

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Office of Legislative Information  
G-05, South Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jim Barnes (717) 787-7895

HARRISBURG, April 16 -- Erie County will receive a \$52,312 state grant for work that was completed on the county prison over the past five years, according to an announcement by state Rep. Italo S. Cappabianca.

The Erie legislator said the county would be eligible for a substantially larger grant for prison work when another round of funding is completed later this year.

The grants announced this week were authorized by the General Assembly under a law passed in 1990 and are being issued to 34 counties in amounts ranging from from \$6,800 to a maximum of \$1 million.

Cappabianca said the amount awarded to Erie County represents half the cost of construction and renovations to the county corrections facility in the five years prior to 1990 when the act was passed.

The \$14.9 million statewide grant distribution is the first round of state funds being disbursed to counties under a \$200 million prison expansion program that was approved by the voters in a 1990 ballot referendum.

In the next phase of the grant program, counties will be able to apply for as much as half the total cost of current construction projects with no ceiling imposed.

The Prison Facilities Improvement Act of 1990 authorized the largest and most ambitious state prison construction and expansion program in Pennsylvania's history, the lawmaker noted, one that will add 10,000 new cells to the correctional system over the next three years.

"The prison expenditures are a necessary part of the war against drugs and crime," Cappabianca said. "If we're going to mandate tougher sentences we must provide the jail space to keep convicted pushers and criminals off our streets.

"The grants from the state will substantially ease the burden of taxes and indebtedness that would otherwise fall on the counties for prison expansion projects."

###jb

R:lockup.002

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HARRISBURG, May 1 -- The state Commerce Department has approved a \$200,000 low-interest loan for Zurn Industries, according to an announcement today by Rep. Italo S. Cappabianca.

The Erie legislator said the loan will be issued from the state's Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund and will be used to purchase two additional four-axis CNC lathes.

The lathes will replace three that are currently in use and will help to create 16 new jobs at the company's Mechanical Drives Division within three years.

"It's another example of how state funds and programs are helping to improve jobs and business in Erie and surrounding areas," said Cappabianca.

"Zurn Industries is one of the longest established companies in the area, and the fund that is lending the money is specifically designed to preserve Pennsylvania's base in heavy industry.

"We are fortunate to have an array of economic development programs in Pennsylvania to meet the needs of a diverse business economy -- from small service operations to large industrial enterprises."

Founded at the beginning of the century, Zurn Industries is the only manufacturer of gear couplings in Pennsylvania. The Mechanical Drives Division makes couplings and universal joints for the steel, petrochemical, utility, aerospace and defense industries throughout the United States and for export markets.

The latest loan is the company's second from the state in the past year. Together with a \$300,000 loan received last October, the latest state financing will be used to complete a two-part project that will replace six automatic lathes with four newer versions along with the purchase of a large, technically advanced engine lathe.

###jb

R:zurn.002

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Office of Democratic Legislative Information**

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**FOR RELEASE: Thurs. May 5, A.M.**

**CONTACT: Jim Barnes (717) 787-7895**

HARRISBURG -- Large numbers of people in Erie's 2nd Legislative District believe there is a crisis in the delivery of health care services and support government action to ensure universal health care coverage, according to a survey conducted by Rep. Italo S. Cappabianca.

They are divided, however, on whether the nation's health care goals should be accomplished through a program of managed competition, a single-payer system or through an approach that emphasizes structural improvements upon the existing health care system.

Earlier this year, Cappabianca conducted a mail survey of more than 17,000 households in his Erie legislative district and received 1,217 responses, the highest return he has ever received on a mail survey and the highest known rate of return for a legislative survey in Pennsylvania.

"The volume of response as well as the answers themselves are very revealing. The survey reflects the belief that health care is a very important issue in Erie, and the people want reform," Cappabianca observed.

Almost three-fourths of the respondents (73 percent) said they believe there is a current crisis in health care, and 77 percent agree that new laws are needed to achieve universal health care coverage.

More than one-third of the survey respondents (36 percent) said they favor a system of managed competition with employer mandates to ensure universal coverage similar to proposals put forth by President Clinton and Gov. Casey; 30 percent support a single-payer system similar to Canada's. An additional 34 percent said they favor the existing system with improvements as suggested by some U.S. Congressmen.

Close to nine out of 10 respondents said they believe people in Erie experience the same problems with health care as does the rest of the nation, a figure that represents the highest positive response to any question contained in the survey.

While only one out of 12 respondents said they don't have health insurance, almost one out of four working families reported that at least one member of their household is not covered by insurance.

In addition, about two-thirds of those who report they don't have insurance are currently employed. Over 80 percent of working adults said they receive health care coverage through their place of employment.

###jib/k R:helthpol.002

**EDITOR: Cappabianca will be available until noon, May 5, at the Health Care Summit, Bel-Aire Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. in Erie.**

**OFFICE OF DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION**

**PA House of Representatives**

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Harrisburg, PA 17120-2229

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Mary M. Hicks (717) 787-7895**

HARRISBURG, June 5 -- State Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, today announced that Horwath Electric Motors Inc., which designs, develops and manufactures electrical apparatus and electronic components for industrial companies, has been awarded a \$352,450 state loan through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority.

