

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
January 14, 1992

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

Mr. Charles W. Chapman

[REDACTED]
Fairview, Pennsylvania 16415

Dear Mr. Chapman:

Thank you for your interest in the tax package that was passed last August which included a three percent tax increase on leased vehicles. During the tax repeal process which recently occurred this tax was examined and it was determined that the tax should remain. Hence, if one leased a vehicle prior to October 1, 1991, one did not have to pay this tax. After October 1, 1991, however, any additional payments will be subject to the three percent tax. The legislature believes this surcharge is necessary because the money will be transferred to the newly-created public transportation assistance fund. This money is earmarked for mass transit programs in the Commonwealth, programs that require additional funding. It will not be transferred to the general fund.

Although to all appearances this tax does not seem fair, one can probably make the identical assertion about all taxes. All persons who were employed in July, 1991, had to pay a particular amount of state income tax in that month. However, these same persons who receive the same salary are currently paying a state income tax at an even higher rate because the legislature agreed to raise this tax. The legislature also raised, by six percent, the tax on janitorial services and also on computer services. Computer firms and janitorial firms believe these taxes are unfair because they affect their business. In a sense, all taxes can be called unfair. What the legislature attempted to achieve is a tax package that was as fair and equitable as possible. Taxes had to be raised in order to maintain important programs like education and human services. Raising taxes is one of the most difficult decisions a legislator must make, but these decisions must be made. Despite inflation, this is the first time the legislature raised taxes in eight years.

I want to thank you again for your interest in this particular tax. Please do not hesitate to contact my office in the future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Scrimenti in cursive.
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js

**THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
2204 BERNWOOD DRIVE
ERIE, PA 16510**

December 3, 1993

Mr. David D. Howell

████████████████████
Erie, PA 16506

Dear Mr. Howell: - *David*

I received your note about the recent article regarding WAMs. I want you to know that I appreciate your kind words and support. We agree that excesses in government spending and taxing are not only destructive to our present economic condition but threaten future fiscal growth, social stability and confidence in our state government. That my efforts are awarded your approval is very important to me.

Throughout the upcoming year, you can be sure that I will continue my work to make our state government more responsive and responsible. As it has been since I first entered public office, my personal goal is to be as effective and efficient as I can as your state representative. Your input is needed and always welcomed in that effort. I hope you continue our past communication and our mutual work for our neighbors.

Again, it was a pleasure hearing from you and of your feelings regarding WAMs. Your letter and its comments will be remembered and respected.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js

P.S. Thank you for your generous donation.

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 31, 1994

Mr. Don Werle

[REDACTED]
Erie, Pennsylvania 16510

Dear Mr. Werle:

Thank you for your recent questions concerning my public survey and newsletter. This is one way that enables me to keep in touch with my constituent's needs and opinions. I would like to respond to each of your five questions or comments.

In your first question you state that WAMs need accountability. The LIGs, although initially approved by the House and Senate leadership, are actually controlled by the Governor's Office, which authorizes the release of the funds. The Auditor General's Office and the State Treasurer, which issues the checks, also have specific oversight responsibilities in this process. Thus, there is a vigorous approval, application and oversight process.

Secondly, I agree with you that Representatives should take advantage of the fleet lease program. As you may know, I lease one from the fleet owned by the Department of General Services under an arrangement worked out by the Bi-partisan Management Committee of the House of Representatives. This leasing cost considerably less than leasing cars from other sources. Because of my desire to save taxpayers money I do not take part in mileage reimbursements.

When initially elected, I announced that I would draw only \$35,000 in salary out of the total \$47,000. Furthermore, I also stated that with the remaining \$12,000 I would establish the Community Account, pay taxes on my salary and grant myself a five percent cost-of-living increase (COLA) in subsequent years.

Mr. Don Werle
Page 2
October 26, 1994

At the beginning of this term, I pledged that the Community Account would be adequately funded and, to that end, I also announced that I would commit five percent of my gross salary (\$47,000) to the Community Account, which would amount to \$2,350 annually. In other words, the contribution to the Community Account is based on five percent of \$47,000. Since 1989, I have contributed \$36,225 of my salary to the Community Account.

