

Disanto Bill Stripping Public Pensions for Felons Becomes Act 1 of 2019

egislation I introduced to ensure elected officials and public employees who commit job-related felonies are stripped of their taxpayer-funded pensions was signed into law on March 28th.

Prior to Act 1, the Public Employee Pension Forfeiture Act only required a pension forfeiture for a specific list of crimes. In practice, this allowed elected officials charged with a forfeiture crime to plead guilty to a different crime in order to avoid losing their pension.

My law also closes the "Mellow Loop-

hole," through which former State Senator Bob Mellow had his \$245,000-a-year pension restored despite pleading guilty and being sent to prison on conspiracy charges.

Act 1 puts elected officials and public employees on notice that they will no longer be able to abuse their power and walk away with lifetime benefits from tax-payers. This legislation was a significant step in restoring faith in government, and I look forward to advancing further government reforms.

Disanto Named Chair of Senate Aging and Youth Committee

have been appointed Chairman of the Senate Aging and Youth Committee for the 2019-20 legislative session.

As a first order of business, I convened a joint public hearing to ensure the PA Department of Aging is making necessary improvements to the older adult protective services system. The full hearing is available for viewing on the News Releases page (April 29) of my website, senatordisanto.com.

The Inspector General recently issued a report identifying significant system fail-

ures leaving vulnerable seniors at risk. Elder abuse is a serious concern, and we must do better in supporting our aging population.

As a proponent of educational opportunities for children and an advocate for replacing the school property tax to safeguard seniors living on fixed incomes from losing their homes, I look forward to working with my colleagues on policies to make Pennsylvania a better place for both young and old, where generations of families want to live and work.

Senator DiSanto's Senate Committee Membership

- Aging & Youth, Chair
- Education, Vice Chair
- Community, Economic & Recreational Development
- Finance
- Labor & Industry

• Urban Affairs & Housing

Senator DiSanto also serves on the:

- State Employees' Retirement Board
- Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee



Senator DiSanto discusses key legislative proposals to strengthen Pennsylvania's economy and create jobs at a business forum in May.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 12 6-7 PM Tele-Town Hall

Participate from your home in a conversation about legislative and budget issues.

Sign up at senatordisanto.com

Thursday, Aug. 15 3-7 PM Free Shredding Event for Personal Documents

Perry County Fairgrounds
Co-Sponsored with Rep. Mark Keller

Wednesday, Sept. 25 6-8 PM Hunting & Fishing Information Night

PA Fish & Boat Commission Headquarters Get up to date on hunting & fishing issues.

Saturday, Oct. 26 8:30 – 10:30 AM Veterans Appreciation Breakfast

Location TBD. Recognition for military service, great speakers and information for veterans.

Call my office or visit my website for additional details about any of these events.



Senate Box 203015 Harrisburg, PA 17120-3015



Key Legislation Introduced by Senator Disanto

Senate Bill 121, the Tax Limitation
Amendment, would require a twothirds vote of the General Assembly to increase taxes. Pennsylvanians shoulder one
of the highest state and local tax burdens
in the country. This amendment protects
taxpayers from the tax and spend culture
that pervades state government.

Senate Bill 637, Occupational Licensure Reform, eases the pathway to work for ex-offenders to provide economic opportunity and reduce recidivism. State occupational licensure boards should apply a fair and consistent approach when consid-

ering whether to deny, suspend, or revoke a job license on the basis of a criminal conviction. Licensing boards will be limited to considering only convictions which are directly related to the occupation and must assess applicants individually to consider rehabilitative factors.

Senate Bill 120, Streamlining and Expediting the Adoption Process, requires the courts to set a hearing date no more than 30 days after the birth parents file with the court a petition for relinquishment of parental rights to an adoption agency or adult wishing to adopt the child.

Senate Bill 326, Per Diem Reform, requires public officials and employees, including legislators, to provide receipts in order to obtain reimbursement for claimed expenses while on legislative business more than 50 miles from their home. Currently, legislators can collect many thousands of dollars in per diem payments for food and lodging without receipts just for coming to work at the Capitol.

For more of my sponsored legislation, visit my website at senatordisanto.com.

Senate Passes "Farming First" Bills in May

The agriculture industry generates more than \$7.5 billion in cash receipts annually. Farming and the businesses it supports are critical to our physical, social and economic health. It's important we put "Farming First" in Pennsylvania. Recently we passed legislation to do just that.

The package included:

- A tax credit program for landowners to lease or sell farmland to future generations of farmers.
- The creation of the Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission to bring together all industry stakeholders.
- Changes to the state's farmland preservation program to allow farmers more flexibility for building or subdividing residences.
- Updating Pennsylvania's Vehicle Code to allow the transporta tion of large farm equipment.
- Easing restrictions on the use of farmland for farm-related tourism and entertainment activities.



Senator DiSanto discusses key issues with Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding during the 2019 PA Farm Show.

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