



State Senator **JOHN M. DiSanto**

FEBRUARY 2020



15th District ★ Dauphin & Perry Counties

UPDATE from The General Assembly

DiSanto Fair Chance Job Licensing Bill Passes Senate

The Senate unanimously approved my Senate Bill 637 to extend second chances for rehabilitated individuals seeking meaningful employment, while growing our state's skilled workforce. More than 1 in 5 jobs require a government issued license and, too often, qualified applicants are denied the right to work because of old or irrelevant criminal records.

My legislation only allows state boards and commissions to deny, suspend, or revoke occupational licenses for criminal convictions that are directly related to the job or if the applicant poses an unacceptable risk to the public. State licensing entities will also be required to consider an applicant's employment history, character

references, and other rehabilitative factors.

Those who have served their time should be able to rebuild their lives with the chance to earn family-sustaining wages. Fair licensing laws reduce recidivism and help job-creators find qualified applicants to fill job openings at their businesses.

For these reasons my proposal has garnered a coalition of stakeholders, such as the Greater Harrisburg NAACP, the PA Chamber of Business and Industry, the American Civil Liberties Union, Justice Action Network, and more. SB 637 awaits consideration by the House of Representatives.

DiSanto Urges Total Elimination of School Property Taxes at Policy Committee Workshop

I attended a public forum with the Senate Majority Policy Committee at Penn State York to discuss proposals to fully eliminate school property taxes. We heard about the tens of thousands of state residents – especially seniors living on fixed-incomes – forced out of their homes as they become unable to pay an ever-increasing and regressive tax. Expert panelists at the forum shared instances in which school tax bills exceeded monthly mortgage payments.

I am a cosponsor of bipartisan legislation, **Senate Bill 76**, which provides a path to total school property tax elimination.

By shifting school funding to increased sales and income taxes, we can both provide adequate resources to our schools and a fairer tax structure for our residents.

No tax should have the power to leave you homeless and voters have spoken at the ballot box and public forums across the state in favor of elimination. I continue to advocate to my legislative colleagues to get behind a solution for our homeowners, and the Senate President Pro Tempore has recently indicated his interest in holding a floor vote on property tax reform this year.

DiSanto Nonprofit Security Grant Enacted into Law

I authored the creation of a new \$5 million nonprofit security grant to enhance safety for faith-based institutions and nonprofit organizations as part of **Act 83** of 2019. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency began accepting applications for security planning, equipment, and technology projects in January.

The new program offers additional

safeguards to the charities that serve our communities but have become targets of violent threats and actions. While we cannot undo past tragedies, we can send a message to our nonprofits and faith institutions that all of Pennsylvania stands with them against hatred and violence and that no one can break our common resolve to advance the public good.

Find my Community Outreach Offices at senatordisanto.com

facebook.com/SenatorDiSanto

twitter.com/SenatorDiSanto

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, Feb. 25,
Wednesday, June 10
& Sept. 2
6-7 PM
Tele-Town Hall**

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

**Sign up at
senatordisanto.com**

**Friday, May 8
8:30 - 11:00 AM
Business Leaders
Forum**

Widener Law School

For small business owners, executives & entrepreneurs to discuss relevant state policies and programs.

Coming Fall 2020

**Hunting, Fishing &
Outdoor Recreation
Issues Night**

**Veterans
Appreciation
Breakfast**

Location & Times TBD.

Stay in the loop!

Call my office or visit my website and sign up for my e-newsletter to get updates about upcoming events.



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DiSanto Aging & Youth Committee Approves Key Legislation

After being appointed Chairman of the Senate Aging and Youth Committee for the 2019-20 session, I have made it a priority to work in a bipartisan fashion with my colleagues on policies to make Pennsylvania a better place for both young and old. Three of the bills passed by the committee have already become law.

Act 88 of 2019 imposes a continuing obligation on mandatory reporters of child abuse when a reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect an individual

continues to have direct contact with children through the individual's employment, program, activity or service. The law also steepens the penalties for willful failure to report child abuse.

Act 95 of 2019 prevents nearly 10,000 seniors from losing their prescription drug assistance. This law ensures seniors are not pushed out of the PACE and PACENET programs due to small increases in income as a result of a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment.

Act 97 of 2019 gave the PA Lottery flexibility to provide the best product mix to maximize profit and increase funds for senior programs. With Pennsylvania's growing older population, it is critical PA Lottery meet the increased demand placed on important senior services.

To see my sponsored bills or send me your opinion about legislation, visit my website at senatordisanto.com

DiSanto Calls for Regulatory Reform at Public Hearing

Testified at a public hearing of the Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee at Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe, makers of Martin's Potato Rolls and other breads, to emphasize the need for reducing excess government regulation.

My first-hand knowledge of this subject stems from my career as a private sector businessman forced to divert more of my company's time from actual productive work to completing excessive paperwork

and jumping through regulatory hoops. Other testifiers as well as many constituents have expressed similar experiences.

To put the brakes on regulatory overreach, I have introduced **Senate Bill 5** to prevent any regulation with an economic impact exceeding \$1 million from being imposed without legislative approval. This prevents unelected bureaucrats from deviating from legislative intent and enacting

costly regulations that stymie our job creators without a demonstrable benefit.

I also introduced **Senate Bill 119**, which will count, cap, and cut state regulations. My legislation requires the state to get a handle on how much regulation is actually on the books and make a concerted effort to streamline government by eliminating two regulations for every new one enacted.



At the recent PA Farm Show, I joined State Rep. Mark Keller and PA Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding in recognizing the Smith Farm in Perry County as a Bicentennial Farm. This dairy farm has been in their family since 1772.

For more information about the Century & Bicentennial Farm Program or farmland preservation efforts, contact my office or visit agriculture.pa.gov.

Korean War Veterans May Be Eligible for Medal

The Office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey and my office invite eligible veterans to apply for the Korean War "Ambassador for Peace Medal". To be eligible, veterans must have served in Korea at any time during the period of June 25, 1950 through July 27, 1953. U.S. Navy veterans are eligible if their vessel was assigned to Korean waters during this specific time. UN peacekeeping forces assigned to Korea through December 31 of 1955 are also eligible. Contact my office to have an application mailed to you. A medal presentation ceremony will be held in Fall 2020.



I recently hosted East Hanover Elementary students on the floor of the Senate. If you or a group you belong to is interested in a State Capitol tour, contact my office for more information.

Help me save paper and postage by signing up for e-newsletters at senatordisanto.com.