Thank you for responding to my public survey which appeared in my Summer, 1994 Newsletter. This survey asked community members whether they would prefer that the legislature downgrade rape to sexual assault or redefine rape to address the issue of consent.

House Bill 160 defines rape under the terms aggravated sexual assault and sexual assault, depending on the circumstances surrounding the rape. Aggravated sexual assault, a first degree felony, is committed when "the defendant engages in a sexual act with another person by forcible compulsion where an aggravate circumstance is present" (including presence of a weapon, multiple offenders, infliction of bodily injury, commission upon person incapable of consent, etc.)

Sexual assault, a lesser, second degree felony charge, is committed when a person "engages in a sexual act with another person by forcible compulsion or threat of forcible compulsion." The revisions under House Bill 160 will repeal the decisions of the Supreme Court in Burkowitz, where the court ruled that the victim cannot charge rape where the victim has said "no" but where no forcible compulsion exists.

I am pleased to inform you that House Bill 160 passed the House unanimously. This bill is now in the Senate to be voted and I have enclosed a copy of this bill for your perusal.

If there is anything further I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/djw

2/198

Representative Tom Scrimenti's
Legislative Reform Record

Tom's Top Twenty List of Legislative Reforms

1. Tom Scrimenti ran for office in 1988 opposed to the 1987 legislative pay raise. He pledged to actively oppose any future "late night" or "secret" pay hikes and increases in "unaccountable expense accounts" in mid-term (as was done in 1987).
2. Upon entering office, Tom Scrimenti established a special community account to distribute part of his salary. In the past six years, he has distributed over \$36,000 to senior citizen activities, youth groups, food pantries, and other worthwhile community groups in our area. In doing so, Tom Scrimenti has served the past six years at a salary lower than almost all Members of the General Assembly.
3. In the 1991 budget crisis and again in the 1992 budget cycle, Tom Scrimenti publicly called on House leaders to return all remaining legislative funds to the state general fund to assist in easing the state's budget problems and to symbolically show that elected officials were sharing "the pain" of budget cuts.
4. In the 1991 budget cycle, and again in the 1992 budget cycle, Tom Scrimenti was a leader in the effort to cutback original budget increases for legislative spending in one budget, and to freeze legislative appropriations in another.
5. Tom Scrimenti voluntarily cut back his own district office expenditures by five percent during the 1991 budget crisis and called on all legislators to voluntarily do the same.
6. During the budget crisis of 1991, Tom Scrimenti publicly called for a freeze on all out-of-state travel by legislators and legislative staff; in six years he has never sought state reimbursement for out-of-state travel.
7. In reviewing state legislative operations, Tom Scrimenti publicized in June of 1991 that the state's news media was given free Capitol space for their operations, and under cost services for their use. He publicly called for all news organizations using the Capitol Newsroom to be charged reasonable rents and actual cost for use of the taxpayer paid parking services and facilities.
8. In mid-1991, Tom Scrimenti called for a review of the cost of operation and effectiveness of several independent legislative commissions and agencies with the goal of eliminating the least productive and cutting out overlapping services.
9. Tom Scrimenti took on powerful forces when he called for a budget freeze in 1991 on home office expenses of State Supreme Court Justices, and Superior and Commonwealth Court Judges.
10. In order to restore accountability and public confidence, Tom Scrimenti has called

for a new, more open, and unified reporting method for all state House and Senate expenditures. He has called for a system that would make all information easily available to the public and the press, by consolidating all expense records of committees, leadership, and every legislator, so that the source, the beneficiary, and the purpose of every dollar expended is easily understood.