The PIDA loan will be used by Horwath Inc. to acquire and renovate a 66,000-square-foot building approximately four miles away from the company's present site at East Avenue and East 14th Street in Erie.

The loan will help the company retain its 61 employees and allow Horwath to create 24 or more additional jobs.

The Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority provides low-interest loan financing through industrial development corporations for land and building acquisition, construction and renovation resulting in the retention or creation of jobs. The program targets manufacturers, industrial developers, research and development firms, agricultural processors or firms establishing a national or regional headquarters in Pennsylvania.

"In the last few years, Erie has suffered its share of economic volatility, as companies have closed their doors and laid off workers," Cappabianca said. "That's why I'm pleased that the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority awarded this loan to Horwath Inc., because it means more jobs for the residents of Erie."

###mh/y

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HARRISBURG, Sept. 20 -- State Rep. Italo S. Cappabianca has asked the Erie Conference on Community Development and the Erie Chamber of Commerce to coordinate their efforts to develop a vision for the Erie community and says he is prepared to sponsor a state appropriation to further their mutual efforts.

On separate occasions this month, both organizations announced they will undertake long-range planning projects involving Erie's future. On Sept. 6, the Chamber of Commerce announced it will initiate the "establishment of a shared vision for the Erie community" at a town meeting on Oct. 5.

At its 21st Annual Meeting Tuesday, the Erie Conference on Community Development will begin action "to fashion a vision for the Erie community," an initiative that was announced on Sept. 12.

Cappabianca says he hopes to facilitate "a process of communication and cooperation in these important endeavors" and has made an initial request for a \$5,000 state grant to promote further discussions for a concerted approach to the organizations' goals.

Cappabianca says he also has initiated discussions with the governor's office and Commonwealth agencies to secure additional financial support to assist the development and implementation of a shared vision and common agenda for Erie.

The legislator today notified officials of both organizations of the results of his actions and his interest in promoting their civic goals.

Cappabianca said he has requested Dr. Joseph P. Scottino, director of the ERIE 2000 Program, to represent him at the Sept. 21 and Oct. 5 meetings because legislative duties will require his presence in Harrisburg on both dates.

###jb/k

R:vision.002

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HARRISBURG, Oct. 8 -- A low-interest state loan amounting to \$90,216 has been approved for Pulakos Inc. of Erie, according to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca.

The company, a candy manufacturer at 2530 Parade St., will use the loan to add more refrigerated storage space to its facility and acquire a nearby parcel of land for a parking lot. Total cost of the project will be approximately \$150,000 and is expected to create seven new jobs at the company.

The loan will be issued by the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority and is one of 11 such loans that were approved in the latest round of PIDA funding.

Other approved projects are in Lehigh, Chester, Cameron, Lackawanna, Lycoming, Mercer and Mifflin counties.

"The Pulakos firm is a small, local enterprise with a lot of growth potential and is an ideal candidate for this kind of state aid," said Cappabianca. "Small businesses account for much of the current and future job growth in Pennsylvania, and it's hoped this project will serve as a springboard for continued job creation and expansion by the company."

PIDA loans are awarded at low interest rates and may be used by manufacturers to purchase land and buildings for construction and renovation. Applications are made by local industrial development authorities on behalf of industrial borrowers.

###jb

R:pulakos.002

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HARRISBURG, Nov. 8 -- State Rep. Italo S. Cappabianca today announced he has arranged a meeting that will be held in Harrisburg on Nov. 17 to discuss state support for a proposed freshwater aquarium and research center in Erie.

Representatives of six cabinet-level departments that would be involved in the project's development are scheduled to attend the meeting, Cappabianca said.

Also participating will be the executive director of the state Historical and Museum Commission, Dr. Brent Glass, as well as representatives of the Fish and Boat Commission, Game Commission and a member of Sen. Harris Wofford's staff.

"This will be an exploratory meeting I have requested to determine what resources are available at state and federal levels to support the aquarium project," said Cappabianca.

"Conceptually, the proposed Lake Erie Aquarium and Science Center could be very important and beneficial to the area economically, educationally and environmentally.

"It may be just the right facility to complement other major attractions in the area like Presque Isle Park, the Flagship Niagara, the Maritime Museum, and the Millcreek Mall."

The proposed project would consist of a 60,000-square-foot facility located in the Bayfront area on property owned by Pennelec that is part of a mixed-use development concept to reclaim and revitalize Erie's urban waterfront.

It is intended to serve as a facility for research on Pennsylvania's freshwater ecosystems and would provide education services supported by the federal Sea Grant Program. Officials of the nonprofit LEASC program say it is intended to serve as the state aquarium of Pennsylvania and would draw close to half a million tourist visitors a year.

Cappabianca said the project's multi-million dollar annual economic impact and its job creation possibilities, along with its educational purposes, make it "a potentially attractive candidate for state assistance."

Cabinet departments participating in next week's meeting include the Office of the Budget and the departments of Commerce, Community Affairs, Education, Environmental Resources, and Labor and Industry.

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