

## NEWS RELEASE

State Rep. Tom Scrimenti  
D-Erie  
[www.pahouse.com/scrimenti](http://www.pahouse.com/scrimenti)

**CONTACT: Ann Beth Kier**  
**House Democratic Communications Office**  
**Phone: 717-787-7895**  
**Fax: 717-772-9930**  
**Email: [akier@pahouse.net](mailto:akier@pahouse.net)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Scrimenti resolution honors professionals**

**HARRISBURG, Jan. 28** – State Rep. Tom Scrimenti said a resolution he sponsored to honor and recognize recreation professionals unanimously passed the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

The resolution (H.R. 539) proclaimed the week of Jan. 18 through Jan. 23 as Recreation Professionals Week in Pennsylvania.

The measure honors professionals who work in public, private, commercial and nonprofit recreation agencies, as well as at residential care facilities, theme parks, youth agencies, hospitals and children's homes.

"Professionals that provide a supportive, positive atmosphere for individuals to develop their physical skills and enjoy themselves deserve to be honored for their dedication and contribution to the enrichment of many lives," Scrimenti said.

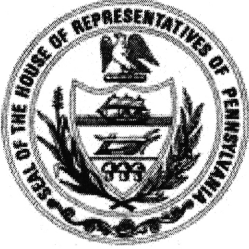
Scrimenti said the field of therapeutic recreation, in particular, has also shown tremendous growth and development over the past two decades.

Today, the United States Department of Labor projects that there are over 38,000 recreational therapists in the United States.

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### **Scrimenti supports governor's call for property tax cuts**

**HARRISBURG, Feb. 4 --** State Rep. Tom Scrimenti said property taxes in the state could be cut by an average of 23 percent by placing slot machines at the state's horseracing tracks. That proposal was a key cornerstone of Gov. Ed Rendell's budget address this week.

"Residents of the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District have been paying high property taxes for years," Scrimenti said. "It's time to give all property owners, especially our seniors, a financial break."

Scrimenti said the governor outlined his budget proposal during an annual address to a joint session of the legislature Tuesday. In addition to the call for property tax cuts, other key proposals included funding for job growth, environmental cleanup and education.

"We need to keep our talented, ambitious young people here in Pennsylvania by giving them the opportunity to achieve in school and graduate with the guarantee of a strong job market," Scrimenti said. "The governor's economic stimulus plan proposes that type of growth."

Scrimenti said the environmental proposals take a real-world approach to balancing growth with the need to maintain green spaces in the state.

"The investment in keeping our environment clean will pay huge dividends down the road," he said.

The budget proposal now goes to the House Appropriations Committee for hearings and additional study.

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### **Scrimenti hosts students for Career and Technical Education Week**

**HARRISBURG, Feb. 17** – State Rep. Tom Scrimenti recently hosted students from Erie County Technical School at the Capitol in Harrisburg to celebrate Career and Technical Education Week.

The theme of the week-long celebration, "Career Tech: The Path to Success," emphasized the role career tech education and its business/industry partners play in helping youths and adults achieve career success in the new millennium.

"The level of skill students gain in technical fields is invaluable," Scrimenti said. "By working to prepare young people to be productive workers and community leaders through this type of education, we can keep our economy growing and our work force ready to meet the job challenges of the future."

According to the Association for Career and Technical Education, research shows that many of the country's fastest-growing occupations require the technical skills taught in career tech education programs. Research also shows that among high school graduates entering the work force, those with a technical education background earn more than those without this advantage.

"Career and technical education provides Americans with a school-to-careers connection and is the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce," Scrimenti said.

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**CAPTION INFORMATION:** State Rep. Tom Scrimenti (second from left) recently hosted students from Erie County Technical School at the Capitol in Harrisburg to celebrate Career and Technical Education Week. He was joined by teacher Elaine Shaffer and (from left) students Eric Mooney, Kyra Bruno and Whitney Wagner, all of Erie County Technical School.

**Contact:**

Megan Donley,  
717-787-7895, voice  
717-783-6839, fax  
[mdonley@pahouse.net](mailto:mdonley@pahouse.net)

**On the Web:**

[www.pahouse.com/  
Scrimenti](http://www.pahouse.com/Scrimenti)



**Rep. Tom Scrimenti**  
**D-Erie**



**Pennsylvania**  
**House of Representatives**

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**Governor's travel and tourism partnership lacking  
northwestern representation, Scrimenti says**

Harrisburg, June 24 – One day after Gov. Ed Rendell announced the 34 new members of the Pennsylvania Travel and Tourism Partnership, state Rep. Tom Scrimenti said he was concerned that no member hailed from the northwestern region of the state.

The members work together to develop and guide the state's policies on tourism, the second-leading industry in Pennsylvania.

"Erie County is vital to the tourism and travel industry in Pennsylvania," said Scrimenti, D-Erie. "Tourism is also the second-leading industry in the county and was rated one of the top five family vacation destinations in a survey by a major hotel chain."

The partnership advises the governor and the Department of Community and Economic Development on tourism and travel issues. It was created in 2002, replacing the Governor's Travel and Tourism Advisory Council. In addition to officials from various state agencies, boards and departments, the governor appointed individuals from Allegheny, Centre, Monroe, Dauphin, Fayette, Susquehanna, Lehigh, Pike, Philadelphia, Bucks, Tioga, Chester and Northampton counties to the partnership.

"I understand that not every county can be represented through this partnership and it is unreasonable to expect otherwise," Scrimenti said. "However, because Erie County contributes significantly to the overall tourism industry, I strongly believe that at least one member should speak for northwestern Pennsylvania."

Scrimenti suggested that instead of replacing anyone already named to the partnership, the governor instead increase the membership to 35 or 36, with any additional members coming from northwestern Pennsylvania.

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### **Guide on local hiking, biking available at Scrimenti's office**

**HARRISBURG, Sept. 2** – With the summer winding down, state Rep. Tom Scrimenti, D-Erie, wants to help area residents take advantage of the remaining nice weather by offering a hiking and biking guide for northwest Pennsylvania through his constituent service offices.

The guide, called "Adventures in Northwest Pennsylvania," provides information on outdoor activities for Crawford, Erie, McKean, Warren and Venango counties. Some of the Erie County sites highlighted include Presque Isle State Park, Asbury Woods Nature Center and North East Vineyards.

"Erie County has something for everyone when it comes to recreation," Scrimenti said. "We have beaches, hiking trails, snowmobiling, wineries, museums and so much more. I'm offering information on all of those things through this guide as a way to encourage everyone in the area to get out and enjoy the local sites more as well as those in our neighboring counties."

Scrimenti pointed out that the state recently named the Seaway Trail a scenic byway, meaning there is the potential for federally funded improvements to the roadway. Additionally, new billboards along the Seaway Trail will now be prohibited.

"This is yet another boost for Erie County tourism," Scrimenti said. "We should take pride in all that we can offer to the rest of Pennsylvania and the country."

The guides are available at no charge and can be picked up at either of Scrimenti's offices. The North East office is at 9 W. Main St., phone number 725-8664, and the Corry office is at 202 N. Center St., phone number 664-9126. Information on tourism in Erie County is also available online at [www.visiteriepa.com](http://www.visiteriepa.com).

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