

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
9 WEST MAIN STREET  
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428  
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9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
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HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96  
25B, EAST WING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028  
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

January 11, 1994

Mr. Michael D. Tirpak  
General Manager  
The Northwestern Rural Electric Co-Operative  
Association, Inc.  
R.D. No. 1  
P.O. Box 207  
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-0207

Dear Mr. Tirpak: - *M. J. Scrimenti*

Thank you very much for your letter dated December 23, 1993, regarding appropriations for the Pennsylvania Energy Centers. I am pleased that you informed me of this dire situation. In an effort to assist you and your good works, I have written letters to both Governor Casey and House Appropriations Chairman Dwight Evans, asking for their support of the \$800,000 program revision request mentioned in your letter. Please be assured that I will apprise you of any correspondence that I may receive from these gentlemen pertaining to this matter. For your perusal, I have enclosed copies of my letters.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns about the future of the Pennsylvania Energy Centers. Please be assured that I will work with due diligence for a state appropriation to ensure their viability.

If I may be of further assistance to you on this or any other matters of importance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. Scrimenti'.

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/js  
enclosure

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FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

January 11, 1994

The Honorable Dwight Evans  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
512-E-3 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Evans:

I write with concerns about a funding source for the Pennsylvania Energy Centers, which I have been informed is not ensured through Governor Casey's 1994-95 budget proposal. Accordingly, I am enlisting my support for an \$800,000 program revision request for the PEC's and respectfully request that you consider supporting this initiative.

In my district, the Northwestern Pennsylvania Energy Center provides a vital service to all segments of the community with a local source of information and access to additional energy expertise. The education and training functions support business and educational institutions. The energy surveys performed by the Center have benefited numerous small businesses, farms, schools, churches and non-profit organizations. This service is provided at no cost and consists of a walk-through review of the energy conservation characteristics of a building; and identifies low and no cost opportunities for observing energy and reducing energy costs.

It is my understanding that a loss of federal funding has now placed the future of the Pennsylvania Energy Centers in jeopardy. It is for this reason that an \$800,000 program revision request has been proposed for FY 1994-95. Again, Chairman Evans, I ask that you take this opportunity to consider the importance of the Pennsylvania Energy Centers and to support said program revision request to ensure their future viability.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/js

cc: Mr. Michael D. Tirpak



DEC 24 1993



**The Northwestern Rural Electric Co-operative Association, Inc.**

R. D. No. 1 • P. O. Box 207 • CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, PA. 16403-0207 • PHONE 814-398-4651

December 23, 1993

Representative Thomas Scrimenti  
9 West Main Street  
North East, PA 16428

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

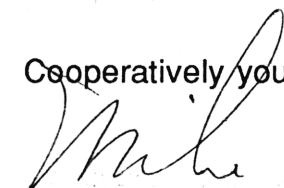
The Northwestern Pennsylvania Energy Center provides a vital service to our community. The education and training functions support business and educational institutions. The energy surveys performed by the Center have benefited numerous small businesses, farms, schools, churches, and non-profit organizations. The energy center, under the direction of Claudia Brown, has directly assisted over 50 of Northwestern REC's small business members with free energy surveys and grant monies for energy efficiency improvements through our co-op's Northwestern Energy/Economic Development (NEED) Program. I cannot say enough about the beneficial aspects of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Energy Center.

It is my understanding that the reductions in Oil Overcharge Funds puts the funding for the statewide Pennsylvania Energy Centers (which includes the Northwestern Pennsylvania Center) in jeopardy and that an \$800,000 program revision request (PRR) has been proposed for the 1994-1995 budget package to continue their operations.

Please support this PRR to continue funding of the Energy Centers and to keep this important resource available for our communities across the state.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Cooperatively yours,



Michael D. Tirpak  
General Manager

MDT:lh



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**MEMO**

JAN 31 1991

January 29, 1991

SUBJECT: Background on Lottery Fund

TO: All Democratic Members

FROM: Dwight Evans, Chairman *DE*  
House Appropriations Committee (D)

My staff has received several phone calls asking why we are making transfers from the Lottery Fund to the General Fund. The purpose of this memo is to make you aware of and provide you with background information on this issue.

**ISSUE**

The question results from a Philadelphia Action Alliance letter which was circulated recently. The portion of the letter of particular concern to members reads as follows:

...the state has taken over \$1 billion in Lottery funds since 1983 to subsidize the General Fund...Although Governor Casey and the General Assembly reversed this policy by taking less each year, \$113 million was taken in this fiscal year. Before cutbacks are considered for Lottery-funded programs, the General Assembly should stop the Lottery's subsidization of the General Fund...

**BACKGROUND**

The \$113 million (m) referred to is transferred from the Lottery Fund to the General Fund for Medical Assistance (\$96m) and personal income tax payments (\$17.6m) for lottery prizes. The transfer for Medical Assistance began in 1983-84 and has always been used for senior citizen's long term care. However, since Governor Casey took office, General Fund revenue is paying for a larger portion of long term care, and lottery transfers have steadily declined as a result. The transfer for **personal income tax payments** also began in 1983-84. The Commonwealth excluded

lottery winnings from the personal income tax base, and began requiring a payment in lieu of taxes from the Lottery Fund. Proponents argued that this action would provide a further incentive to play the lottery.

Thornburgh Started These Transfers to Solve the Budget Crisis

Both of these transfers started under the Thornburgh administration in 1983-84 and were used to help balance the General Fund budget. As you may recall, Thornburgh was dealing with a \$235 million General Fund deficit left over from the prior year (1982-83). Aging organizations were legitimately upset charging that Thornburgh was balancing the budget on the backs of the elderly. Indeed at the same time that Thornburgh supported these transfers, he was also recommending a rate decrease in the Personal Income Tax. The new transfers from the lottery fund essentially paid for the rate decrease.

FUTURE DIRECTION

We will continue to work towards further reducing these transfers. Close to \$200 million was transferred the year before Casey took office compared with the \$113 million assumed for this year. We will make every effort to continue this trend for medical assistance although, in light of a tight General Fund budget we must provide a solution fair to both funding sources. We will also attempt to determine: whether the income tax piece really stimulates lottery ticket sales; whether we should continue excluding lottery winnings from the personal income tax; and therefore, whether we should continue the lottery transfer in lieu of taxes.

REW:dmh



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA  
17101-1195

SECRETARY OF AGING

February 6, 1991

Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti  
House Aging and Youth Committee  
25B, East Wing  
Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

Enclosed you will find an explanation of the Lottery Preservation Plan outlined by the Governor in his budget address. I hope this will answer most of your questions regarding the plan.

This plan has evolved with input from a number of sources, including discussions with aging advocacy and constituent groups and hearings before the General Assembly. The Department also conducted a statewide conference with over 900 older people participating to develop a State Plan on Aging. In fact, the elimination of the Older Persons Inflation Needs Program was recommended by older persons and endorsed by the Pennsylvania Council on Aging.

This plan will ensure a viable Lottery Fund and continues programs that are essential to older Pennsylvanians.

I would like to thank you for your support in the past and I look forward to working with you to make the plan a reality.

If you need additional information or clarification for yourself or to answer constituent inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda M. Rhodes".

Linda M. Rhodes

Enclosure

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

September 28, 1993

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

Mr. William Fisher

████████████████████  
North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I want to thank you for contacting my office with your questions about the uses of lottery money. Your questions and comments are always sought and welcomed. I hope you continue this communication between us.

I must tell you that I found your particular inquiry intriguing. The Department of Aging and the Lottery Commission both were questioned and both commented that your point had some validity. Without a doubt, a large portion of the lottery fund is spent on programs that have enrollment requirements. But both the Commission and the Department stressed to my office that not all of the lottery dollars are allotted to relatively low-income senior citizens. There are several very important expenditures that benefit, as the advertisements claim, all older Pennsylvanians. Passes for public transportation, vans for specific transportation needs of local seniors, funding for the local Area Agencies on Aging and dollars in support of senior centers around the state are all examples of such programs and services. With these cases, though they may seem exceptions. The Commission's public relations office said that there are no plans to change their present slogan.

Enclosed, you will find a booklet that explains some of these programs and others that benefit senior citizens. The requirements are also listed. Some of those qualifications are very rigid while others are based on a sliding scale and others still are open for all seniors to participate. I hope you find this booklet informative.

