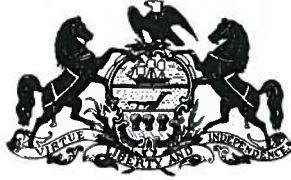


Michael A. Vereb
Republican Leadership
Caucus Secretary



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MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Mike Vereb

Date: April 26, 2011

Re: Proposed Legislation ~ Sunshine Act Clarification

As you all know, the Sunshine Act currently provides that meetings of government agencies must be open to the public if a quorum of members of the agency are present and the agency is deliberating or taking official action. However, some have recently called into question whether the act should be triggered when a quorum meets outside of the usual setting, such as at a restaurant, if agency business is discussed. Further, the emergence of alternative methods of communication, such as email and teleconferencing, have led to further ambiguities regarding when the act takes effect. To address these emerging issues, I intend to introduce legislation that would amend the Sunshine Act to clarify that the act applies when a quorum of the members of an agency meet to take official action or deliberate regardless of the location of the meeting or the medium used to conduct business.

I also believe that the consequences of violating the Sunshine Act are not severe enough to act as a deterrent to potential violators. Thus, my proposal would also increase from a summary offense to a second degree misdemeanor the penalty for intentionally violating the act. In accordance with this change, the maximum fine amount would increase from \$100 to \$5000 plus the costs of prosecution.

If you would like to cosponsor this piece of legislation, please contact Julianne Naccarato of my office via phone 705-7164 or email jnaccara@pahousegop.com.