Pediatric Cancer Research registration plate

I am diligently working to pass legislation to raise awareness of childhood cancer throughout Pennsylvania. The initiative is designed to support pediatric cancer research.

My bill, House Bill 746, would establish a Pediatric Cancer Research registration license plate. The state Department of Transportation would administer the plate, which could be purchased for $50. The funds raised would be distributed to eligible institutions in Pennsylvania that conduct pediatric cancer research.

The motivation behind this legislation includes honoring the memory of eight-year-old Delaney “Laney” Brown. Brown, of West Reading, lost her battle with a rare form of leukemia on Christmas Day in 2013, shortly after being sung to by 10,000 community members to fulfill her last wish.

COMMITTEE EYES MUNICIPAL PENSION PROBLEMS; PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE HELD ACROSS THE STATE

In Allegheny County, the Urban Affairs Committee held the first of what are expected to be several public hearings in different parts of Pennsylvania to further examine the challenges facing hundreds of municipalities’ pension funds.

It is estimated by the state auditor general that 562 Pennsylvania municipalities are administering severely underfunded pension plans. That creates a current hole of nearly $8 billion in unfunded liabilities.

Our focus as a committee is to gather as best we can what pension-related problems each municipality is having. Once we do that, we can better understand how we can help provide some relief through legislation tailored to save the pension funds.

The committee plans to travel to Reading to hold a public hearing on this issue.

CALTAGIRONE BILL WOULD BAN GIFTS FOR THE STATE’S PUBLIC PENSION BOARDS

I have introduced legislation to implement ethical standards and campaign contribution prohibitions for members of the state’s public pension boards and the elected officials with the authority to appoint them.

House Bill 845 would ban all gifts to individuals serving on the State and Public School Employees’ Retirement Systems and the officials who have the ability to appoint them. The bill also would strictly prohibit all political contributions to board members.
Caltagirone Appointed Democratic Chairman of House Urban Affairs Committee

“I am grateful for this opportunity to narrow my focus onto the dire needs of our cities. At a time when there is great financial and economic stress throughout many of our urban areas, I am hopeful my work will help rectify some of their largest problems.”

House Urban Affairs Committee Overview

The Urban Affairs Committee reviews bills which pertain to cities and counties of the first, second and third class. Housing and public safety issues also are topics reviewed by this committee.

The committee oversees legislation relating to:
- Cities and the most populous counties
- Housing and redevelopment agencies
- Parking and convention center authorities
- Economic development

The committee has the following subcommittees:
- Subcommittee on Cities, Counties of the First Class
- Subcommittee on Cities, Counties of the Second Class
- Subcommittee on Cities of the Third Class

Urban Affairs Committee Approves Government Efficiency Bill

A measure designed to help improve efficiency within state government was approved by the House Urban Affairs Committee this spring.

The legislation would build on the approach of the state Office of Innovation, which reportedly saved state taxpayers more than $690 million. Gov. Tom Wolf recently named the Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management, and Efficiency as the successor of the state Office of Innovation.

The legislation would provide an ongoing revenue source for the fund by utilizing any increase realized in Realty Transfer Tax revenue collected by the commonwealth.

The legislation would encourage mixed-use development. Such development would include projects that incorporate industrial property.

A primary focus of the legislation is to encourage mixed-use development. Such development would include projects that incorporate industrial property.

Committee Advances Real Estate Bills

- House Bill 341 would require property disclosure statements related to residential real estate transfers to include notification of any sinkholes and storm water facilities located on the property.
- House Bill 447 would allow for early termination of a residential lease following the death of the sole tenant of an occupied unit. It is common for landlords to require the estate of the deceased tenant to continue paying rent anywhere from one month to a year following the tenant’s death.

Caltagirone Bill Would Enhance Criminal Justice Training

Under my bill, House Bill 221, police officers and the minor judiciary, such as magisterial district judges, would receive training on the recognition and proper de-escalation techniques to be used when interacting with individuals with mental illness, intellectual disabilities or autism. The bill also would call for instruction on diversionary options for these individuals.

I am encouraged by the swift action taken by the House to pass this bill. I will continue to work closely with the state Senate to help enact this bill into law.

