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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

PA Senate Bill SB889 INTRODUCED ON 9/26/2017

Adding Campus Police Officers Employed by a State-Owned University, Community College or State-Related College or University into the Heart & Lung Act

Senate of Pennsylvania
Session of 2017 - 2018 Regular Session
MEMORANDUM

Posted:September 11, 2017 02:16 PMFrom:Senator Andrew E. Dinniman

To: All Senate members

Adding Campus Police Officers Employed by a State-Owned University,

Subject: Community College or State-Related College or University into the Heart

& Lung Act

I will soon introduce legislation to add campus police officers employed by a state-owned university, community college or state-related college or university into the coverage of the Heart & Lung Act (Act 193 of 1935). The Heart & Lung Act requires that persons acting in various law enforcement/fire-fighting professions (State Police, PLCB agents, Parole Officers, etc.) receive their full salary if they are off from work because they are temporarily disabled due to an injury in the line of duty. This act provides a higher level of monetary compensation than the Workers Compensation Act (which is 66 and 2/3rds of wages) in recognition of the additional service these professions provide for the safety of our society.

University Police not only serve the student population, but also much wider community and respond to calls from the neighborhoods where they work. On November 23, 2016, a Wayne State University police officer was shot and killed in the line of duty while attempting to conduct a pedestrian stop of a wanted subject. On December 8, 2016, a Georgia Southwestern State University Department of Public Safety Officer was shot and killed during a foot pursuit following a domestic disturbance. Campus police officers employed by a state-owned university, community college or state-related college or university engage in a profession that is as beneficial to protecting our citizens as some of the other professions already in the Heart & Lung Act, and should be added into the Act's coverage. This bill is a companion to Rep Murt's HB 623. Introduced as SB889

TWO REASONS WHY THE 2018 GOVERNOR'S RACE IS SO IMPORTANT

1. Right-to-Work

Is self-explanatory

2. Gerrymandering

No. 2 is addressed in an article posed online by the Patriot News © entitled: Pa. has crazy voting districts: Here are some ways to fix that

PENNLIVE © Article by: BY WALLACE McKELVEY

The article in part explains that congressional districts are drawn by state lawmakers, which means they typically reflect the will of the legislative majority (currently Republican). The maps are then subject to a governor's veto. That will be a factor in the coming 2018 gubernatorial election, since the winner could wield a great deal of influence over Pennsylvania's political climate for years to come.

A five-member commission draws the lines for state House and Senate seats. The majority and minority leaders of both chambers appoint one member each. Those four members then select a fifth member to serve as chairman. If they can't reach an agreement, the Supreme Court steps in to appoint one. In practice, the process invests a great deal of power in the court, which itself has a partisan tilt. The court

recently switched from a Republican majority to a Democratic one.

During the most recent round of mapmaking, Pennsylvania's process resulted in some creatively drawn districts. One example is the 7th Congressional district, which has been described as cartoon character Goofy kicking Donald Duck.

The article goes on to explain that any change would require amending the state constitution. In order to do that, the Legislature must pass a reform bill in two consecutive sessions (2017-18, the current session, and 2019-20) before it goes to a voter referendum in 2020.

"If we don't do something now, it's another whole decade before we can fix this and we can't afford that," Carol Kuniholm, Fair District's executive director.

To view and read entire article go to:

http://www.pennlive.com/news/2017/09/redistricting_how_do_other_sta.html#incart_2box_politics

INK BLOTS OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS? Patriot News (c) Picture