Again, I appreciate this opportunity to be of service to you. Please keep in touch with your concerns, ideas and questions.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
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

January 8, 1998

Martha Sherman, Secretary  
Erie County Association of Township Officials  
12451 Circuit Road  
Waterford, PA 16441

Dear Ms. Sherman:

Thank you for your informative letter regarding Senate Bill 270, which would amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code to promote greater coordination, consistency, and uniformity in land use planning among municipalities, counties, and the Commonwealth. Your thoughts are welcomed and valued. I hope you will continue to contact me with your insights.

Senate Bill 270 was re-committed to the Senate Local Government Committee on November 18, 1997. The bill must be reported out of committee before any legislative action is initiated by the Senate. If the bill passes the Senate, it will be sent to the House for consideration. If you have not already, you may want to contact the Senate Local Government Committee Chairman:

James W. Gerlach, Chairman  
Local Government Committee  
Pennsylvania Senate  
168 Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Please be assured that I will take your thoughts into consideration if, and when, Senate Bill 270 is brought before the House for consideration. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

TJS/mtf





DEC 15 1997

# ERIE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

William Brace, President

12451 Circuit Road Waterford, PA 16441

AMITY

CONCORO

December 10, 1997

CONNEAUT

Honorable Thomas Scrimenti  
House Post Office

ELK CREEK

Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: SB 270

FAIRVIEW

Dear Mr. Scrimenti,

FRANKLIN

Members of the Erie County Association of Township Officials are concerned about proposed SB 270, as amended. The bill, as amended, provides for creation of an "integrated county comprehensive plan" which, if adopted, would deny local officials the authority to make decisions regarding land use regulations by compelling all municipalities in the county to use regulations "reasonably consistent" with the county plan.

GIRARD

GREENE

GREENFIELD

The local officials understand that if the majority of municipalities approve the integrated county comprehensive plan all will be required to follow the regulations specified in the county plan whether or not they want to.

HARBORCREEK

LAWRENCE PARK

While developers would, no doubt, be enthusiastic about seeing SB 270 as amended, adopted, it is not likely that every municipality in the entire county would have the same concerns as every other municipality in regards to regulating land use. Although it is conceivable that, in some cases, adjoining municipalities could want identical regulations, it should be the choice of the municipalities to decide on regulations needed for their particular area and work together as necessary to formulate their own regulations rather than having to be bound by the county plan.

LEBOEUF

MCKEAN

MILLCREEK

NORTH EAST

The supervisors of the Erie County Association see this as one more attempt to take authority away from the local officials by putting the county in charge and we ask that you oppose SB 270 as amended when it comes before the House for a vote.

SPRINGFIELD

SUMMIT

Correspondence may be directed to ECATO President, William Brace at the above address.

UNION

VENANGO

WASHINGTON

WATERFORD

WAYNE

Sincerely yours,  
ERIE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF  
TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

*Martha Sherman*  
Martha Sherman  
Secretary

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
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

May 23, 1995

Mr. Ronald H. Wilga  
Secretary to the Board  
Millcreek School District  
3740 West 26th Street  
Erie, PA 16508-2096

Dear Mr. Wilga:

I want to thank you for your letter informing me of how the existing methods of calculating school retirement benefits are unfair to the principal, supervisor, school clerical worker, or school custodian, who works on a 220 day contract, instead of on the regular 180 day agreement. Your explanation noting that public school employees who work beyond 180 days on a 220 day contract are given no credit for their additional time was informative.

As you are probably aware, House Bill 975 was referred to the House Education Committee on March 6, 1995. Please know when and if this bill comes before the House for a vote, I will take your views into consideration.

I thank you for your interest in this matter. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/dj



APR 25 1995



# Millcreek Township School District

*"An Equal Opportunity Employer"*

Millcreek Education Center  
3740 West 26th Street • Erie, Pennsylvania 16506-2096 • (814) 835-5300

April 19, 1995

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti  
House of Representatives  
Box 96 Main Capitol Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti

As a constituent in your region, I wanted to inform you about HB 975, introduced March 6 by Rep. Peter Daley. This legislation is not another perk for educators nor a retirement incentive, but rather, HB 975 rectifies a longstanding inequity in the Public School Retirement System.

When the Public School Retirement System was first established, it made sense to provide all public school employees with one year's service credit based on the 180 day school year rule. Decades later that 180 days equals one year service has become an inequitable measure for the clerical, custodial, secretarial, support staff and some management who work year round contracts.

