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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 14, 2010

Member
75th Legislative District

COMMITTEES:

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Matt Gabler *MG*

SUBJECT: Reintroduction of Legislation – Reimbursements to County Veterans' Affairs Directors (formerly HB 1990 of 2009-10)

In the near future, I intend to reintroduce legislation to amend the County Code (Act 130 of 1955, Section 444) by authorizing an increase in the amount of money that County Veterans' Affairs Directors may be reimbursed for annual association meeting expenses and dues. Under current law, county governments can pay no more than \$100 annually for these expenses.

Annual meetings are necessary for Veterans' Affairs Directors to form a close working relationship with their association members, and to obtain greater insight on various changes and enhancements on veterans' services and programs. Much of the successful casework they do on behalf of our veterans is dependent upon their ability to network and navigate bureaucracies. These meetings facilitate such networking and enable the sharing of lessons learned among offices in the various counties around the state.

County Veterans' Affairs offices have encountered situations where the cost of meetings has exceeded their current authorized expenses, because the cost of conducting such activities has increased since the enactment of the current law. This bill will increase the maximum reimbursement to County Veterans' Affairs Directors from \$100 up to \$400 per year.

The intent of this legislation is to ensure that County Veterans' Affairs Directors are able to attend annual meetings and retain their association membership without hardship. I believe it is necessary to make this minor adjustment to the County Code in order to update the numbers in the law to more accurately recognize the costs in today's dollars. This bill passed the House unanimously in each of the past two legislative sessions.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Alex Baldivieso at (717)260-6142 or abaldivi@pahousegop.com.

Previous co-sponsors included: Representatives RAPP, FAIRCHILD, ADOLPH, BAKER, BARRAR, BEAR, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BOYD, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, BROOKS, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CAUSER, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, CONKLIN, COSTA, COS, CREIGHTON, CURRY, CUTLER, DALLY, DAY, DELOZIER, DENLINGER, DEWESE, DIGIROLAMO, ELLIS, EVERETT, FARRY, FLECK, FREEMAN, GABIG, GERGELY, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HARHART, HARPER, HARRIS, HELM, HENNESSY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HOUGHTON HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KULA, LENTZ, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MELIO, METZGAR, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MILNE MOUL, MUNDY, MURT, MYERS, OBERLANDER, ONEILL, PASHINSKI, PEIFER, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, QUIGLEY, QUINN, REED, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROCK, ROHRER, SAYLOR SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SEIP, SHAPIRO, SIPTROTH, SMITH (K), SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TAYLOR, TRUE, TURZAI, VULAKOVICH, WANSACZ, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD