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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Memorandum

To: All Members of the House of Representatives

From: Representative Tom Tangretti *Tom*

Date: March 19, 2007

Re: Co-sponsorship of legislation to establish a loan program for local police agencies and EMS organizations

In the near future, I will be reintroducing legislation to establish a loan program for local police agencies and emergency medical services (EMS) organizations. I hope that you will join me in this effort to support the lifelines of our communities by helping them to enhance the buildings and equipment they need to do their jobs.

This bill would authorize a voter referendum that asks whether the Commonwealth should incur indebtedness of \$25 million for loans to police agencies and EMS organizations for the purpose of purchasing, maintaining, and repairing buildings, equipment, and vehicles, as necessary for the proper performance of the police agencies' law enforcement and EMS organizations' duties. If approved, the Governor's Center for Local Government Services within the Department of Community and Economic Development would administer the program and authorize loans with a 2-percent interest rate to political subdivisions for the support of municipal and regional police agencies, any office of county detectives that works for a district attorney, and EMS organizations.

Political subdivisions will be able to receive between \$5,000 and \$200,000 for building upgrades and between \$5,000 and \$100,000 for equipment and vehicles. The loans for any one political subdivision may not total more than \$300,000 in a five-year period. The legislation also lays out repayment terms and a bond program to finance the loans.

Last session, this bill (House Bill 1016) was reported from the House State Government Committee but was never voted on the floor. Co-sponsors last session included: Belardi, Caltagirone, Corrigan, Crahall, DeWeese, Fichter, Goodman, Harhai, James, Mann, McCall, Ross, Solobay, Tigie, Readshaw, Shaner, Thomas, Wojnarowski, Frankel, Civera, and Browne.

If you wish to co-sponsor this initiative, please contact Sharon Snell in my office by calling 783-1023 or via e-mail at ssnell@pahouse.net.