

House Majority Policy Committee Chairman Mike Sturla



House Majority Policy Committee's 2009-2010 Policy Agenda

PRIORITY AREAS

**Economic Development To Retain And Create Jobs
Accessible And Affordable Health Care
Modern Infrastructure And Transportation
Healthy Environment With Clean And Safe Energy
Education And Job Training Opportunities
Safer Communities And Stronger Consumer Protection
Better Governance**

2009-2010 Legislative Session

**Accomplished and Signed into Law – 77 Laws
Passed House and Awaited Senate Action – 132 Bills**

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2009-2010 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS POLICY AGENDA: INVESTING IN PENNSYLVANIANS' FUTURE

Economic Development To Retain And Create Jobs

- **Encourage business development and capital investment, especially in the creation of alternative energy and green jobs.**
 - **H.B. 588** (Markosek) would revamp the Pennsylvania Quality Improvement Act. **Status:** Passed House on 5/6/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2394** (Mirabito) would help entrepreneurs start their own businesses. **Status:** Passed House on 5/25/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2399** (Bradford) would expand Pennsylvania's Business In Our Sites program. **Status:** Passed House on 5/25/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2401** (Taylor) would offer financing to more small businesses through a state program. **Status:** Passed House on 5/25/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2601** (Siptroth) would reduce the state's energy bills and its carbon footprint while creating green energy technology jobs. **Status:** Passed House on 7/2/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2631** (Santarsiero) would make more of the Commonwealth's deposits available for community banks. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 1042) signed into law on 7/6/10 to become Act 46 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.R. 765** (Johnson) encourages cooperation on the 2010 Subsidized Summer Youth Employment Program and the 2010 Subsidized Adult Employment Program. **Status:** Adopted by House on 5/4/10. **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Maintain investments in Pennsylvania's core industries and support emerging industries.**
 - **H.B. 1126** (Seip) would create the Heritage Area Program to protect and enhance Pennsylvania tourism's historic, recreational, natural, cultural and scenic resources. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 1042) signed into law on 7/6/10 to become Act 46 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 2273** (Haluska) would ensure state funding is available to help owners and operators of deer farms and other cervidae livestock operations to keep their animals disease free and to stay in business in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 116 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Promote economic development initiatives in rural, urban and suburban Pennsylvania, especially those that utilize brownfields and target underserved communities.**
 - **H.B. 1055** (M. O'Brien) would provide for the extension of certain permits and approvals issued by the Commonwealth and municipalities that relate to the physical development of real property. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 1042) signed into law on 7/6/10 to become Act 46 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1597** (Mirabito) would help high-tech and manufacturing businesses grow. **Status:** Passed House on 6/23/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2290** (Evans) would enable more economic development projects in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/7/10 to become Act 48 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**

➤ **Continue to position Pennsylvania at the forefront of the education, biotechnology and medical fields.**

- **H.B. 926** (Seip) would establish the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers within the Department of Labor and Industry and the Health Careers Leadership Council to monitor and develop initiatives addressing the state's health care workforce. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 174) signed into law on 7/2/10 to become Act 41 of 2010.

ACCOMPLISHED

➤ **Protect workers by advancing a fair work environment.**

- **H.B. 400** (Lentz) would penalize employers who misclassify their workers to avoid paying taxes and workers' compensation premiums. **Status:** Passed House on 5/5/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 985** (Kessler) would help to prevent fraud by protecting mortgage broker and mortgage company employees who report a violation of any law or take part in an investigation, hearing or inquiry. **Status:** Signed into law on 6/29/2009 to become Act 7 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1472** (Solobay) would allow licensed vehicle salespeople to sell for up to three dealerships at the same time. **Status:** Passed House on 12/17/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2160** (Bradford) would allow work-sharing programs for Pennsylvania employers and employees. **Status:** Passed House on 4/26/2010 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2540** (Harkins) would give public, private and parochial school employees paid sick leave. **Status:** Passed House on 9/27/10 and sent to the Senate.

