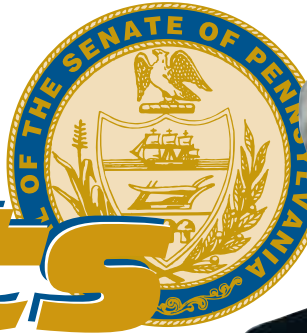


State Senator Dominic Pileggi

Reports



To the Ninth Senatorial District

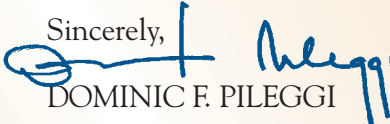
AUTUMN 2005

Dear Friends,

This summer has brought much activity in the Pennsylvania Senate and in the 9th Senatorial District. From the passage of this fiscal year's budget to the adoption of ACRE legislation, from the Harrah's groundbreaking to remembering the 9th District's long-serving Senator Clarence Bell, these past months have been busy in Chester and Delaware Counties.

As vacations come to an end, children return to school and the weather becomes cooler, I hope you will find the time to join my staff and me at our Kids' Fun Fair in Aston on October 15th. Also, feel free to visit the Capitol in Harrisburg or stop by my local offices in Chester, Media, and West Grove. If you would like to receive regular news updates from Harrisburg and the 9th Senatorial District, you can subscribe for e-newsletters by contacting my offices at ThePileggiLetter@pasen.gov.

If you would like any further information on anything contained in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact my offices.

Sincerely,

DOMINIC F. PILEGGI

2005-2006 Budget Passed

Early on the morning of July 7th, the Pennsylvania Senate approved the budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The \$24.42 billion budget will provide for services as diverse as healthcare, education and law enforcement.

Despite earlier concerns about Medicaid funding, the proposed cuts were drastically reduced and \$143 million in funding was restored in the final version of the budget. Proposed limits on the number of hospital visits and certain procedures and services were rejected, while other limits were moderated to provide more comprehensive coverage for the thousands of Pennsylvanians who rely on these services. A "preferred drug list" has been created, which will allow patients to receive prescription drugs and medical equipment while saving the Medicaid program an estimated \$50 million. The adultBasic program that provides health insurance for nearly 35,000 low-income, working Pennsylvanians received a 25% funding boost to expand the services it offers.

Millions of dollars were made available for improved and expanded education programs. The Senate

authorized an additional \$28 million in funding for the Educational Assistance Program (EAP) to provide grants to school districts and vocational-technical schools for tutoring of middle and high school students. Schools and school districts in which high numbers of students have struggled with standardized exams will use these funds to boost their reading and mathematics skills. State investment in the Head Start program will jump by \$15 million, doubling the previous allocation and allowing 2,500 additional children to take part. "Foundation Funding," which is intended to increase spending by school districts to \$8,500 per student, received \$23 million to get the effort off the ground. Pennsylvania's fourteen community colleges, including Delaware County Community College, will receive an additional \$22.8 million, the largest jump in 15 years. The fourteen other colleges and universities of the State System of Higher Education will receive smaller increases in their funding. Locally, Lincoln University, its stu-

dents and faculty will benefit from these extra dollars. The "Job Ready Pennsylvania" program received \$91 million to enhance education and needed skills for the Commonwealth's workforce, aiming to keep them competitive in the evolving job market.

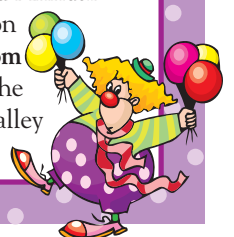
Pennsylvania's libraries are to receive \$3.45 million in additional funding this year. This money will provide more books, computers, and community services across the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania will add 120 state troopers to its force. Another 60 civilian employees will also be hired.

The \$24.42 billion budget succeeded in providing for programs without imposing additional taxes on Pennsylvanians.

Kids' Fun Fair

Join in the fun at the 2005 Kids' Fun Fair! Senator Pileggi's 3rd Annual Kids' Fun Fair will be held on **Saturday, October 15th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. The event will be held at Sun Valley High School in Aston.



Senator Bell Highway

Legislation introduced by Senator Pileggi was signed into law on July 5, 2005, creating "The Senator Clarence D. Bell Memorial Highway." The memorial highway will cover a section of Route 322, extending from Route 1 to Interstate 95 through Concord, Bethel, and Upper Chichester Townships in Delaware County.

Senator Bell served in the armed forces during World War II, receiving the United States Army Legion of Merit and the Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Medal. He achieved the rank of Major General in the Pennsylvania National Guard. Clarence Bell was elected to the House of Representatives in 1955 and to the Pennsylvania Senate in 1961. His remarkable career extended over 48 years, until his death in 2002.



The late Senator Clarence Bell is seen here meeting with his successor, Senator Dominic Pileggi, and the late Speaker of the House Matt Ryan in 2001.

Senator Bell was the longest serving legislator in the history of Pennsylvania. Senator Pileggi chose to honor his predecessor and recognize his dedicated efforts to improve Route 322, a highly congested road that is currently under-

going a highway modernization project to widen the road. According to Pileggi, "Senator Bell served his constituents effectively and caringly, and naming this particular highway after him is a fitting tribute."

Legislative Highlights

Before recessing for the summer, the Commonwealth's lawmakers worked to pass legislation that benefits Pennsylvanians in many ways.

The Senate approved legislation to create "Kristen's Law," which would require that child welfare agencies in the Commonwealth keep a photograph of the child in the case file at all times. Current photographs are intended to prevent cases of mistaken identity in child welfare cases. This legislation is named in memory of Kristen Tatar, a young girl from Armstrong County who died in 2003. "Kristen's Law" is intended to prevent the tragic deaths of other children. The bill is now before the House Judiciary Committee.

