

**MIKE REESE, MEMBER
59TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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□ ROOM 409, IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
PO BOX 202059
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2059
PHONE: (717) 783-9311
FAX: (717) 260-6502

□ NORVELT DISTRICT OFFICE
2230 MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD
MOUNT PLEASANT, PA 15666
PHONE: (724) 423-6503
FAX: (724) 423-2812

□ DRYRIDGE DISTRICT OFFICE
104 WHITE SCHOOL ROAD
GREENSBURG, PA 15601
PHONE: (724) 837-5678
FAX: (724) 832-5379

□ LIGONIER DISTRICT OFFICE
120 EAST MAIN STREET, TOWN HALL
LIGONIER, PA 15658
PHONE: (724) 238-2155
FAX: (724) 832-5381

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Mike Reese, Member 

SUBJECT: Reduction in the Size of the Pennsylvania General Assembly

DATE: January 29, 2010

I intend to introduce a joint resolution, which proposes to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reduce the size of the General Assembly. Specifically, my proposal would reduce the number of senatorial districts from 50 to 40 and the number of House districts from 203 to 151.

As you know, there is substantial support throughout the Commonwealth to “downsize” the General Assembly. I believe that a reduction in the size of the General Assembly would translate into a reduction in the cost of operating the legislature – through a reduction in the cost of salaries and benefits and in the size of our respective staffs, as well as the creation of other efficiencies.

In addition to the downsizing of legislative districts, my proposal will also reduce the appropriation of staff salaries for each caucus by 20 percent. It is my intention to prevent an increase in staff as a result of reducing the number of legislators.

Under my legislation, the proposed reduction in the number of legislative districts would take place following the 2010 decennial census, beginning with the 2013-2014 legislative session. I think that it makes a great deal of sense to coordinate the proposed downsizing of the General Assembly with the existing legislative redistricting process. That is why I have proposed this timetable.

If you wish to co-sponsor this important proposal, please contact Sam Myers at samyers@pahousegop.com or (717) 783-9311.