2009-2010 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS POLICY AGENDA: INVESTING IN PENNSYLVANIANS' FUTURE

Accessible And Affordable Health Care

- **Provide Pennsylvanians access to quality, affordable health care while containing costs.**
 - **H.B. 1** (Eachus) would expand access to basic care by building upon the existing adultBasic Program. **Status:** Passed House on 6/29/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 84** (DeLuca) would keep any health-care provider responsible for causing serious medical error from seeking payment to cover the cost of that error or for any service needed to correct or treat a problem caused by error. **Status:** Signed into law on 6/10/09 to become Act 1 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 173** (Eachus) would reauthorize the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 89) signed into law on 6/10/09 to become Act 3 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 528** (DeLuca) would require pharmacy technicians in Pennsylvania to be registered by the State Board of Pharmacy. **Status:** Passed House on 3/8/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 602** (Pashinski) would allow dental assistants in Pennsylvania to be certified as expanded function dental assistants by the State Board of Dentistry. **Status:** Signed into law on 4/29/10 to become Act 19 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 620** (Curry) would create standard of care for Pennsylvanians with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. **Status:** Passed House on 8/5/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 746** (DeLuca) would reform the small group insurance market in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Passed House on 6/29/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 816** (Pashinski) would expand Pennsylvania's heart disease and stroke program. **Status:** Passed House on 3/17/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 838** (Longiotti) would enable an insured parent the option to retain a child on a health care policy until the age of 29. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 189) signed into law on 6/10/09 to become Act 4 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1041** (Kula) would expand drug therapy management to non-institutional settings. **Status:** Signed into law on 6/1/10 to become Act 29 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1089** (Matzie) would provide increased coverage for Pennsylvanians by implementing the federal COBRA continuation of health insurance coverage rules for small group plans. **Status:** Signed into law on 6/10/09 to become Act 2 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1480** (Pallone) would exempt economic stimulus payments from PACE and PACENET eligibility. **Status:** Passed House on 6/9/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1593** (Matzie) would create a Health Insurance Coverage Parity and Non-Discrimination Act. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 237) signed into law on 3/22/10 to become Act 14 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1764** (Payton) would make acupuncture more accessible. **Status:** Passed House on 6/21/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1865** (Burns) would ensure parity in health-care coverage for cancer patients. **Status:** Passed House on 6/14/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2106** (Taylor) would improve health-care outcomes and save the Commonwealth millions of dollars by creating a statewide e-medical records system. **Status:** Passed House on 9/27/10 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Provide Pennsylvanians access to quality, affordable health care while containing costs. (CONTINUED)**

- **H.B. 2157** (Boyle) would create the Pennsylvania Chronic Care Commission to control costs and create a more enhanced quality of life for those with chronic diseases. **Status:** Passed House on 9/13/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2368** (Harhai) would better assure consumers of the financial solvency and stability of their health insurance providers. **Status:** Passed House on 6/15/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2392** (Shapiro) would strengthen Pennsylvania's mini-COBRA law to continue health insurance coverage and extend federal subsidies to those who worked for small businesses and lost their jobs. **Status:** Passed House on 4/27/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2521** (DeLuca) would provide transparency in the billing of medical expenses for pathology services. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 121 of 2010.

ACCOMPLISHED

➤ **Promote independence opportunities for seniors, including at-home care from family, friends and neighbors.**

- **H.B. 245** (Mundy) would expand access to the PA Family Caregiver Support Program. **Status:** Passed House on 3/30/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1152** (Mundy) would establish the Department of Aging and Long-Term Living. **Status:** Passed House on 6/30/09 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Protect vulnerable seniors from physical and financial abuse, neglect and exploitation.**

- **H.B. 56** (K. Smith) would require employees and administrators at assisted living and long-term care facilities to report any patient neglect cases within 48 hours to protective service agencies, such as area agencies on aging. **Status:** Passed House on 3/30/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 282** (Walko) would allow prosecutors to file criminal charges of neglect against owners or staff of personal care homes that have three or fewer adults unrelated to the owner. **Status:** Passed House on 3/16/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 288** (Murphy) would allow county agencies on aging to investigate cases in which a senior was financially exploited, even if the alleged perpetrator held power of attorney for the senior. **Status:** Passed House on 3/30/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 309** (Johnson) would mandate that attending or primary care physicians at nursing or assisted living facilities must inform current or prospective residents, their family and legal guardian about any financial interest the physician has in the care facility. **Status:** Passed House on 3/30/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 372** (Staback) would amend the Health Care Facilities Act to better assist in long-term nursing home oversight. **Status:** Passed House on 3/30/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 373** (Wansacz) would create specific penalties for the neglect of care-dependent individuals that results in death. **Status:** Passed House on 6/3/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1251** (D. Costa) would assure senior citizens of an avenue to appeal long-term insurance claims denied by an insurance company. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/9/10 to become Act 51 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1376** (Pashinski) would require the state Insurance Department to conduct financial examinations at continued care retirement communities. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/7/10 to become Act 66 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Assist returning military personnel and aging veterans in managing physical, mental health, and financial matters.**
 - **H.B. 339** (Murphy) would give active-duty National Guard and U.S. military reservists preference for state job-training programs once they return home from service. **Status:** Passed House on 3/30/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 592** (Grucela) would ensure that members of the Pennsylvania National Guard and reservists who are attending college would not be penalized academically if they are deployed before the end of a semester. **Status:** Passed House on 6/3/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 929** (Grucela) would authorize school boards to establish a program known as Operation Recognition for Vietnam veterans to be granted a high school diploma. **Status:** Part of comprehensive bill (H.B. 101) that was signed into law on 11/22/10 to become Act 104 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1838** (Santarsiero) would provide real estate tax relief to disabled veterans. **Status:** Passed House on 6/30/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2161** (Staback) would make it easier for members of the military to get a hunting license when on leave or returning from deployment. **Status:** Passed House on 3/16/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2357** (Pallone) would declare March 30 of every year “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”. **Status:** Passed House on 5/25/10 and sent to the Senate.

