

HARRISBURG REPORT

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from

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

KENNETH E. BRANDT

House Republican Policy Chairman
P.O. Box 89, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120



Dear Friends,

As the current session of the General Assembly begins to draw to a close, I'm sending you this newsletter to serve as an update of legislative activities that affect you in northwestern Lancaster County.

Since 1984 is a presidential election year, you may want to pay special attention to the article entitled "Your Vote Counts." It highlights the importance of a single vote and points out how easy it is to register to vote.

As always, my door is open. If you have any questions, problems or views to share on state government matters, feel free to stop by the district office in Elizabethtown or Columbia.

Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter, and be sure to have a nice summer!

Your State Representative,

Kenneth E. Brandt
98th Legislative District

Your Vote Counts

Every election is critical to ensure good government for everyone. Despite that fact, every election finds thousands of citizens who do not take advantage of their franchise.

The fact that many eligible citizens are not registered to vote and that many who **are** registered don't go to the polls is tragic. Even more tragic is the fact that many who do not vote don't think their single vote means a thing.

They're wrong! History shows that a single vote can be extremely important. Here are just eight examples of the importance of one vote:

- In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
- In 1649, one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.
- In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.
- In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.
- In 1876, one vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.

- In 1876, one vote in the Electoral College made Rutherford B. Hayes president.
- In 1923, one vote gave Adolf Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.
- In 1941, one vote saved Selective Service, weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The importance of a single vote was exhibited here in Pennsylvania as recently as 1978, when 101 state House seats were won by both parties. The remaining seat, the 91st Legislative District in Adams County was a draw. Two candidates received 8,551 votes each. The importance of one vote was driven home emphatically in Pennsylvania.

Those who wish to register to vote for the November election must do so by Oct. 9. Mail-in forms for registration are very simple to complete and can be obtained at State Stores, the county courthouse, and the 98th Legislative District offices in Elizabethtown (367-5525) and Columbia (684-5525).

Register to vote and let your voice be heard. Your one vote does count!

Income Taxes Expected to Drop

Good financial news came from the state capitol this summer. The state income tax has dropped. Legislation enacted last year reduced the personal income tax from 2.45 percent to 2.35 percent, effective July 1, 1984.

A reduction was also enacted in the corporate net income tax (CNI) this fiscal year. That will translate into a break for those outside of the business community as well, since taxes on business are passed on to consumers in the cost of goods and services.

The tax reductions are important for two reasons. First, they will keep hundreds of millions of dollars in

the private sector to produce jobs and increase production. Second, government spending will be prevented from escalating further.

By keeping as much revenue as possible in the private sector, we can improve the state's economy, increase employment and eventually improve the tax base on which every level of government depends. Reducing personal and corporate income taxes will, therefore, benefit the people, the economy and the government in the long run.

Putting a "Squeeze" on Lemons

Consumers who purchase new cars which turn out to be "lemons", will benefit from legislation recently adopted by the General Assembly.

The new law requires refunds or replacement vehicles for new car buyers if their car is found to be defective and cannot be repaired by the manufacturer. The measure applies to all cars purchased in Pennsylvania after May 27, 1984.

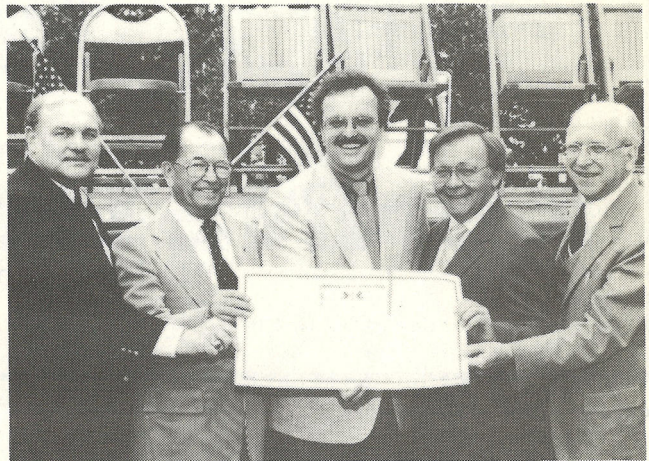
Consumers are entitled to a refund or replacement if the manufacturer fails to repair the vehicle after three attempts or if the vehicle is out of service for repair for 30 days or more.

The law covers new cars in their first year, 12,000 miles or terms of warranty, whichever comes first. Refund or replacement would be required when the use, value or safety of a vehicle is substantially impaired.

Of course, car problems caused by abuse, owner negligence or modifications would not be covered by the law.

Another important provision of the lemon law will protect consumers who look for used cars (1984 or later) in the future. Vehicles which have been returned to dealers as lemons would have to be identified as such before they are resold. Also, a lemon would be identified on the vehicle registration as being a defective car.

The new law is a fair one which will save consumers considerable frustration and provide due recourse to consumers who purchase defective vehicles.



