My legislation contributed to passing a strong animal abuse law

State ranked ‘most improved’ for animal protections laws

There is a new era in Pennsylvania where animals have a new face. If we look to Act 10 of 2017, an animal abuse penal code just became law.

Pennsylvania was ranked “most improved” by two national organizations, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, that issued reports ranking state rankings for animal cruelty laws. Pennsylvania jumped up 17 spots to number one in the nation.

There is a new era in Pennsylvania where animals have a new face. If we look to Act 10 of 2017, an animal abuse penal code just became law.

The biggest change is that for the first time ever in this state there is a forward-looking law that protects all animals, even those not covered by the 1965 Pennsylvania animals cruelty law.

Act 10 will end all and put an end to instances of torture and compute neglect that are too frequent. Our animal friends deserve better and this law does just that.

New Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications, help available

My constituent service offices have received Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications for eligible residents beginning claims relating to property taxes or rent paid in 2017, and the staff is ready to help!

The rebates normally are distributed beginning on July 1. So, the sooner you file, the sooner you receive your money. The deadline is due, for now, in June 20, 2018, but it is routinely extended until the end of the year.

The legislation breaks down for first time cruelty offenses outside of animal fighting or killing an endangered species:

- Penalty: Summary offense — up to 90 days in jail and/or a $300 fine.
- Penalty: if negligent causes bodily injury or places the animal in imminent risk of serious bodily injury — Misdemeanor of the second degree — up to one year in jail and/or a $2,000 fine.
- Penalty: if negligent causes bodily injury or places the animal in imminent risk of serious bodily injury — Misdemeanor of the third degree — up to one year in jail and/or a $1,000 fine.
- Penalty: if negligent causes bodily injury or places the animal in imminent risk of serious bodily injury — Misdemeanor of the fourth degree — up to one year in jail and/or a $500 fine.

Several months ago, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, that issued reports ranking state rankings for animal cruelty laws. Pennsylvania jumped up 17 spots to number one in the nation.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Animal Cruelty Act includes:

- Animal Cruelty – intentionally, knowingly or recklessly beats, abandons or abuses the animal and the treatment causes bodily harm.

- Neglect of an animal – failure to provide necessary food, water, shelter or veterinary care.

- The dog must have a well-fitted collar — no tow or log chain, or heavy metal chain.

- The area where the pet is kept must be clear of excessive feces or yard waste.

- A dog may not be tethered for longer than nine consecutive hours.

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In addition, the Pennsylvania Animal Cruelty Act includes:
Plan for PA puts people first

Recognizing Pa.’s addiction crisis for the emergency it is

I ask the governor’s emphatic declaration in January establishing Pennsylvania’s heroin and opioid addiction crisis as a statewide emergency. Combating the addiction crisis requires total commitment and full-throttle resources.

The addiction epidemic is a public health crisis that is ravaging the fabric of our communities and state. The governor’s action will result in expedited treatment and prevention efforts, not bureaucratic red tape for treatment centers funding and bolster effectiveness of first responders.

We must act fast on our ‘front line’ battle. Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid, was detected in almost three-quarters of drug-related overdoses by December 2016 after being found in less than a third of drug-related deaths at the start of the year.

Besides streamlining the state’s response and allowing readiness to have behind a life-saving drug with people who have overdosed but are reluctant to enter treatment, the declaration establishes a Unified Opioid Coordination Group and command center within the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to better coordinate treatment and prevention efforts.

The proclamation opens new fronts in efforts.

The Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs will establish the Pennsylvania Opioid Command Center, which will coordinate and bolster effectiveness of first responders.

I’m supporting Plan for PA, a comprehensive strategy that puts people first, supports ALL families.

My staff and I were pleased to receive the 2016 Living Eggs to the future in Erie and Edinboro. The annual fairs are always fun and educational while providing venues to present vital information about state programs and services.

It was a surprise to meet with families who shared their traumatic and difficult experiences.

Out and about at home and in Harrisburg

With the Gold Star and their families at Edinboro Elementary.

I participated in the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA’s annual Legislative Challenge. As a group, we labeled and boxed over 8,000 canned items for distribution throughout the region.