As the Board Secretary/Director of Information and Printing Services in the Millcreek School District, I have worked on an extended year contract (230 days per year) for the last 21 years. I believe that somehow longer days and a longer year need to be recognized by my retirement system. HB 975 provides for that, therefore, I ask your support of HB 975 so that finally this inequity is corrected. Please review the legislation and feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

R. H. Wilga  
Secretary to the Board  
Millcreek School District  
(814) 835-5305

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

April 2, 2001

Ms. Catherine Howard

████████████████████  
North East, PA 16428

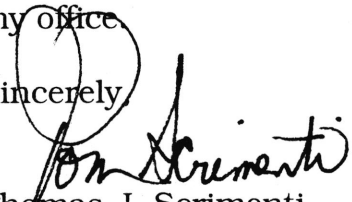
Dear Ms. Howard:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Pennsylvania Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). I appreciate the time and effort taken to contact my office and include me in your thoughts.

As you may know, several bills have been introduced this legislative session regarding PSERS retirement issues and are currently being considered. More than likely, one of these bills will contain health insurance premium assistance and an increase in the retirement multiplier. As I hope you know and as proven by my record of service, I will continue to support efforts and legislation that will benefit all PSER members.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns. As always, your input is welcomed and appreciated. Should you require further assistance with this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

February 8, 2002

Ms. Georgann Shea

██████████  
Harborcreek, PA 16421

Dear Ms. Shea:

Thank you for contacting my office to address your support of House Bill 84, which would allow members to purchase non-school service credit in the retirement system. As your state representative, I appreciate the time and effort you have taken to communicate your position on this important issue.

Please know, that I recognize the meaningful contribution you are making to the lives of Pennsylvania's young people. The level of commitment you have shown to this noble profession is worth tremendous praise. With that in mind, I recognize the importance of this legislation to you and others working in approved private schools.

At this writing, House Bill 84 has been reported out of the Education Committee and is awaiting consideration by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Be assured, that if and when, this bill comes before the full House for a vote, I will consider your position before casting my vote.

Again, thank you for taking the time to convey to me your position on this important issue. Your comments will be remembered and respected as I continue to monitor the status of the proposal. If you need additional assistance on this matter or any other, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Scrimenti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

**Scrimenti, Tom**

---

**From:** [REDACTED] n  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 20, 2002 10:01  
**To:** Scrimenti, Tom; jearll@pasen.gov  
**Subject:** HB 84

Dear Representative Scrimenti and Senator Earll:

I am writing to ask you to support HB 84 which would permit people who served as a certified employee in a State Approved Private School to purchase nonschool service credits in the retirement system. This bill has failed to reach the floor of the House in several previous attempts. However, it is a crucial issue to those of us who have worked or are working in those facilities.

For 5 years, I was the Special Education Supervisor/Curriculum Coordinator at the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, a nationally renowned facility servicing persons with disabilities. During that tenure, the staff and I had to adhere to state and federal regulations which were often more stringent than those applied to public schools. All teachers and therapists had to hold professional State certificates. It was an educational facility and students had Individualized Education Plans which were more detailed and held to a stricter standard of accountability simply because it was a restrictive educational setting.

I have been working in the Erie City Schools for the past 16 years. I can say, without reservation, that the legal and professional expectations of people working in Approved Private Schools far exceed those placed on Public School Employees. Due to the complex and intense needs of students with severe and multiple disabilities, the staff in these programs must demonstrate a level of patience, compassion and perseverance far and above what is required in a public school setting.

Personnel in Approved Private Schools operate under the Department of Education. Approved Private Schools are also part of the "continuum of service" provided under the state and federal guidelines governing special education. As such, the people who work so very hard in these settings should be provided the same opportunity to participate in the state retirement system and receive credit for that service.

The way the system is now, the State is saying to me and all those like me who have worked in Approved Private Schools that their service **does not warrant** retirement compensation by the State. This is both disheartening and, I feel, disrespectful of the hard work and dedication employees in Approved Private Schools demonstrate every day.

Please support HB 84 and recognize the significant contribution made by current and former employees in Approved Private Schools to the education and quality of life of children and youth with disabilities in this State.

I thank you for your support.

Georgann Shea

[REDACTED]  
Harborcreek, PA 16421