Local Officials Obtain Enterprise Grant — Sen. Richard A. Snyder (far right) and Rep. Brandt present a \$50,000 Enterprise Development Area planning grant to (l to r) Lancaster County Commissioner Jim Huber, Columbia Borough Council President Paul Myers and Marietta Borough Council President David White. The check, which was presented on "Historic Marietta Day," is designed to help encourage private-public partnerships, improve the business climate and increase the availability of jobs in the two communities.



Elizabethtown Square Improvements Dedicated — Lt. Gov. William Scranton cuts a ribbon in a ceremonial re-opening of Elizabethtown Square. Scranton is joined by Rep. Brandt, Elizabethtown Mayor Daniel Mader (left of Scranton) and other local officials. The dedication was a culmination of renovations to the downtown business area.

Boating Made Safer

Just in time for the summer boating season, Gov. Dick Thornburgh recently signed legislation which is expected to reduce the number of boating accidents in Pennsylvania.

The new law cracks down on those who operate boats while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. Penalties for drunk boating are now comparable to those for drunk driving. Waterways patrolmen are also given greater enforcement powers under the new law.

Boating accidents killed 25 people in Pennsylvania last year. It is believed that alcohol caused eight of those deaths. Nationwide, it's estimated that as many as 800 of 1,200 boating deaths were caused by alcohol related boating accidents.

The problem recently drew comment from the President, who said, "Boat operators who drink impair their ability to recognize and react to hazards and thereby endanger not only themselves but also others on the water."

The recently adopted Pennsylvania law should go a long way in making the Susquehanna and other recreational waterways safer.

Brandt, Governor Congratulate contest Winner — Rep Brandt and Gov. Dick Thornburgh pose with E. Kay Irvin, program coordinator for the Elizabethtown Area Recreation Commission. Irvin won first prize in a state-sponsored photography contest for municipal park and recreation employes and Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society members.



New Law Will Allow More Choice in Auto Insurance

Beginning in October, Pennsylvania's no-fault auto insurance system will be replaced by a system which offers consumers more choices in coverage and does away with restrictions on law suits.

The measure's strongest supporters predict consumer savings of up to 20 percent, but most lawmakers are merely hopeful that the new law will slow the rate of increase in insurance costs.

Here's a breakdown on what the new law will do:

CURRENT LAW

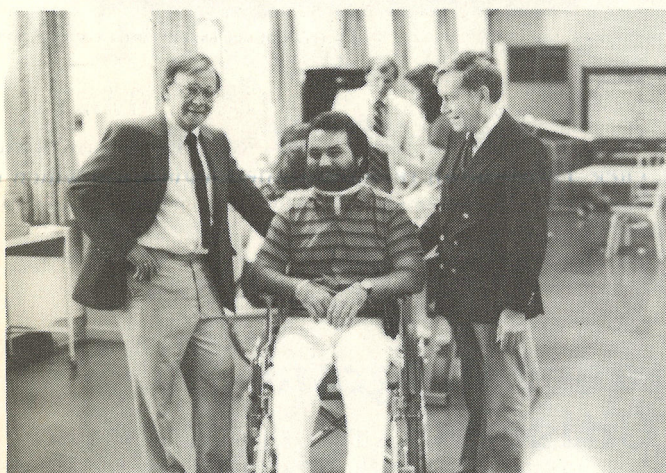
- Motorists must carry \$15,000 wage-loss policy.
- Motorists must purchase \$5,000 in life insurance.
- Motorists must purchase liability insurance coverage of at least \$15,000 per person and \$30,000 per accident.
- Motorists must purchase at least \$5,000 in property-damage insurance.
- Motorists must purchase unlimited medical coverage.
- Motorists can actually collect medical coverage payments twice — once from auto policy and once from health policy — for the same injury.
- Motorists must purchase \$1,500 funeral-benefit policy to cover potential funeral expenses.

Of course, motorists will be able to purchase more insurance than required by this new law, but the new system will allow consumers more of a choice in what they should buy.

While the actual savings to be realized as a result of this new law remain unclear, it's expected to be a significant improvement over a system which gave Pennsylvanians the seventh highest insurance rates in the nation.

NEW LAW

- Wage-loss policy need only be \$5,000 and could be waived if motorist is not working.
- No life insurance is required.
- Unchanged.
- Unchanged.
- Medical coverage minimum is \$10,000. Motorists will be able to buy up to \$100,000, and when medical costs exceed that amount, the balance will be paid through a state-run Catastrophic Loss Fund. (This fund will be financed through a \$5 fee assessed each motorist.)
- Medical bills from auto accidents must be paid from auto insurance policy. If costs exceed coverage, balance could be paid through health insurance policy. (Eliminates "double dipping.")
- Unchanged.



Rep. Brandt chats with Elizabethtown Hospital patient Walter Balsavage (center) during a recent visit to the hospital. Looking on is Dr. William Gibson, M.D., Executive Director.