Pennsylvania puts real solutions in play that people first, as well as ensuring that the Plan for PA that focuses on putting people first, as well as ensuring that

With Humane Pennsylvania on Humane Lobby Day at the Capitol.

Pennsylvania’s heroin and opioid addiction crisis is a battle that we cannot afford to lose.

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I participated in the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA’s annual Legislative Challenge. As a group, we labeled and boxed over 8,000 canned items for distribution throughout the region.
Recognizing Pa.’s addiction crisis for the emergency it is

I salute the governor’s emphatic declaration in January establishing Pennsylvania as a heroin and opioid addiction crisis as a statewide emergency. Combating the addiction crisis requires true commitment and full-throttle resources.

The addiction epidemic is a public health crisis that is tearing at the fabric of our communities and state. The governor’s action will result in expedient treatment and prevention efforts, not bureaucratic red tape for treatment cause summoning and bolster effectiveness of first responders.

We must be quick on our ‘but in the battle field a powerful synthetic opioid, Fentanyl, was detected in almost three-quarters of drug-related overdoses by December 2016 after being found in less than a third of drug-related overdoses.

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The proclamation opens new fronts in treatment, the declaration establishes a Unified Opioid Coordination Group and command center within the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to better coordinate treatment and prevention efforts, cut bureaucratic processes and bolster effectiveness of first responders.

I’m supporting Plan for PA, a comprehensive strategy that puts people first, supports the Plan for PA that focuses on putting people first with fair opportunities for ALL families.

I’m eager to expand the fight as part of an early learning in Pennsylvania – it’s an investment in our future.

I’m supported by the governor’s emphatic declaration in January establishing Pennsylvania as a heroin and opioid addiction crisis as a statewide emergency.

Out and about at home and in Harrisburg

In December, I helped launch Plan for PA, which puts people first with fair opportunities for ALL families.

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Recognizing Pa.’s addiction crisis for the emergency it is

I applaud the governor’s emphatic declaration in January establishing Pennsylvania’s house and social addiction crisis as a statewide emergency. Combating the addiction crisis requires sustained commitment and full-throttle resources.

The addiction epidemic is a public health crisis that is ravaging the fabric of our communities and state. The governor’s action will result in expedited treatment and prevention efforts, out bureaucratic red tape for treatment centers, and bolster effectiveness of first responders.

We must be quick on our feet in the battle. Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid, was detected in almost three-quarters of drug-related deaths recorded in Harrisburg in 2016. This is a battle that we cannot afford to lose.

Pennsylvania has the fourth-highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the country, and the toll is growing. I’m eager to expand the fight as part of Pa’s fight and focus on helping people first, as well as ensuring that Pennsylvania puts real solutions in place.

Out and about at home and in Harrisburg

With the Gold Coast and their families at Edinboro Elementary.

The Erie Delegation honored Trevon Jenifer of Edinboro with a Pa. House of Representatives citation for being a member of Team USA’s gold-medal-winning wheelchair basketball team in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio De Janeiro. Everyone from Erie County and from Pennsylvania are very proud of Trevon Jenifer who is no stranger to winning medals for the United States.

I participated in the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA’s annual Legislative Challenge. As a group, we labeled and boxed over 8,000 canned items for distribution throughout the region.

I was a speaker to launch the” No Texting” movement before the Pennsylvania Legislature, which is an effort to end driver distraction and help reduce the number of fatalities and injuries that occur due to distracted driving.

I attended a Pa. House Democratic Policy Committee hearing in Northeast Philadelphia to discuss the rise of anti-Semitic acts.

I’m an active supporter of early learning in Pennsylvania – it’s an investment in our future.

I’m eager to expand the fight as part of Pa’s fight and focus on helping people first, as well as ensuring that Pennsylvania puts real solutions in place.

I’m an active supporter of early learning in Pennsylvania – it’s an investment in our future.
My legislation contributed to passing a strong animal abuse law
State ranked ‘most improved’ for animal protections laws

There is a new era in Pennsylvania where animals have a new face. A law took effect last year to put an end to instances of torture and animal cruelty.