- **Encourage medical research and development to fight disease and keep Pennsylvania a national leader in health sciences.**
 - **H.B. 85** (DeLuca) would require insurance companies to cover the cost of routine care for patients enrolled in cancer clinical trials. **Status:** Passed House on 3/17/09 and sent to the Senate.

2009-2010 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS POLICY AGENDA: INVESTING IN PENNSYLVANIANS' FUTURE

Modern Infrastructure And Transportation

- **Maximize federal, state and local funds and seek innovative funding partnerships for Pennsylvania's highway, bridge, river transport and transit infrastructure needs.**
 - **H.B. 1151** (Pashinski) would allow many communities to participate in a program that would help reduce the cost of maintaining and powering street lights. **Status:** Passed House on 6/9/09 and sent to the Senate.

- **Explore advancement of rail-freight, high-speed and intercity rail technologies for promotion of green energies and reduction of commuter congestion.**

- **Support efforts by communities and utilities to upgrade water, gas, electric and sewer systems.**
 - **H.B. 1798** (Eachus) would improve the H2O PA Program for water supply, sanitary sewer, and storm water projects. **Status:** Passed House on 7/14/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.R. 350** (Siptroth) directs the Joint State Government Commission to study planned communities, their infrastructure and how they might be able to access state funding programs. **Status:** Adopted by House on 7/2/09. **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Modernize utility and telecommunications infrastructure while accelerating deployment of affordable and reliable broadband technology.**

- **Improve safety conditions for drivers in Pennsylvania.**
 - **H.B. 67** (Markosek) would impose stricter driving standards for teen drivers in an effort to reduce vehicular accidents and fatalities involving junior licensees. **Status:** House non-concurred in Senate amendments on 7/1/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 352** (Mundy) would strengthen punishment for drivers convicted of leaving the scene of an accident. **Status:** Passed House on 6/10/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2070** (Markosek) would ban texting and handheld cell phone use by drivers. **Status:** Passed House on 1/26/10 and sent to the Senate.

2009-2010 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS POLICY AGENDA: INVESTING IN PENNSYLVANIANS' FUTURE

Healthy Environment With Clean And Safe Energy

- **Advance the development and use of alternative energy sources while minimizing the environmental impact.**
 - **H.B. 984** (Kessler) would encourage the development of the wind power industry in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Passed House on 6/23/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1394** (Houghton) would promote energy exploration and development through the state's Clean and Green land preservation program. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 109 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Support energy conservation through consumer education, the use of new technology and incentives for families and businesses.**
 - **H.B. 444** (M. Smith) would require all buildings constructed or refurbished with state funds to be environmentally responsible and energy efficient. **Status:** Passed House on 7/13/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 687** (Dermody) would make it easier for government entities to make energy conservation improvements to their facilities **Status:** Signed into law on 7/2/10 to become Act 39 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 786** (George) would reestablish a State Energy Office to forge consistent energy polices. **Status:** Passed House on 6/23/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2234** (Houghton) would make it easier for homeowners to install solar panels on their roofs. **Status:** Passed House on 6/23/10 and sent to the Senate.

- **Promote initiatives to conserve and protect natural resources for generations of Pennsylvanians to enjoy.**
 - **H.B. 262** (Haluska) would encourage the use of well-regulated, prescribed burning in Pennsylvania as a habitat and land-management tool. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/14/09 to become Act 17 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 263** (Freeman) would clarify that municipalities are required to adopt, implement and enforce zoning ordinances in order to protect the values of the Appalachian Trail. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/17/09 to become Act 23 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 281** (Daley) would permit the transfer of an antlerless tag from a licensed doe hunter to a young participant in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. **Status:** Passed House on 3/24/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 320** (Haluska) would repeal state law that gives Fish and Boat commissioners law enforcement powers of waterways conservation officers. **Status:** Passed House on 4/21/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 460** (Goodman) would end requirement for hunters to display their license on the back of their outmost garment. **Status:** Passed House on 3/16/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 481** (Hanna) would increase the restitution amount and certain liabilities for theft of standing timber. **Status:** Passed House on 4/21/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 594** (Siptroth) would create a program for the disposal of home-generated medical sharps. **Status:** Passed House on 6/10/09 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Promote initiatives to conserve and protect natural resources for generations of Pennsylvanians to enjoy. (CONTINUED)**

- **H.B. 961** (Buxton) would authorize the continuation of a recycling and waste disposal fee. **Status:** Signed into law on 5/12/10 to become Act 24 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1171** (Hanna) would make it easier for vintage snowmobile enthusiasts to participate in events celebrating their hobby. **Status:** Passed House on 6/15/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1523** (Kula) would strengthen alcohol consumption guidelines for hunting. **Status:** Passed House on 6/24/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1768** (Wansacz) would update the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act and provide for site limitations. **Status:** Passed House on 9/17/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1847** (Harhai) would expand the provisions for preferred site selection used for coal refuse disposal. **Status:** Signed into law on 2/2/10 to become Act 4 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1859** (Staback) would increase fines and penalties for poaching and the illegal trade of wildlife in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/9/10 to become Act 54 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2235** (Vitali) would protect Pennsylvania's state forests from additional natural gas drilling until its impacts can be evaluated. **Status:** Passed House on 5/4/10 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Ensure that Pennsylvanians receive safe and reliable electricity, natural gas and water services at reasonable rates.**

