

REP. TOM CALTAGIRONE
LEGISLATIVE
Accomplishments



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Since 1977 I have been proudly serving Berks County residents of the 127th Legislative District in the House of Representatives. Many significant strides have been taken to improve the lives of the residents of Reading, Berks County and beyond since that time. I continue to work on many more. This booklet is a snapshot of my legislative accomplishments to date, many of which stem from my leadership role within the House Judiciary Committee.

I have been privileged to serve as House Judiciary Committee Democratic Chairman for much of my tenure as a state representative. It is an enormous responsibility that I treat with great respect. Some of the most influential and groundbreaking laws must first be vetted and approved by the Judiciary Committee.

I have worked especially hard with the committee to enact laws to reduce the escalating costs associated with incarceration in Pennsylvania, enhance public safety and better protect our children.

Please read on to learn more about some of my achievements during my decades of service, and allow me to thank you for affording me the opportunity to serve.

Session of 1979-80

Act 76 of 1980 amended the Liquor Code by providing for the use of photo drivers' licenses for identification purposes.

Session of 1987-88

Act 104 of 1988

amended, revised and consolidated the law relating to providing for the immediate vesting of certain disabled police officers in the pension systems of third-class cities. Any police officer who becomes totally disabled due to injuries sustained in the line of duty shall be deemed to be fully vested in the police pension fund, regardless of the actual number of years of credited service, and will be eligible for immediate retirement benefits.



Session of 1989-90

Act 2 of 1989 amended the Eminent Domain Code by providing for the definition of displaced person. It also increased payments for moving and related expenses of displaced persons, replacement housing and for issuance of regulations.

Act 26 of 1990 is primarily directed at security guards who carry firearms on the job. Specifically, all active police officers subject to the training provisions under the Municipal Police Education and Training Law shall be granted a waiver of the training requirements of this act upon presentation to the commissioner of evidence of their completion of the law's training requirements and the successful completion of a biennial firearms qualification examination administered by their respective police agency.

Act 59 of 1990 instituted the computerization of judicial offices across the commonwealth to assist and increase collection of criminal and civil fines, as well as improving the efficacy and efficiency of the courts.

Act 178 of 1990 created a Limited Vested Benefit section to the Third Class City Code. Under the provisions of the benefit, should a member of the police pension fund, before completing the minimum age and minimum period of continuous service requirements, but after having completed 12 years of full-time service, that member shall be entitled to vest his or her retirement benefits.

Act 187 of 1990 required the clerk of any court in Pennsylvania, within 10 days after final judgment of conviction for violations of this act requiring suspension under this section, to send to the Department of Transportation a record of the conviction on a form provided by PennDOT.

Act 201 of 1990 amended the Crimes and Offenses and Judiciary and Judicial Procedure sections of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by grading burglary-associated crimes. It also created guidelines for punishments issued at the direction of the Commission on Sentencing as long as certain criteria are met.

Act 207 of 1990 made it a third-degree misdemeanor to disclose certain confidential tax information.

Act 220 of 1990 provided an extension on paying property taxes for certain Pennsylvania residents. Specifically, it states that if the county commissioners determine or have reason to believe that a tax claim related to residential real estate owned and occupied solely by a person 65 or older or owned and occupied jointly by individuals all of

whom also are 65 or older and there is a possibility that the owner is not fully informed as to the tax claim and the effect of the impending sale, or otherwise needs assistance to prevent the property from going to sale, the period for discharge of the tax claim may be extended or payment of the tax claim may be deferred to a later time.

Session of 1991-92

Act 13 of 1991 related to the arrest and detention of criminal suspects wanted in a county other than where the alleged crime was committed. The goal of the law was to improve the apprehension process as well as the process of returning the suspect to the county in which they face criminal charges.

Act 14 of 1991 provided for damages in actions on thefts of leased property.

Act 102 of 1992 implemented The Constables' Education and Training Program. It required any constable or deputy who was in office as of the date of this law's enactment to be afforded one opportunity to satisfactorily complete this program by examination without the necessity of class attendance.

Act 144 of 1992 changed Pennsylvania's method of execution from the electric chair to the process of lethal injection.

Session of 1993-94

Act 84 of 1993 defined the structure and regulations of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission.

Act 43 of 1994 created the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board under the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, as well as the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Account. It also provided training requirements for deputy sheriffs.

Act 44 of 1994 instituted the Constable Education and Training Program for all Pennsylvania constables.

Act 45 of 1994 extended contempt of court powers to district justices, judges of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court and judges of the Traffic Court of Philadelphia.

Act 140 of 1994 amended the law to provide for pensions of surviving spouses of deceased third-class city police officers even if they remarry.

Act 162 of 1994 was repealed; however, it was the law that allowed the Santander Center to be built in Reading.

Session of 1997-98

Act 121 of 1998 established rules of procedure on how restitution is to be handled and collected by the Court of Common Pleas. Specifically, it related to restitution for crimes associated with personal or property injuries, arson, agricultural trespass, and the sale or transfer of firearms.

