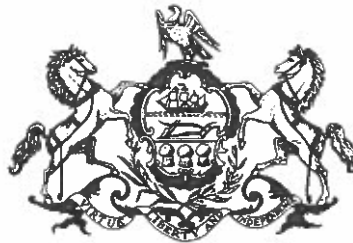


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## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Members of the House of Representatives**

**FROM: Representative Neal P. Goodman**

**DATE: February 8, 2011**

**RE: Co-Sponsor Memo: Eliminate Sunset of the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program**

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In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to eliminate the sunset of the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program. Currently, this program is set to expire on June 30, 2012.

As you know, \$25 million is provided annually for this program from the Commonwealth Gaming Revenue Fund. In 2007, the program was re-authorized and given a five year extension with a goal of reauthorizing the program every five years. However, the need to reauthorize this program every five years puts this program at the mercy of the Legislature and could make it a potential bargaining tool at budget time.

Former Representative Tim Solobay and I were instrumental in ensuring this program received a permanent funding source through gaming funds because studies show that volunteer emergency services save Pennsylvania taxpayers \$6 billion per year in local taxes and insurance costs. This program has proven its value, and I want to ensure its future is never jeopardized. Volunteer departments shouldn't have to worry about this funding going away - they need to know it will be there for their long-term planning decisions. My legislation would eliminate the sunset of this grant program and ensure that it is permanent.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Linda Reed at [lreed@pahouse.net](mailto:lreed@pahouse.net) or 787-2798.