- **H.B. 1128** (Preston) would increase safety violation fines for natural or artificial gas utilities that produce, generate, transmit, distribute or furnish gas for public consumption. **Status:** Passed House on 6/2/09 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Encourage smart growth throughout the Commonwealth to protect farmland and open spaces while also revitalizing older, distressed communities.**

- **H.B. 1609** (Freeman) would promote traditional neighborhood development as an alternative to sprawl. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 111 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2591** (George) would expand the ability of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority to direct federal money to rural stormwater management and nonpoint source remediation projects. **Status:** Passed House on 7/2/10 and sent to the Senate.

2009-2010 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS POLICY AGENDA: INVESTING IN PENNSYLVANIANS' FUTURE

Education And Job Training Opportunities

- **Continue to support early childhood education efforts.**
 - **H.B. 1416** (Evans) would maintain Pre-K Counts funding in 2009-10 state budget. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/9/09 to become Act 10A of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **Remain committed to adequately and equitable funding basic and special education.**
 - **H.B. 704** (Sturla) would institute an equitable formula to allocate special education funding for Pennsylvania schools. **Status:** Passed House on 6/23/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1416** (Evans) would increase basic education funding in 2009-10 state budget. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/9/09 to become Act 10A of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 2279** (Evans) would increase basic education funding in 2010-11 state budget. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/6/10 to become Act 1A of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **Demand fiscal accountability and efficiencies from public schools, including charter and cyber schools.**
 - **H.B. 689** (Drucker) would provide incentives for school districts to construct cleaner and more efficient schools. **Status:** Passed House on 3/15/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **Reduce the state's high school dropout rate and close the achievement gap by supporting stronger academic accountability and assistance in schools.**
 - **H.B. 705** (Burns) would require all school districts in Pennsylvania to establish parent involvement programs, policies and committees. **Status:** Passed House on 3/15/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 794** (Roebuck) would help defray the cost to teachers becoming certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. **Status:** Part of comprehensive bill (H.B. 101) that was signed into law on 11/22/10 to become Act 104 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1618** (Roebuck) would require PA Department of Education to implement a high-quality, detailed data collection and reporting system for dropout and graduation rates in all public school districts. **Status:** Part of comprehensive bill (H.B. 101) that was signed into law on 11/22/10 to become Act 104 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 2026** (Conklin) would integrate teen dating violence education into middle and high school curriculums while requiring school districts to develop an anti-dating violence policy. **Status:** Part of comprehensive bill (H.B. 101) that was signed into law on 11/22/10 to become Act 104 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 2733** (Harhai) would provide temporary special state aid to school districts suffering at least a 25% or more loss of payment in lieu of taxes due to the relocation of one or more businesses out of the school district. **Status:** Passed House on 10/6/10 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Make higher education more accessible and affordable to better utilize 21st-century jobs and ensure a well-trained diverse workforce with strong academic, workplace and technical skills.**

- **H.B. 9** (McCall) would extend the sunset date of the PA Conservation Corps to 6/30/20. **Status:** Signed into law on 6/29/10 to become Act 37 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 101** (Longiotti) would provide personal finance and economic education to all Pennsylvania public and private school students. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/22/10 to become Act 104 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1795** (Thomas) would establish a youth council within each local workforce investment board. **Status:** Passed House on 3/16/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2230** (Gergely) would formally establish the Industry Partnerships job-training program in the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. **Status:** Passed House on 3/22/10 and sent to the Senate.

2009-2010 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS POLICY AGENDA: INVESTING IN PENNSYLVANIANS' FUTURE

Safer Communities & Stronger Consumer Protection

- **Coordinate intergovernmental efforts to address public safety needs with law enforcement, emergency services and judiciary.**
 - **H.B. 65** (Deasy) would regulate the practice of bounty hunting in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Passed House on 9/14/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 155** (Solobay) would increase the amount of time between calibrations for portable weight scales and non-radar speed timing devices. **Status:** Passed House on 6/15/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 176** (Mann) would ban synthetic marijuana in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Passed House on 9/29/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 240** (Conklin) would provide for sexual violence awareness education programs and establish a strong support network for victims at Pennsylvania colleges and universities. **Status:** Part of comprehensive bill (H.B. 101) that was signed into law on 11/22/10 to become Act 104 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 250** (Hornaman) would permit municipalities to provide a fire service credit against an individual's local income tax for active service as a volunteer firefighter. **Status:** Passed House on 7/20/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 264** (Solobay) would streamline the expunging process of certain misdemeanors from criminal records to enable the State Board of Pardons to focus on more serious cases. **Status:** Passed House on 7/14/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 422** (Freeman) would allow public housing authorities to form their own police forces. **Status:** Passed House on 7/1/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 468** (Melio) would update and enhance the coordination of emergency and medical services among all systems across the state. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 240) signed into law on 8/18/09 to become Act 37 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 485** (Petarca) would create a new criminal offense, that of illegal dumping of methamphetamine waste, and makes it a felony of the third degree upon conviction. **Status:** Signed into law on 4/29/10 to become Act 18 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 580** (Pallone) would expand the definition of police to include county park police. **Status:** Passed House on 7/2/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 718** (Melio) would allow for the continuation of state funding to Pennsylvania's 69 Public Safety Answering Points. **Status:** Signed into law on 6/29/09 to become Act 6 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 721** (Solobay) would provide for prescription drug redistribution within correctional facilities. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 1044) signed into law on 7/9/10 to become Act 59 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 726** (Youngblood) would expand the use of the Amber Alert system to help recover missing adults with health risks that could endanger their lives. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 976) signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 126 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 810** (Barbin) would allow relief funds to be used for emergency service and paramedic training in addition to fire training. **Status:** Passed House on 7/2/10 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Coordinate intergovernmental efforts to address public safety needs with law enforcement, emergency services and judiciary. (CONTINUED)**