Session of 2003-04

Act 9 of 2004 expanded the eligibility requirements for membership to a parking authority board. The law allows business owners in a municipality that has a parking authority to serve on the board even if they are not residents of the board's host county.

Session of 2007-08

Act 84 of 2008 updated the law governing the handling of seriously and terminally ill prison inmates. The law establishes a petitioning process between the Department of Corrections and the sentencing court for cases in which an inmate is suspected of needing outside medical care. If the inmate's transfer to a hospital, nursing home or hospice center would create a danger to the community, the court is required to deny the petition.

Act 111 of 2008 amended the Wiretap Act by limiting the disclosure of records and other information relating to a subscriber of a telephone service, as well as allowing law enforcement to use data secured by a mobile tracking device if the vehicle to which the device is attached leaves the commonwealth and is operated in another state.

Session of 2009-10

Act 38 of 2009 strengthened Pennsylvania's animal cruelty law by prohibiting dog owners and breeders from performing debarking (cutting or destroying a dog's vocal cords) or Caesarean sections on dogs in their care. Owners must be supervised by a licensed vet to perform tail dockings until the dog is five days old.

Act 49 of 2009 updated and consolidated numerous state constable laws. Previously, constable



laws were spread across 13 different sections in Pennsylvania's legal code and some dated back hundreds of years. All constable laws are now combined into one legal code.

Act 33 of 2010 classified organized retail theft as a crime in Pennsylvania. The crime is committed when large numbers of shoplifters simultaneously rob a store. The theft can cost retailers \$5,000 to \$10,000 at a time. The law makes it a felony to participate in organized retail theft schemes.

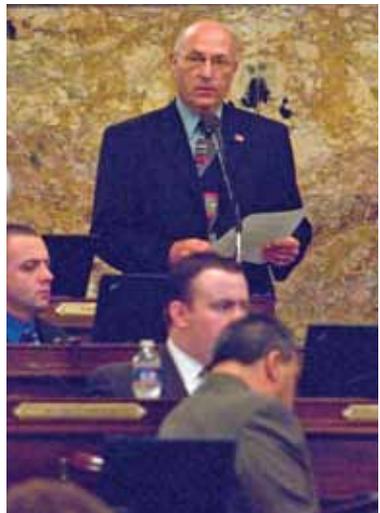
Act 114 of 2010 is designed to alleviate the number of costly court cases tried by the Court of Common Pleas. The law expands the jurisdiction of local municipal courts from cases with claims of up to \$8,000 to those with claims of up to \$12,000.

Session 2011-12

Act 30 of 2011 is directly related to Act 114 of 2010 because it brought Pennsylvania courts' filing fees into compliance with that law. The law completes the changes made to district and municipal courts' civil jurisdiction limits, so that cases that have been making their way into the Court of Common Pleas because of inflation are redirected back to where they were traditionally heard – before magisterial district judges.

Act 79 of 2012 continued funding of the Access to Justice Account, which provides those who cannot afford legal services the ability to acquire those services. It also authorized retired or senior judges to administer oaths of office in Pennsylvania. The judges must meet all of the following qualifications:

- must have served at least the equivalent of a full term in office;
- must not have been defeated or not retained in an election;
- must not have been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor in this or another jurisdiction;
- must not have resigned to avoid any prosecution, including one threatened by the Judicial Conduct Board;
- not have been removed from office by that board; and
- be a resident of the commonwealth.



Resolutions

H.R. 205 – Adopted November 23, 1993

This resolution directed the House Judiciary Committee to authorize an investigation into the conduct of the Honorable Rolf Larsen of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and to determine whether Rolf Larsen was liable to impeachment for misbehavior in office, and to report to the House the conclusions of the committee in respect thereto with its appropriate recommendations.

H.R. 316 – Adopted May 16, 1994

This resolution ordered the preparation of articles of impeachment for Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larsen, after an investigation authorized by H.R. 205 by the House Judiciary Committee.

H.R. 247 – Adopted October 17, 2011

This resolution directed the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of the practices and procedures surrounding administrative law judges throughout the commonwealth.

H.R. 247 – Adopted October 17, 2012

This resolution directed the Joint State Government Commission to study the entire field of using administrative law judges in practice before the hearing boards in the commonwealth with an emphasis on:

- providing uniform docketing procedures;
- investigating cost-cutting measures;
- streamlining procedures for greater efficiency; and
- whether administrative law judges should be members of the Pennsylvania Bar.

H.R. 138 – Adopted April 15, 2013

This resolution directed the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study relating to the current constable system, regarding an adoption of a uniform set of standards within Pennsylvania.

H.R. 226 – Adopted May 14, 2013

This resolution directed the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of all aspects of Pennsylvania's mental health system and associated laws with an emphasis on the percentage of inmates suffering from a form of mental illness.

H.R. 45 – Adopted February 12, 2013

This resolution directed the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to conduct a study relating to the use of child advocacy centers across the commonwealth.

H.R. 168 – Adopted November 13, 2013

This resolution directed the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study relating to the consolidation of municipal police departments. One goal of the study was to establish a set of guidelines that municipalities can use to help identify which departments are best suited for a merger or consolidation.



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