11. The lease fleet plan that Tom Scrimenti has pushed for since 1989 went into effect during the summer of 1994. Under this plan, members may lease either a standard of moderate vehicle through the vehicle fleet to replace the current individually leased automobiles. It is anticipated that this plan will save taxpayers at least \$500,000 annually.
12. In the 1993-94 Legislative Session, Tom Scrimenti sponsored and fought for legislation to institutionally reform the legislature, including a reduction in the size and the expenses of the General Assembly.
13. Throughout the 1993-94 Legislative Session, Tom Scrimenti supported legislation to reform the election process and strengthen campaign finance regulations; to tighten lobbyist financial disclosure laws; and to strengthen the state ethics law, all to decrease the influence of money and special interests in state politics.
14. In early 1993, Tom Scrimenti supported legislation to reform the state budget process by making it more accountable and by continuing to pay state employees during a budget impasses.
15. Tom Scrimenti worked on and supported the 1992 legislation which put into effect the Tuition Account Program. This program gives Pennsylvanians the option of purchasing college tuition credits at universities and community colleges at today's prices for future use.
16. In 1992, Tom Scrimenti was appointed to the Tuition Account Program Advisory Board, and has spent the past two years working to accurately and effectively represent the interests of college students and parents of young people across Pennsylvania.
17. In 1992, Tom Scrimenti supported legislation which called for sweeping reform of of the welfare system. The reforms focused on the redirecting of funds to successful programs, controlling costs associated with transient welfare recipients, and putting in place economic incentives for individuals to get off welfare.
18. Tom Scrimenti supported the 1992-1993 state budget which reflected a .24 percent increase coupled with a 5 percent decrease in state government spending which allowed for the scheduled reduction in the state personal income tax rate from 3.1 percent to 2.8 percent.
19. Tom Scrimenti favored the state attorney general's plan to reform the Legislative Initiative Grant program and supported an attempt made this summer to reform the program through an amendment to the 1994-1995 General Fund Budget.
20. Tom Scrimenti supported the 1994-1995 budget, which cuts taxes by \$170 million, helps low income working families, aids in creating and retaining jobs, and cuts the Corporate Net Income tax by 2.26 percent over the next three years.

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

10/20
October 24, 1995

COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Frances Church
Head Librarian
Corry Public Library
203 North Center Street
Corry, PA 16407

Dear Ms. Church:

Thank you for your recent letters regarding the proposed state funding formula. The continued success of the libraries in our community is important to me and to the constituents I serve. Your input on this matter is greatly appreciated.

In an effort to address your concern, I contacted Mary Clare Zales, State Aid Administrator for the Library Development Division of the Department of Education. Ms. Zales informed me that the Department has received some very positive input on this proposal and expects the funding formula will be introduced in the legislature in the near future.

The current method of calculating state aid for libraries was determined in 1961. Although I believe that this system was effective at that time, changes in economic conditions have caused a need for an updated formula. Please know that I intend to give your advice the utmost consideration. If and when this legislation is brought before me for a vote, I assure you that your comments will be remembered and respected.

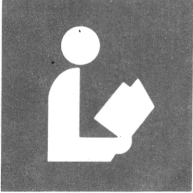
Again, I thank you for your views and expertise. As always, feel free to contact me if I may be of assistance on this or any other matter. I welcome your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS/lb



CORRY PUBLIC LIBRARY
203 North Center Street
Corry, Pennsylvania 16407

October 5, 1995

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Scrimenti:

This is a correction of my letter dated October 4 concerning the new state aid funding formula for Pennsylvania libraries. Paragraph two of that letter should have read as follows:

The new formula is now at the Department of Education. I strongly urge you to press for it to be presented to the Legislature before the next state aid payments are dispersed to the libraries of Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Church". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

Frances Church
Head Librarian

FC/bt



CORRY PUBLIC LIBRARY
203 North Center Street
Corry, Pennsylvania 16407

October 4, 1995

OCT 10 1995

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Scrimenti:

As you know, the funding formula for libraries in Pennsylvania has not been changed since 1969. Many changes have taken place since that time.

Eugene Hickok, Secretary of Education, will be presenting a new formula to the Legislature. I strongly urge you to adopt this formula in a timely fashion, so that it will be available before the next state aid payments are dispersed to the libraries of Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frances Church
Head Librarian

FC/bt

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

October 30, 1998

Florence P. DePaul
[REDACTED]
North East, PA 16428

Dear Ms. DePaul: - *Florence,*

I would like to thank you for your letter to my office conveying your support of increasing funding for Pennsylvania libraries. As a State Representative, I value the opportunity to be of service to you and I always appreciate being apprised of your views.

As you mentioned in your letter, Pennsylvania, unfortunately, ranks near the bottom of every statistical category by which state library systems are judged. In a time when most states' library systems are entering the information age, Pennsylvania's libraries are in danger of being left in the industrial age if the necessary changes are not made soon.