- **H.B. 907** (M. Smith) would toughen first degree murder sentencing guidelines. **Status:** Passed House on 6/14/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1145** (Dermody) would add the executive director of the Commission on Sentencing to the board of the Commission on Crime and Delinquency. **Status:** Passed House on 6/3/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1281** (Gibbons) would enable residents to provide input before a private company could open a halfway house in their community. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/7/10 to become Act 65 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1332** (Gergely) would provide for confidential communications to a critical incident stress management team member by law enforcement officers, firefighters, first responders, and correctional officers. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/9/10 to become Act 53 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1607** (Caltagirone) would consolidate into one title the numerous constable statutes that exist in Pennsylvania across 13 separate titles. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/9/09 to become Act 49 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1720** (Caltagirone) would make it a felony to participate, in any role, in an organized retail theft scheme. **Status:** Signed into law on 6/16/10 to become Act 33 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1769** (Solobay) would provide the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry with the authority to issue variances on distance requirements for emergency shutoffs at self-service gas stations. **Status:** Passed House on 10/4/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1789** (Solobay) would require cell phone companies to collect 911 fees on prepaid wireless services at the point of sale. **Status:** Passed House on 3/8/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1861** (Caltagirone) would generate revenue to fund the state court system, county district attorneys and domestic violence programs. **Status:** Passed House on 9/16/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1938** (Boyle) would increase survivor benefits for families of police and emergency service personnel who die in the line of duty. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 369) signed into law on 10/9/09 to become Act 51 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2172** (Caltagirone) would reduce the caseload of Commonwealth courts across the state by expanding the jurisdiction of local municipal courts from cases involving claims of up to \$8,000 to those involving claims of up to \$12,000. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 114 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2489** (Brennan) would increase magisterial district justices' enforcement power. **Status:** Passed House on 6/21/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2629** (D. Costa) would create an Officer Down Alert System to help catch those suspected of killing or seriously injuring law enforcement officers. **Status:** Passed House on 10/4/10 and sent to the Senate.

- **Employ initiatives to safeguard Pennsylvania's food and water supplies.**
 - **H.B. 174** (Carroll) would improve food safety standards. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 106 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1464** (Kula) would allow non-profit groups to sell food prepared in private homes. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 828) signed into law on 6/3/10 to become Act 31 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 2139** (Myers) would encourage farmers and food processors to donate excess products to food banks. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 113 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Strengthen gaming oversight to heighten integrity and produce effective revenue.**
 - **H.B. 21** (DeWeese) would authorize the licensing and implementation of table games in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 711) signed into law on 1/7/10 to become Act 1 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 169** (Solobay) would amend the Local Options Small Games of Chance Act to increase the prize limits for games of chance, provide for progressive and insured games, and allow for emergency services fundraisers. **Status:** Passed House on 5/4/10 and sent to the Senate.

- **Advocate for the rights of all Pennsylvanians, especially those most at risk – children, the elderly and people with disabilities.**
 - **H.B. 47** (Curry) would educate new parents about the risk factors associated with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Sudden Unexpected Death of Infants. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/12/10 to become Act 73 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 73** (P. Costa) would give senior citizens who are 70 or older the option to opt out of serving jury duty. **Status:** Passed House on 2/11/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 89** (Mann) would make viewing child pornography a criminal offense under Pennsylvania law. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/14/09 to become Act 15 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 90** (Conklin) would create guidelines to follow in custody disputes that involve a parent or guardian deemed at risk of abducting a child. **Status:** Passed House on 5/11/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 295** (Briggs) would allow courts to grant visitation rights to siblings who live apart due to divorce, separation, death or court order. **Status:** Passed House on 3/16/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1175** (Josephs) would make it illegal to force or coerce someone into having an identification device implanted on or under his or her skin. **Status:** Passed House on 6/24/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1336** (M. Smith) would protect students with food allergies. **Status:** Part of comprehensive bill (H.B. 101) that was signed into law on 11/22/10 to become Act 104 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1384** (Mundy) would provide more duties to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. **Status:** Passed House on 9/14/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1572** (Gerber) would help improve nutritional standards in Pennsylvania's schools. **Status:** Passed House on 9/29/10 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1616** (Houghton) would prevent abuse of dextromethorphan. **Status:** Passed House on 1/26/10 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Advocate for the rights of all Pennsylvanians, especially those most at risk – children, the elderly and people with disabilities. (CONTINUED)**

