

[Return to member's media index](#)

Tangretti to serve on Local Government Commission

HARRISBURG, April 30 – State Rep. Thomas Tangretti, D-Westmoreland, has been appointed by House Speaker Matthew J. Ryan to serve on the state Local Government Commission for the remainder of the 2001-02 legislative session.

Tangretti said the commission is a bipartisan legislative group that develops legislation designed to help local governments in Pennsylvania operate more effectively and efficiently. Commission members also provide individual lawmakers and the General Assembly as a whole with research and expertise on local government issues.

"The Local Government Commission serves as an important direct connection between local officials and state government," Tangretti said. "We help them convey their views and problems to the General Assembly and develop legislative ways in which those problems can be addressed."

Tangretti said the Local Government Commission is one of the oldest legislative agencies of its kind in the United States. It is composed of five senators appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and five representatives appointed by the speaker of the House.

Issues currently being researched by the commission include the Municipal Police Training Law, cable television's impact on municipalities, the effect of state mandates placed on local government, municipal contracting procedures and a revision of the Municipalities Planning Code.

[Return to member's media index](#)

[Return to member's media index](#)

Budget includes grants for historic home preservation

HARRISBURG, June 21 – State Rep. Thomas Tangretti, D-Westmoreland, said Pennsylvania's 2001-02 spending plan includes \$500,000 to fund a historic home preservation grant program.

The proposed grant program would provide grants of up to \$6,000 to people who purchase historic homes or homes in historic residential districts, restore those homes, and agree to live in them for at least five years.

Tangretti said inclusion of the grant program in the budget was bittersweet, since he has been fighting for passage of a more substantial tax incentive program to spark historic preservation for several years.

Tangretti's tax incentive legislation (H.B. 90) has passed the House in two sessions, but has yet to be approved by the Senate. Instead, the Senate agreed to include the alternative grant program in this year's budget.

"Inclusion of the grant money in the budget is still a big step forward, because I believe it will finally give us the opportunity to demonstrate that an incentive program to spark historic preservation of residential neighborhoods can work, and that it can be an important component of the effort to revitalize older towns and cities," he said.

Tangretti said he has proposed a grant program that would reimburse homeowners for 20 percent of the cost, up to a maximum of \$6,000, of restoring historic homes and homes in historic districts. Homeowners would have to agree to use the homes as a primary residence for at least five years, and the restoration would have to meet standards for historical accuracy.

Tangretti's original tax incentive legislation would offer a menu of state tax incentives to both buyers and sellers of historic homes in order to accomplish the same goal.

"My hope is that by using this \$500,000 in the budget to demonstrate that state incentives for historic preservation can pay off economically, we can convince the General Assembly at a later time to embrace a comprehensive and permanent tax incentive plan."

[Return to member's media index](#)