House Bill 1903, sponsored by Representative Mike Veon, would create library districts and provide for state aid, for audits, for library use and newly established libraries. HB 1903 was referred to the House Education Committee on October 8, 1997, where it remains today. I would like to note that I am a co-sponsor of this bill.

This bill, if enacted, would establish several changes in the Pennsylvania Library System. This legislation would create a coordinated library system by establishing 60-67 library districts throughout the Commonwealth. The districts shall be established with preference given to districts being of a singular county or several smaller counties by the State Librarian with the approval of the Advisory Council on Library Development. In each district there will be a lead library, designated by the state librarian, known as the library center.

The new system would reward local government and local fundraising efforts by providing greater state aid based on local efforts. It would also establish an Advisory Council on Library Development, provide grants to system libraries for the improvement of library service through technology; provide free internet; provide CD Roms; establish computer access; improve video collections; replace outdated materials; and make the library more consumer friendly.

Please know that I support the proposal for this new system and if and when I am called upon to cast my final vote on House Bill 1903, I will vote in favor of the legislation.

I would like to thank you for all your efforts, as well as the other members of the Women's Club of the North East's efforts, in supporting our libraries. Your diligent work has not gone unnoticed and is always appreciated. Please continue to communicate with me as we both work together to ensure that Pennsylvania's libraries continue to improve and prosper.

Sincerely,

Tom
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

Mailed 11-5-98 N-E.

OCT 20 1998

North East PA.
16428

October 16, 1998

Rep. Tom Scrimanti
P.O. Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Tom -

As the new President of the Woman's Club of North East, I am writing to ask that you support legislation to increase state support of libraries - I believe current support is \$200 per capita and has been that since 1961. Literature I have received says that PA ranks 44 out of 50, which is a sad fact if it is true. OUR PA?! Our BFWC PA theme is "Keep Library Doors Open" and it would be great if funding at the state level could be increased during the next couple of years when this is our theme. The literature also said that a hand-delivered letter the 2nd week of this past March was about recommendations for library service in PA called "The Platform for 21st Century Libraries." Anything you and your colleagues can do to help would be appreciated. Anything I hear from you I will share with the Club.

Sincerely - Florence P. DePaul

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 24, 2002

Mr. Steven Boyce

████████████████████
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Mr. Boyce:

Thank you for your letter regarding various vehicle and transportation issues. Your thoughts and concerns are greatly appreciated.

One of the ideas you mentioned in your letter was to allow individuals to purchase license plates that contain sports team logos, with proceeds going to a fund to help pay for pro sports team stadiums. While this is a good idea and many bills have been introduced in the General Assembly to establish "specialty" license plates that will provide funds for specific causes, in this particular case, since sports teams own their own logos, the Commonwealth is not authorized to establish sports team "specialty" license plates.

In addition, the Ridge and Schweiker Administrations have discouraged any additions to the more than 60 "specialty" plates that already exist in the Commonwealth. In fact, last year, Governor Ridge vetoed legislation that would have provided for an additional 24 "specialty" license plates.

There are three main reasons why the Commonwealth is discouraging the establishment of new "specialty" license plates. Many designs on new "specialty" license plates require the Department of Transportation to upgrade equipment on a regular basis in order to meet design specifications. Furthermore, there are concerns that license plate numbers on some of the "specialty" license plates are difficult to read and that we simply have too many of these plates already.

Regarding the issue of including a headlamp alignment during vehicle inspections, the Commonwealth already requires that vehicle inspections comply with legal standards on the alignment and brightness of headlamps. Enclosed is a copy of Title 67, Chapter 175.66 of the Pennsylvania Code, which regulates headlamp requirements.

Mr. Steven Boyce

Page 2

May 17, 2002

On the issue of "blue spectrum" headlamps, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a federal agency, is currently studying the use of these headlamps to determine how they affect public safety. The Commonwealth is not likely to draft legislation on "blue spectrum" headlamps until the federal government offers guidelines or requirements on their use.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If I may be of further assistance to you on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Scrimenti". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative
4th Legislative District

enclosure