Bill Would Boost Affordable Housing Fund

The Urban Affairs Committee has unanimously approved a bill, House Bill 792, that would provide an additional source of funding for the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund. The fund was established to help with the creation, rehabilitation and support of affordable housing throughout the commonwealth.

The bill would provide options for the executor of an estate involving the termination of the deceased tenant’s lease and establish a timeline in which written notice must be given to the landlord of the property.
force will have two years to complete its work. Under the resolution that authorized the study, the task permanently reducing and eliminating homelessness. I feel strongly that the Commonwealth needs a blueprint of policy recommendations to move the state toward causes of homelessness and to report its findings as related to residential real estate transfers to include notification of any sinkholes and storm water facilities located on the property. House Bill 447 would allow for early termination of a residential lease following the death of the sole tenant of an occupied unit. It is common for landlords to require the estate of the deceased tenant to continue paying rent anywhere from one month to a year following the tenant’s death. The bill would provide options for the executor of an estate involving the termination of the deceased tenant’s lease and establish a timeline in which written notice must be given to the landlord of the property.

**BILL TO BRING DOWN BLIGHTED PROPERTIES, PULL UP VALUES OF HOMES AND BUSINESSES APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

House Bill 613 would establish the Tax Exemption and Mixed-Use Incentive Program. It is designed to provide tax exemption incentives to developers and property owners in order to encourage new construction in deteriorated areas of depressed communities, and improvements to certain deteriorated commercial and industrial property. A primary focus of the legislation is to encourage mixed-use development. Such development would include projects that incorporate residential, commercial, industrial, cultural or institutional uses. However, under the bill, all development would be required to be in accordance with local zoning ordinances.

**BILL WOULD BOOST AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND**

The Urban Affairs Committee has unanimously approved a bill, House Bill 792, that would provide an additional source of funding for the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund. The fund was established to help with the creation, rehabilitation and support of affordable housing throughout the commonwealth. The legislation would provide an ongoing revenue source for the fund by utilizing any increase realized in Realty Transfer Tax revenue collected by the commonwealth. Under the bill, half of any additional revenue realized by the tax beyond the base year would go into the fund and the other half would go into the state’s General Fund.

**CALTAGIRONE BILL WOULD ENHANCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING**

Under my bill, House Bill 221, police officers and the minor judiciary, such as magisterial district judges, would receive training on the recognition and proper de-escalation techniques to be used when interacting with individuals with mental illness, intellectual disabilities or autism. The bill also would call for instruction on diversionary options for these individuals. I am encouraged by the swift action taken by the House to pass this bill. I will continue to work closely with the state Senate to help enact this bill into law.

**CALTAGIRONE APPOINTED DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

“I am grateful for this opportunity to narrow my focus onto the dire needs of our cities. At a time when there is great financial and economic stress throughout many of our urban areas, I am hopeful my work will help rectify some of their largest problems.”

**HOUSE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OVERVIEW**

The Urban Affairs Committee reviews bills which pertain to cities and counties of the first, second and third class. Housing and public safety issues also are topics reviewed by this committee. The committee oversees legislation relating to:

- Cities and the most populous counties
- Housing and redevelopment agencies
- Parking and convention center authorities
- Economic development

The committee has the following subcommittees:

- Subcommittee on Cities, Counties of the First Class
- Subcommittee on Cities, Counties of the Second Class
- Subcommittee on Cities of the Third Class

**URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE APPROVES GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY BILL**

A measure designed to help improve efficiency within state government was approved by the House Urban Affairs Committee this spring. The legislation would build on the approach of the state Office of Innovation, which reportedly saved state taxpayers more than $690 million. Gov. Tom Wolf recently named the Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management, and Efficiency as the successor of the state Office of Innovation.

House Bill 11, as amended, would secure the office in law and create a steering committee that would include the secretaries of Policy and Planning, General Services and Budget, in addition to one member from the Republican and Democratic caucuses in both the House and Senate. Under my bill, House Bill 221, police officers and the minor judiciary, such as magisterial district judges, would receive training on the recognition and proper de-escalation techniques to be used when interacting with individuals with mental illness, intellectual disabilities or autism. The bill also would call for instruction on diversionary options for these individuals. I am encouraged by the swift action taken by the House to pass this bill. I will continue to work closely with the state Senate to help enact this bill into law.