- **H.B. 1639** (Manderino) would improve Pennsylvania's system for deciding child custody. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 112 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1648** (Eachus) would create an Inter-branch Commission on Juvenile Justice. **Status:** Signed into law on 8/7/09 to become Act 32 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1907** (Murphy) would protect adoption records from disposal or loss when private adoption agencies shut down. **Status:** Passed House on 11/17/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2258** (Briggs) would require county children and youth agencies to make every reasonable effort to place siblings together in foster care. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 115 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2338** (Mundy) would provide uniform standards and guidelines for children in foster care and for a grievance policy and procedure. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 119 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2429** (Samuelson) would provide for the notification to grandparents and other adult relatives when a dependent child is placed in foster care. **Status:** Passed House on 5/25/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2439** (K. Smith) would include optometrists on the list of the medical providers who may say whether a disabled Pennsylvanian needs a handicapped license plate of placard. **Status:** Passed House on 9/28/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2571** (Eachus) would allow the state's Office of the Victim Advocate to also advocate for victims of juvenile crime. **Status:** Passed House on 6/30/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2572** (Eachus) would provide restitution to the victims of the crimes committed by juvenile offenders in counties where the adjudicated cases had been dismissed by the court. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 1042) signed into law on 7/6/10 to become Act 46 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2728** (Briggs) would improve concussion management in youth sports and increase awareness regarding the devastating, life-long effects they can cause when not handled properly. **Status:** Passed House on 9/28/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.R. 203** (Parker) directs the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee to study the effects of parental incarceration on the children of incarcerated parents. **Status:** Adopted by House on 6/3/09. **ACCOMPLISHED**

➤ **Promote professional standards that ensure quality goods and services for consumers and personal data safety.**

- **H.B. 39** (Caltagirone) would restrict the ability of untrained individuals to perform several types of surgeries that can cause pain and suffering to dogs when performed improperly. **Status:** Signed into law on 8/27/09 to become Act 38 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 68** (Solobay) would increase the amount banks and financial institutions return to the survivors of deceased account holders. **Status:** Passed House on 6/16/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 115** (Waters) would require managers of eating establishments with liquor licenses or distributor licensees to complete the Responsible Alcohol Management Program. **Status:** Passed House on 3/23/09 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Promote professional standards that ensure quality goods and services for consumers and personal data safety. (CONTINUED)**

- **H.B. 291** (Donatucci) would eliminate all distinctions between in-state and out-of-state brewers to ensure rules apply equally to all United States brewers. **Status:** Passed House on 7/2/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 299** (Goodman) would increase penalties for a licensee who violates a practice act or Act 48 and require a licensee held in violation to pay the costs of the state investigation. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 142) signed into law on 7/17/09 to become Act 25 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 416** (Barbin) would protect consumers from anyone who impersonates a holder of a professional or occupational license. **Status:** Signed into law on 3/22/10 to become Act 12 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 464** (White) would prohibit the use of automated ticket purchasing software for the purchase of amusement/entertainment tickets over the Internet. **Status:** Signed into law on 5/12/10 to become Act 23 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 526** (DeLuca) would require credit insurance companies to promptly refund customer premiums when a policy is terminated before its original expiration date. **Status:** Signed into law on 3/29/10 to become Act 17 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 703** (Burns) would update the Landscape Architects' Registration Law by increasing the number of continuing education hours from ten to 24 and removing language permitting registration without examination. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/17/09 to become Act 24 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 727** (Youngblood) would strengthen existing law regarding counterfeit consumer goods and services. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/19/10 to become Act 74 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 916** (Bradford) would help retain sign language interpreters in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 642) signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 124 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 986** (Kessler) would prohibit a mortgage broker or originator from being the exclusive recipient of communications to a consumer, such as a mortgage payment invoice or 1096 interest statement. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 170) signed into law on 6/29/09 to become Act 10 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1119** (DeLuca) would prohibit insurance agents and brokers from selling annuities that would act to the detriment of consumers. **Status:** Passed House on 6/16/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1187** (Gergely) would modernize the state law for boxing and wrestling in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Passed House on 7/21/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1250** (Gergely) would require social workers, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors to be licensed in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Passed House on 3/9/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1415** (Boyle) would modernize part of the state's insurance company licensing law. **Status:** Passed House on 7/07/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1431** (DePasquale) would strengthen consumer protection laws by targeting unsafe toys and other children's products. **Status:** Passed House on 6/23/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1482** (Mann) would require certain health care employees to wear a photo identification tag when working. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 110 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**

➤ **Promote professional standards that ensure quality goods and services for consumers and personal data safety. (CONTINUED)**

