EDWARD G. STABACK, MEMBER DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN HOUSE GAME AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE

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April 26, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

SUBJECT:

Introduction of Legislation

FROM:

Representative Ed Staback

965

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that will amend the Title 71 (State Government) to include officers of the Pennsylvania Game Commission within the definition of enforcement officers. Similar legislation has passed the House in previous years including House Bill 603 from the 2005-06 legislative session.

Under current law, game wardens and wildlife conservation officers are not included within Title 71's definition of an enforcement officer. Thus, they are not offered the 55/25 retirement provision that exists for all other law enforcement officers, although their pension contribution is equal to those officers of other state agencies. This legislation fixes that discrepancy.

These men and women have Title 18 and Title 34 enforcement powers and face the hazards that accompany such duties, including threats to their lives. (Dog catchers in Pennsylvania have a much better retirement plan.) The Game Commission has been seeking this recognition of their law enforcement personnel for many years. I agree.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this bill, please contact Julie at 783-5043 or by email at ifoley@pahouse.net.