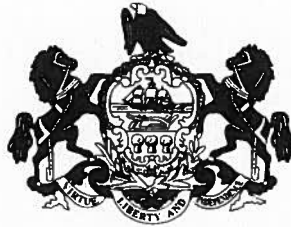


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House of Representatives
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Kate M. Harper
DATE: April 13, 2011
RE: Making False Compartments A Criminal Offense

In the near future, I am planning to introduce legislation that will amend add a new section to the Crimes Code relating to possession of a vehicle with false compartments.

Under current law it is not a crime to possess, own or design a vehicle with concealed compartments. These compartments are used to avoid complying with multiple state laws including drug smuggling and avoiding taxes on cigarettes. A constituent in law enforcement suggested this to me.

This new offense will make it a crime for any person who, acting with an unlawful purpose knowingly owns, operates or possess a motor vehicle which contains a false or secret compartment with the intent to store, conceal, camouflage, hide, smuggle, transport or prevent discovery of a person, controlled substance, illegal weapon or other contraband within the false compartment. A violation of this section is graded as a first degree misdemeanor.

Additionally, any person who, acting with an unlawful purpose knowingly designs, assembles, constructs, builds, alters, fabricates, attaches, fortifies, installs, places, causes to be placed or maintains a false compartment in a motor vehicle with the intent to store, conceal, camouflage, hide, smuggle, transport or prevent discovery of a person, controlled substance, firearm, weapon or other contraband within the false compartment commits a second degree misdemeanor.

In addition to any penalty associated with the violations I previously spoke of, any individual who is convicted under this section will also be subject to a license suspension of 1 year for a first offense and 2 years for a second or subsequent offense. This license suspension also includes CDL licenses.

If you would like to join me in sponsoring this bill, please contact Amy Resetar at aresetar@pahousegop.com.