- **H.B. 1498** (Hanna) would modernize the Pennsylvania Fair Dealership Law. **Status:** Passed House on 6/23/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1750** (Barbin) would amend the current state insurance fraud law to make sweeping changes in order to reverse the upswing in insurance fraud problems in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Passed House on 9/28/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2041** (DeLuca) would protect consumers by requiring tow truck operators to disclose their business information, fees and charges to vehicle owners in Pennsylvania. **Status:** Passed House on 3/17/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2212** (Taylor) would protect residents living in manufactured housing communities from unexpected ground rent fees. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/19/10 to become Act 80 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2370** (D. Costa) would modernize Pennsylvania's public adjuster regulations. **Status:** Passed House on 6/29/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2375** (Longietti) would prevent shippers that improperly pack their product from shifting liability to trucking companies and motor carriers. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/19/10 to become Act 83 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2490** (Johnson) would ensure fairness in the construction of life insurance examinations. **Status:** Passed House on 7/1/10 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Implement measures to make our cities and towns more livable through the eradication of blight and the advancement of initiatives to facilitate the development and maintenance of safe, decent and affordable rental and owner-occupied housing.**

- **H.B. 42** (Freeman) would establish the Historic Preservation Incentive Program. **Status:** Passed House on 6/24/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 60** (Daley) would create an affordable housing trust fund for Pennsylvania. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 105 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 102** (Freeman) would allow Main Street Program communities to extend their participation in the program for an additional five years. **Status:** Passed House on 2/11/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 842** (McIlvaine Smith) would give municipalities the power to more effectively plan and manage local development. **Status:** Passed House on 4/1/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1123** (Gergely) would include regulation of commercial, industrialized/modular buildings in the Industrialized Housing Act. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 295) signed into law on 7/8/09 to become Act 13 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1322** (Wheatley) would help reduce the number of abandoned properties in Pennsylvanian communities. **Status:** Passed House on 7/1/10 and sent to the Senate.

2009-2010 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS POLICY AGENDA: INVESTING IN PENNSYLVANIANS' FUTURE

Better Governance

➤ Encourage and incentivize better cooperation and coordination among federal, state and local governments to provide cost-effective delivery of essential services to Pennsylvania's residents.

- **H.B. 93** (Staback) would prevent municipal planning commission delays by allowing officials to appoint up to three residents to serve as alternates on local planning boards. **Status:** Passed House on 3/10/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 270** (P. Costa) would allow retired judges to perform marriage ceremonies. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/14/09 to become Act 18 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 271** (White) would require all employers to notify their employees that they may qualify for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit. **Status:** Passed House on 6/16/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1330** (Hanna) would transfer the control and inspections of parking meters to local governments. **Status:** Passed House on 8/5/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1516** (Freeman) would amend Act 272 related to firefighter civil service provisions in third class cities to ensure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/19/10 to become Act 76 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1517** (Freeman) would amend the Third Class City Code related to municipal police and firefighter civil service provisions to ensure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/19/10 to become Act 77 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1654** (Daley) would bring the state mortgage industry licensing law in compliance with the federal Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act. **Status:** Signed into law on 8/5/09 to become Act 31 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1754** (Grucela) would require school districts to be given advance notice of impending residential development. **Status:** Passed House on 7/07/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1831** (Houghton) would authorize municipalities to recoup the costs incurred when evaluating a conditional use application's impact on zoning ordinances. **Status:** Passed House on 3/8/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1942** (Murphy) would give homeowners more time to pay taxes. **Status:** Passed House on 4/27/2010 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2178** (Galloway) would create a uniform code for the reinstallation of moved or used manufactured homes. **Status:** Passed House on 3/22/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2352** (Freeman) would allow a Third Class City to create the office of city administrator or manager. **Status:** Passed House on 9/21/2010 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2353** (Freeman) would amend the act of May 24, 1956 (Act 566 of 1956), regarding incorporated towns, to clarify the process by which a municipality may create and abolish the office of municipal manager and authorize a municipality to enter into an employment agreement with a municipal manager. **Status:** Passed House on 9/21/2010 and sent to the Senate.

➤ **Encourage and incentivize better cooperation and coordination among federal, state and local governments to provide cost-effective delivery of essential services to Pennsylvania's residents. (CONTINUED)**

- **H.B. 2354** (Freeman) would amend The Second Class Township Code to clarify the process by which a municipality may create and abolish the office of municipal manager and provide for authorization for an employment agreement with a municipal manager. **Status:** Passed House on 9/21/2010 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2355** (Freeman) would amend The First Class Township Code to clarify the process by which a municipality may create and abolish the office of municipal manager and provide for authorization for an employment agreement with a municipal manager. **Status:** Passed House on 9/21/2010 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2356** (Freeman) would amend The Borough Code to clarify the process by which an incorporated town may create and abolish the office of municipal manager and provide for authorization for an employment agreement with a municipal manager. **Status:** Passed House on 9/21/2010 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2445** (Caltagirone) would permit retired or senior appellate, magisterial district, common pleas and Philadelphia municipal judges to administer oaths. **Status:** Passed House on 6/15/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2493** (Eachus) would amend the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law to make technical changes to meet federal Internal Revenue Code tax qualification requirements. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/9/10 to become Act 56 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 2547** (Daley) would update the state's Motor Vehicle Sales Finance Act to comply with the federal Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 122 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**