**COMMITTEE ADVANCES REAL ESTATE BILLS**

- House Bill 341 would require property disclosure statements related to residential real estate transfers to include notification of any sinkholes and storm water facilities located on the property.
- House Bill 447 would allow for early termination of a residential lease following the death of the sole tenant of an occupied unit. It is common for landlords to require the estate of the deceased tenant to continue paying rent anywhere from one month to a year following the tenant’s death.

The bill would provide options for the executor of an estate involving the termination of the deceased tenant’s lease and establish a timeline in which written notice must be given to the landlord of the property.

On Jan. 6, 2015, Rep. Caltagirone took the oath of office to begin his 20th term as a state representative. As part of his responsibilities for this two-year term, Caltagirone is serving as the Democratic chairman of the House Urban Affairs Committee.

Recently, I was appointed to the bipartisan task force on homelessness created by House Resolution 550 of 2014. The task force is charged with identifying the underlying causes of homelessness and to report its findings as well as recommendations for solutions to the House of Representatives. The work will include holding informational sessions, taking testimony, conducting site visits and proposing new legislation.

I feel strongly that the Commonwealth needs a blueprint of policy recommendations to move the state toward permanently reducing and eliminating homelessness. Under the resolution that authorized the study, the task force will have two years to complete its work.

Under my bill, House Bill 221, police officers and the minor judiciary, such as magisterial district judges, would receive training on the recognition and proper de-escalation techniques to be used when interacting with individuals with mental illness, intellectual disabilities or autism. The bill also would call for instruction on diversionary options for these individuals. I am encouraged by the swift action taken by the House to pass this bill. I will continue to work closely with the state Senate to help enact this bill into law.

The House of Representatives passed Rep. Caltagirone’s bill that would provide training for law enforcement and judges related to individuals within the criminal justice system who suffer from mental illness, intellectual disabilities and autism.
INSIDE:
Caltagirone appointed chairman
Homeowner protection bills
Committee focus on municipal pension crisis

COMMITTEE EYES MUNICIPAL PENSION PROBLEMS; PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE HELD ACROSS THE STATE

In Allegheny County, the Urban Affairs Committee held the first of what are expected to be several public hearings in different parts of Pennsylvania to further examine the challenges facing hundreds of municipalities’ pension funds.

It is estimated by the state auditor general that 562 Pennsylvania municipalities are administering severely underfunded pension plans. That creates a current hole of nearly $8 billion in unfunded liabilities.

Our focus as a committee is to gather as best we can what pension-related problems each municipality is having. Once we do that, we can better understand how we can help provide some relief through legislation tailored to save the pension funds.

The committee plans to travel to Reading to hold a public hearing on this issue.

CALTAGIRONE BILL WOULD BAN GIFTS FOR THE STATE’S PUBLIC PENSION BOARDS

I have introduced legislation to implement ethical standards and campaign contribution prohibitions for members of the state’s public pension boards and the elected officials with the authority to appoint them.

House Bill 845 would ban all gifts to individuals serving on the State and Public School Employees’ Retirement Systems and the officials who have the ability to appoint them. The bill also would strictly prohibit all political contributions to board members.

“IT’S TIME THAT WE ELIMINATE ANY APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEMS AND REBUILD THE PUBLIC’S TRUST IN THE SYSTEMS.”

Pediatric Cancer Research registration plate

I am diligently working to pass legislation to raise awareness of childhood cancer throughout Pennsylvania. The initiative is designed to support pediatric cancer research.

My bill, House Bill 746, would establish a Pediatric Cancer Research registration license plate. The state Department of Transportation would administer the plate, which could be purchased for $50. The funds raised would be distributed to eligible institutions in Pennsylvania that conduct pediatric cancer research.

The motivation behind this legislation includes honoring the memory of eight-year-old Delaney “Laney” Brown. Brown, of West Reading, lost her battle with a rare form of leukemia on Christmas Day in 2013, shortly after being sung to by 10,000 community members to fulfill her last wish.

INSIDE:
Caltagirone appointed chairman
Homeowner protection bills
Committee focus on municipal pension crisis