

SUSAN LAUGHLIN, MEMBER

555 MERCHANT STREET
AMBRIDGE, PENNSYLVANIA 15003-2464
PHONE: (724) 266-7774
FAX: (724) 773-7443

120 SOUTH OFFICE BUILDING
HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 787-4444
FAX: (717) 772-1232



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES


CONSUMER AFFAIRS – CHAIRPERSON,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UTILITIES
POLICY
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
TRANSPORTATION

BEAVER COUNTY DELEGATION
SOUTHWEST DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
DELEGATION

CHILDREN'S CAUCUS
COAL CAUCUS
IRISH CAUCUS
SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS
STEEL CAUCUS
SUBSTANCE ABUSE CAUCUS

March 11, 2002

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Susan Laughlin 

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation – defining PACE “income”

I will be introducing legislation that will further defining “income” for the PACE program.

Currently 100% of railroad retirement income is counted as income in determining eligibility to participate in the PACE program. My legislation is designed to drop that percentage to 50% for the calendar years prior to 2002 and for calendar years 2002 and thereafter. Also this legislation will decrease the percentage from 100% to 50% for all benefits received under Social Security, except Medicare benefits.

This legislation’s intent is to lower the percentage of accountable income so that more senior citizens can participate in the PACE program. If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact my office at 7-4444. Thank you for considering this legislation that will allow many more of the deserving seniors in Pennsylvania to benefit from the PACE program.

CO - SPONSOR LIST

Bill: PACE

	MEMBER	SEAT #		MEMBER	SEAT #
1	Walke	153	26	Tigue	70
2	Hubley	158	27	Steelman	24
3	Readshaw	172	28	Youngblood	165
4	George	80	29	McCall	79
5	Casorio	46	30	Levdansky	114
6	Rooney	47	31	Browne	143
7	Shanert	74	32	Belardi	27
8	Evans	30	33	DeLuca	134
9	Coy	81	34	Marsico	137
10	Armstrong	88	35	Costa	134
11	Melio	206	36	Williams	148
12	Solobay	23	37	Freeman	130
13	Satherd	60	38	Hutchinson	127
14	Markosek	118	39	Bebko-Jones	132
15	Wanacz	52	40	Corrigan	77
16	Stataek	28	41	Pistella	133
17	Lescowitz	54	42	Samuelson	112
18	Josephs	204	43	Curry	25
19	DeWeese	12	44	Washington	150
20	Harhai	75	45	Inello	154
21	Bunt	194	46	Horsey	186
22	Thomas	146	47	Cawley	69
23	Grucela	51	48	Sainato	99
24	Mundy	53	49	Taylor	16
25	Yudichak	44	50		

OFFICE OF DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION
PA House of Representatives -- <http://www.pahouse.com>
G-07 South Office Building
House Box 202229
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2229

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Amy Giancoli Hartman (717) 787-7895

Laughlin proposes Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program income exemption for PACE

HARRISBURG, April 11 -- State Rep. Susan Laughlin, D-Beaver/Allegheny, has introduced legislation that would increase eligibility for the state's prescription drug program.

The bill would require applicants to count only half of their Social Security or federal railroad retirement benefits as income when applying for the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly or PACE Needs Enhancement Tier.

"Pennsylvania already offers this exemption to seniors for its Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program," Laughlin said. "This income eligibility expansion would allow more seniors to qualify for prescription drug benefits with the state."

PACE and PACENET are for seniors 65 or older. PACE offers a \$6 copayment for individuals making \$14,000 and for married couples earning \$17,200. PACENET's income limits are \$3,000 higher, and the program has an \$8 or \$15 copayment after meeting a \$500 deductible.

In 2001, the General Assembly increased PACENET income limit by \$1,000, but many seniors still are being bumped out of the program because of Social Security cost-of-living increases.

"Exempting half of one's Social Security from the income qualifications for PACE and PACENET would provide immediate relief for thousands of seniors," Laughlin said.

The bill (H.B. 2549) has 49 co-sponsors and has been referred to the House Finance Committee.

###agh/2002/ljs
w:\releases\paceincome.016