➤ **Evaluate the Commonwealth's tax policy with special emphasis on property tax reform.**

- **H.B. 1481** (Pallone) would allow claimants to exclude money received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in calculating their eligibility for the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program. **Status:** Passed House on 6/16/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1661** (Dermody) would impose a temporary moratorium on any court-ordered countywide property tax assessments. **Status:** Passed House on 8/5/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2020** (Seip) would reform the spot appeals process related to property taxes in fourth- through eight-class-population counties. **Status:** Passed House on 5/25/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2023** (Gergely) would reform the spot appeals process related to property taxes in Allegheny County. **Status:** Passed House on 5/25/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2066** (DeLuca) would establish a Pennsylvania Sales and Use Tax Commission to study and produce a comprehensive report on the state's sales and use tax. **Status:** Passed House on 3/9/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.R. 127** (Levdansky) directs the bipartisan Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the impact of the 18 Pennsylvania tax credit programs. In addition, the study will determine whether the state collects the necessary information to discern whether the programs' goals are being accomplished. **Status:** Adopted by House on 3/18/09. **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Evaluate the Commonwealth's tax policy with special emphasis on property tax reform. (CONTINUED)**
 - **H.R. 334** (Levdansky) directs the bipartisan Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the methodology, financing, taxpayer protections and constitutional provisions that impact property tax assessment in Pennsylvania compared to other states. **Status:** Adopted by House on 6/24/09. **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Ensure social and economic justice for all Pennsylvanians.**
 - **H.R. 78** (Wheatley) established a select committee to investigate the degree to which minority-owned business enterprises, women-owned business enterprises and disadvantaged-owned business enterprises have been utilized in contracts awarded by Pennsylvania. **Status:** Adopted by House on 3/25/09. **ACCOMPLISHED**

- **Support voter registration and Election Day policies that enable Pennsylvanians to exercise their right to vote.**
 - **H.B. 476** (Hanna) would require the transmittal of electronic death records for the purpose of updating county voter records. **Status:** Passed House on 3/24/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1287** (Casorio) would amend Act 45 of 1941 to enable police officers to participate in election campaigns when they are not on duty or in uniform. **Status:** Passed House on 5/6/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1288** (Casorio) would amend the Borough Code to enable police officers and firefighters to participate in election campaigns when they are not on duty or in uniform. **Status:** Passed House on 5/11/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 1289** (Casorio) would amend the First Class Township Code to enable police officers and firefighters to participate in election campaigns when they are not on duty or in uniform. **Status:** Passed House on 5/11/09 and sent to the Senate.
 - **H.B. 2504** (Murphy) would allow groups of schoolchildren to observe polling places on Election Day. **Status:** Passed House on 6/8/10 and sent to the Senate.

- **Prioritize spending in the face of an economic crisis to preserve public safety; help families that are the hardest hit; stimulate the economy; and support jobs through strategic, affordable investments.**
 - **H.B. 1416** (Evans) would provide spending for 2009-10 state budget. **Status:** Signed into law on 10/9/09 to become Act 10A of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 1770** (Gergely) would use federal stimulus money to extend unemployment compensation benefits for another seven weeks. **Status:** Signed into law on 8/4/09 to become Act 30 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
 - **H.B. 2279** (Evans) would provide spending for 2010-11 state budget. **Status:** Signed into law on 7/6/10 to become Act 1A of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**

➤ **Maintain an open and transparent state government with responsible reform while protecting Pennsylvania's economic resources to the benefit of taxpayers and local communities.**

- **H.B. 1182** (Casorio) would expand the list of crimes requiring public officials and employees to forfeit their pensions and prevent those convicted from continuing to collect pension benefits during their appeals. **Status:** Passed House on 6/1/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1324** (Josephs) would strengthen Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law. **Status:** Passed House on 3/16/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1821** (Shapiro) would prohibit Pennsylvania's public pension funds from investing in foreign companies with significant business ties to Iran and Sudan. **Status:** Senate version (S.B. 928) signed into law on 7/2/10 to become Act 44 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1828** (Williams) would provide pension relief to municipalities. **Status:** Signed into law on 9/18/09 to become Act 44 of 2009. **ACCOMPLISHED**
- **H.B. 1876** (Hornaman) would require newspapers of general circulation to reduce the rates they charge to government entities for legal advertising. **Status:** Passed House on 11/17/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 1880** (Mirabito) would create the Pennsylvania Government Accountability Portal, or PennGAP, a searchable Web site that would give the public access to Commonwealth expenses, including those of the state legislature. **Status:** Passed House on 12/8/09 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2365** (Drucker) would provide protection for employees of the General Assembly who report a violation of local, state or federal law. **Status:** Passed House on 4/20/10 and sent to the Senate.
- **H.B. 2497** (Evans) would amend the Public School Employees' Retirement System and the State Employees' Retirement System by making cost-saving changes. **Status:** Signed into law on 11/23/10 to become Act 120 of 2010. **ACCOMPLISHED**