Pennsylvania was ranked “most improved” by two national organizations—the Humane Society of the United States and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals—based on new animal protection laws. Two years prior to Act 10—such as calling temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or when it's 90 degrees or higher, the dog must be a well-fitted collar—no tow or log chain, or pinch, choke or prong collars — and no open sores or wounds on the feet, whichever is longer.

The area where the pet is kept must be clear of excessive feces and waste. The dog must have a well-fitted collar — no tow or log chain, or pinch, choke or prong collars — and no open sores or wounds on the feet, whichever is longer.

Animal Cruelty — intentionally, knowingly or recklessly beats, abandons or abuses the animal and the treatment causes bodily harm.

Penalty: Summary offense — up to 90 days in jail and/or a $300 fine.

Penalty: Summary offense — up to 90 days in jail and/or a $300 fine.

The biggest change is that for the first time ever in Pennsylvania, it will be possible to file felony level penalties for first time cruelty offenses outside of animal fighting or killing an endangered species. I was more pleased than pleased, if that's possible. I introduced nearly 30 amendments to the passing of Act 10 — such as calling temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or when it's 90 degrees or higher, the dog must be a well-fitted collar—no tow or log chain, or pinch, choke or prong collars — and no open sores or wounds on the feet, whichever is longer.

Please ignore offers to assist with filing the application for a fee. My offices offer help at no charge, and the Revenue Department does not charge a fee to process your application. Applications also are available online at www.revenue.pa.gov or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

I was an emphatic “no” on the gambling expansion bill approved as part of the new fiscal year budget. House members had heard ears to review the 979-page measure, and the bill in advance is a textbook example of why Pennsylvania's budgeting process needs to be overhauled. I fear gambling expansion will jeopardize the region’s economic recovery and continue to support the Pennsylvania Lottery. And, the guidelines for video gaming terminals are textbook examples of why Pennsylvania’s budgeting process needs to be overhauled.

New Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications, help available
My constituent services offices have received Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications for eligible residents in beginning claiming rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2017, and the staff is ready to help!

The rebates program benefits income-eligible Pennsylvanians 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and older, and people with disabilities 18 and older.

A day may not be bettered for longer than 30 minutes in temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or when it's 90 degrees or higher. Additionally, a day may not be bettered for longer than 30 minutes in temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or when it's 90 degrees or higher.

The reprieve has been proclaimed for different grades of cruelty and different conditions based on the severity of the conduct and how many prior offenses have been.

Please sign up for email alerts
You can sign up to continue receiving my email alerts during the 2018-2019 legislative session. Just visit www.state. pa.us/695 and select “Stay Connected” in the upper right corner and filling out the form. Signing up to “Stay Connected” in the upper right corner and filling out the form.

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My legislation contributed to passing a strong animal abuse law

State ranked ‘most improved’ for animal protections laws

There is a new era in Pennsylvania where animals have a new law to look to that will put an end to instances of torture and cruelty and different penalties based on the severity of the conduct and different grades of abuse.

Pennsylvania was left for dead but was nursed back to health and is alive and well. The Boston Terrier pup, Libre, for getting the momentum going for this law. I am crediting the Boston Terrier pup, Libre, for getting the severity of the conduct and different penalties for different grades.

Now we’ve started the process of devising another state budget. I hope that some lessons were learned, and the process goes a bit faster.

I was not an emphatic “no” on the gambling expansion bill approved as part of the November ballot. House members had no heart to review the 207-page measure, and its bill analysis. I am ambivalent. I have been in the legislature, and I know how difficult it is to get the measure through the Appropriations Committee. And the guidelines for video gaming terminals and their associated revenues do not provide enough funding for the regions that the manufacturers need to keep their operations going.

State budget debacle should not be repeated

Pennsylvania has a 2017-18 budget, but it was almost four months late and it was without a plan to pay for it. Now we’ve started the process of devising another state budget. I hope that some lessons were learned, and the process goes a bit faster.

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An additional $4 million in recurring revenues for the cash-strapped Erie School District.

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