact my office or visit www.compass.state.pa.us.



Teen driving rules strengthened

On Dec. 27, new rules for teen drivers in Pennsylvania take effect. These new rules are designed to make sure teens who get behind the wheel have more experience, are less distracted and are safer drivers – and less likely to injure or kill themselves or someone else on the road.

The new rules are contained in a law I helped to pass in October. They include:

- For the first six months after receiving a junior license, drivers under 18 are not permitted to have more than one passenger under 18 who is not an immediate family member, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. After six months without a violation or accident, drivers under 18 may have up to three passengers under 18.
- Permit holders under 18 must have 65 hours of supervised behind-the-wheel training (up from 50 hours). At least 10 hours of training must be nighttime driving, and five must be spent driving in poor weather conditions.

- Seatbelt violations for drivers and passengers under 18 are changed to a primary offense, which means the driver can be pulled over solely for that violation. The fine for conviction is \$75.



The new law also requires PennDOT to prepare a biannual report for the public with information on crashes involving teen drivers, including the number of passengers in the vehicle and details on seatbelt use.

In just one year – from 2009 to 2010 – fatalities in crashes that involved teen drivers increased 43 percent in Pennsylvania. I believe the new law will improve safety on the road and reduce injuries and fatalities in vehicle crashes for Pennsylvania's drivers.

You can find more information on the new teen driver law and Pennsylvania's requirements for teen drivers on PennDOT's website at www.dot.state.pa.us.

Look inside for...

- Updates on legislation
- Information on state programs
- Third Annual Basketball Classic

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State Representative
**Brendan F.
Boyle**

Constituent Service Offices

As always, please feel free to visit or call either of my constituent service offices for help with any state-related issue, as well as free notary services.

14230 Bustleton Ave.
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Phone: (215) 676-0300

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My offices can help you!

- Free notary services
- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