The General Assembly has recognized the positive impact of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program, by establishing common sense reporting requirements to ensure fiscal accountability for all organizations

involved in the program. These changes, made via Act 46 and complimented by a \$4 million increase in funding in this year's budget, will allow EITC to continue to benefit thousands of children and hundreds of companies across the Commonwealth. Non-profit scholarship organizations provide grants directly to those students; educational improvement organizations offer grants to school districts that undertake innovative educational programs. Businesses may donate funds to either type of organization in order to receive tax credits from the state.

Licensed beer distributors throughout the Commonwealth are now permitted to sell cases of beer on Sundays, responding to consumer demand. The law took effect on September 1, 2005.

Responding to a recent incident near Philadelphia International Airport and a nuclear power plant in Limerick, state lawmakers outlawed flying an aircraft while intoxicated or under the

influence of drugs. Penalties for flying while drunk include up to thirty days in prison and fines of \$10,000.

These legislative efforts and others like them will improve the safety and quality of life of Pennsylvanians across the state.

Subscribe to Senator Pileggi's E-Newsletter

Are you interested in what's happening in Harrisburg? Would you like more information on issues impacting the 9th Senatorial District? If so, sign up to receive Senator Pileggi's e-newsletter by sending your name, mailing address, and preferred email address to ThePileggiLetter@pasen.gov.

Growing Greener

This spring, Pennsylvanians overwhelmingly voted to support the Growing Greener II initiative to protect and preserve the Commonwealth's land and water resources. The \$625 million in funding now has a spending plan, approved by the General Assembly on July 7, 2005. This "Green PA" bill directs that funds be spent on a variety of "essential environmental initiatives," such as open space and farmland preservation, watershed protection, mine reclamation, support for water and sewer systems, and cleanup of hazardous waste sites. These diverse efforts will be carried out through the Departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources, Community and Economic Development, and Agriculture, as well as the Fish and Boat Commission and the Game Commission.



Student Government Seminar

The 2005 Student Government Seminar, hosted by Senator Pileggi at Widener University, gave student leaders from around the 9th Senatorial District the opportunity to meet lawmakers and public officials, ask them questions, and learn more about successful governance.

Senator Pileggi noted, "I was pleased to see such a large turnout, and very encouraged by the thoughtful comments of the high school students. If you would like to participate in the 2006 Student Government Seminar, please contact my office in Media."

Are You Insured Against Flood Damage?

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), last year's flood season was one of the most destructive in Pennsylvania's history. By the end of 2004, nearly 40,000 Pennsylvanians had applied for federal relief. Despite this relief, many families and individuals lost homes and businesses, which can never be restored to their pre-flood conditions.

Given past devastation and current predictions for another severe hurricane season, concerns remain for Pennsylvania's homeowners. The National Weather Service predicts a 95% to 100% chance of an above-normal hurricane season along the Eastern seaboard. The season began early this year with tropical storm Arlene causing damage and bringing heavy rains to sev-

eral states. These troubling predictions become alarming when coupled with a statistic, recently published by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), that 87% of homes in flood prone areas are not protected by flood insurance. Those who believe they are insured are often surprised to learn that standard homeowners insurance does not cover damage due to flooding. In addition, a standard 30-day waiting period is required

before a policy becomes effective.

After seeing the devastation associated with flooding from Hurricane Katrina, now may be a good time to verify whether your property is insured against flood damage. For more information on how to protect your family and your home from floods, please contact the Pennsylvania Insurance Department Consumer Services office at (717) 787-2317 or find information online at www.ins.state.pa.us.

Senator Pileggi welcomed LaTisha McClarin (seated, right) and her family to the Capitol. Ms. McClarin received the 2005 Excellence in Youth Award from the Delaware County Council, the Workforce Investment Board and its Youth Council.





The Avon Grove High School Choral Ensemble, led by Ms. Barbara Vanderkraats, performed in the Capitol Rotunda earlier this year.

ACRE Bill Signed by Governor

On June 30th, the General Assembly approved the ACRE (Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environment) legislation. The Governor signed ACRE into law as Act 38 on July 8th. The result of much negotiation and compromise, this bipartisan initiative protects farmers from illegal and discriminatory local ordinances. In addition, ACRE allows the Attorney General's Office to determine which ordinance disputes should be challenged in court, thereby reducing costs of farm litigation for farmers and taxpayers alike.

ACRE also establishes standards for odor control in certain agricultural operations. All new concentrated animal feeding operations

will be required to have an odor management plan and will be subject to mandatory setbacks and buffers from surface water when

manure is applied. These measures are intended to prevent conflict between farming operations and local residents and officials.



Kudos!

Congratulations to these remarkable citizens of the 9th Senatorial District:

The following couples recently celebrated their **50th wedding anniversaries**: Purnell, Jr. & Anna Anderson of Avondale, Ralph & Elizabeth Christy of Media, Arthur E., Jr. & Jean Colby of Brookhaven, Jesse & Frances Dolinger of Nottingham, Stephen & Delilah Foldes of Media, Walter & Ilene Haschak of Aston, William Charles & Barbara Kelly of Concordville, Robert & Jean Schultz of Aston, and Charles & Theresa Ward of Nottingham.

Happy Birthday to Elizabeth L. Anderson of Kennett Square, who celebrated 100 years on May 5, 2005 and Myrtle Louise Jimerson of Chester, who celebrated 100 years on July 10, 2005.

Senator Pileggi's Legislative Offices

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