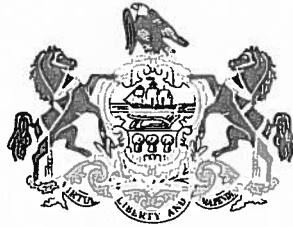


**SHERYL M. DELOZIER, MEMBER
88TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

PO Box 202088
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2088
Phone: (717) 783-5282
Fax: (717) 772-9994



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

MEMORANDUM

December 14, 2011

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Sheryl M. Delozier
SUBJECT: Co Sponsor Memo - Robbery/Theft/Burglary of Controlled Substances

While overall violent crime rates are down, a real and growing problem is the proliferation of the pharmacy robberies. Recently several pharmacies in Central Pennsylvania and one in Pittsburgh have been robbed.

The tragic death of four individuals at a Long Island Pharmacy in June by a drug seeking addict has caused several states to introduce legislation that would increase penalties for robberies occurring "in or in the vicinity of" a pharmacy. I believe the Commonwealth needs to address crimes where the objective is to procure controlled substances. I therefore plan to introduce a bill in the near future to accomplish just that. Rather than mimic other states, which proposed legislation would apply equally to a robbery to obtain drugs and a robbery for money that happened to be in a drug store parking lot, my bill will take a comprehensive approach to focus on the majority of crimes where the object is to obtain illegal substances. It will therefore increase the penalties for Robbery, Theft and Burglary where that is the objective.

Burglary of a building or occupied structure for the purpose of acquiring controlled substances would become a Felony of the First Degree. Currently, it is a Felony of the First Degree if the building is adapted for overnight accommodations or if someone is present. Otherwise it is a Felony of the Second Degree.

Robbery is currently a Felony of the First, Second or Third Degree, depending on the degree of force, level of threat or if the robbery occurs from a financial institution. My bill would make Robbery a Felony of the First Degree regardless of the level of threat or force.

Theft penalties range from a Misdemeanor of the Third Degree to a Felony of the First Degree. The latter applies only where the crime is theft by receiving a firearm and the offender is in the business of receiving stolen property. The other classifications turn on the value of the item stolen or the type of item stolen. My bill would make theft of a controlled substance or designer drug a Felony of the Second degree which is on par with theft of a firearm.

If you would like to become a co-sponsor of this legislation, please contact Jennifer Haines in my office at jhaines@pahousegop.com or 783-5282.

2929 Gettysburg Road, Suite 6
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Phone: (717) 761-4665
FAX: (717) 731-7126

Web site: RepDelozier.com
E-mail: sdelozie@pahousegop.com
Facebook.com/RepDelozier