Elizabethtown Patients Benefit from Hospital Ties to Hershey

The Elizabethtown Hospital and Pennsylvania State University's Milton Hershey Medical Center continue to benefit from a law that merged the two institutions two years ago. Equipment and staff from the Medical Center has helped to improve services to patients at Elizabethtown.

In addition, the merger has allowed the facility to serve a wider range of individuals who require its services. While the hospital's original charter restricted admission to indigent children, Elizabethtown can now serve patients of any age on a sliding fee scale — some free, some at part of the cost.

Governor Signs Crop Damage Bill

Legislation designed to prevent crop damage caused by hunters and trappers was recently signed into law by the governor.

This measure prohibits sportsmen from hunting or trapping on unharvested fields without permission from the farmer.

Farmers and hunters are both expected to benefit from the new law, since fewer farms will have to be posted and more land will be available after fields are harvested.

The law also transfers enforcement responsibility from local police to state Game Commission officials.

Ultimately, all parties will benefit from the new law. Farmers will have less crop damage, hunters will encounter fewer "no trespassing" signs, and local police will face fewer enforcement problems.

This legislation represents good Lancaster County thinking. It was introduced by Lancaster County lawmaker Rep. Terry Scheetz.

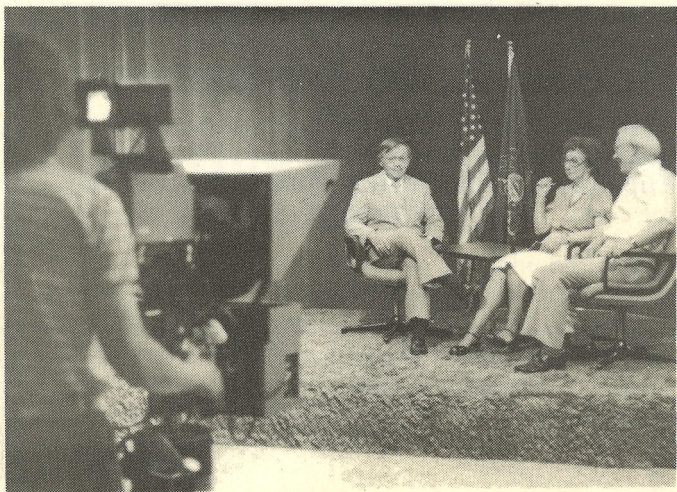


Measures Would Protect Family Farms

The state House recently approved two measures designed to protect Pennsylvania's family farmers from future extinction. The legislation is necessary to prevent large foreign investment groups from undercutting family farmers, the backbone of Pennsylvania agriculture.

One of the bills would prevent foreign investors from buying up large tracts of farmland by limiting such investors to 10 acres of farmland.

The second bill would prohibit foreign agricultural investment groups from receiving taxpayer-backed loans through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA). Allowing such groups to remain eligible for PIDA loans would contribute to the elimination of family farms, a vital element of small business in the state.



Keeping Constituents Informed of state and local happenings, Rep. Brandt continues to host Legislative Reports televised by Warner/Amex Cable Company. Recent reports have featured district aides Ruth Thomas and Bill Schoenberger (above) and members of the revived 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, a Civil War reenactment group (below).



Prescription Assistance Program Aids Senior Citizens

An estimated 700,000 senior citizens will be able to obtain help with prescription purchases under a Lottery-funded program now underway in Pennsylvania.

The Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE) program establishes a co-pay system for Pennsylvanians 65 and over, whose annual incomes are less than \$9,000 (single) and \$12,000 (couple). Those who qualify will have to pay only the first \$4 of each prescription purchase.

Those participating in the PACE program will present PACE ID cards to pharmacists in order to receive the discount. Pharmacists who don't participate in the program are required to post a sign to that effect on their drug counters.

If you think you may be eligible for the program, but have not yet received a PACE application, call your 98th Legislative District office in Columbia (684-5525) or Elizabethtown (367-5525).

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Expanding Our Services

In a continuing effort to better serve the constituents of the 98th district, Earl Duzey, a counselor from the Small Business Development Center will visit the Columbia District Office once each week. The counselor will be available on Tuesdays between 1 - 5.

The Small Business Development Center offers counseling to entrepreneurs in all phases of small business development and growth. Providing services such as record keeping, cash flow and profit and loss statements, start-up information, and referrals to appropriate private and public sectors are among the major functions of the SBDC. Funding for the SBDC is provided by the Small Business Administration, The Pennsylvania Department of Commerce and The Pennsylvania State University.

The SBDC is the latest addition to a network of organizations which are available at the District Office to provide specialized services to area residents. Those organizations which currently work out of the office include: Tabor Community Services, The Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center and Columbia Area Improvement.



Rep. Brandt meets with Small Business Development Center officials from Penn State's Capitol Campus. Small business counselor Earl Duzey (far right) will visit the Columbia office every Tuesday. With him are (L to R) Dr. Keith Yackee, Rep. Brandt and Dr. David Watkin.

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