

Senator
John Pippy



Accomplishments

Reforming State Government

- In 2005, 2007 and 2009 Senator Pippy sponsored legislation reducing the size of the House and the Senate. The most recent bill, **Senate Bill 201**, reduces the Senate from 50 districts to 40 and the House from 203 districts to 161, a 20 percent reduction. The bill would require a corresponding 20 percent reduction in both Senate and House budgets. This reduction would save taxpayers an estimated \$55 million.

Creating Jobs and Easing the Tax Burden

- Senator Pippy introduced **Senate Bill 1412** amending the Keystone Opportunity Zone, Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone and Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone Act to create 15 more KOEZ sites. It also extends the duration of the designation for seven to 10 years, depending on the project. Keystone Opportunity Zones use tax abatements to attract employers to Pennsylvania communities. Senate Bill 1412 became Act 79 of 2008.
- Senator Pippy sponsored **Senate Bill 726** to prevent windfall tax hikes. Municipalities and school districts in Allegheny County are now required to establish revenue-neutral millage rates in the tax year immediately following a reassessment. An identical bill, House Bill 1743 (Mustio), became Act 71 of 2005.

Improving Emergency Response

- Senator Pippy sponsored **Senate Bill 1225** to establish a statewide Mutual Aid Committee to oversee the implementation of a statewide mutual aid system. Mutual Aid Agreements are used to respond to manmade and natural disasters that require actions beyond the capacity of the municipality or county in which the incident has occurred. Pennsylvania is one of 15 states without a statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. As a result, this vital assistance is often provided without written agreements or clearly defined divisions of responsibility. Such an outdated approach raised questions about liability and workers compensation concerns and had to be changed. Senate Bill 1225 became Act 93 of 2008.

Gaming Reform

- Closing a loophole in the state Gaming Law, Senator Pippy introduced **Senate Bill 1209** to ban public officials, executive level public employees and party officers from holding any financial interest in gaming venues in the Commonwealth. Senate Bill 1209 became Act 135 of 2006.

Protecting Children and Families

- Pennsylvania's Megan's Law was updated and strengthened by **Senate Bill 1054**, sponsored by Senator Pippy, requiring all address information for sex offenders to be posted on the State Police website. Senate Bill 1054 became Act 179 of 2006.
- After the tragic murder of the daughter of a local family, Senator Pippy introduced **Senate Bill 465** and **Senate Bill 468** to require lodging establishments to conduct criminal background checks on all employees who may have access to guest rooms.
- Senator Pippy sponsored **Senate Bill 577** to direct the Department of Health to establish a program to promote public awareness and educate parents on the risk factors and prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). An identical bill, House Bill 47 (Curry), became Act 73 of 2010.

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Accomplishments CONTINUED

Assisting Military Families

- Senator Pippy introduced **Senate Bill 1150** in response to incidents of pickets and abusive chants targeting Pennsylvania military funerals. The protesters had been targeting grieving family members with vulgar language and other harassments to protest social and political issues. The new law limits the scope of protests at funerals and memorial services, protecting the rights of grieving families. Senate Bill 1150 became Act 63 of 2006.
- **Senate Bill 87** and **Senate Bill 88** were introduced to expand education opportunities for military personnel. Senate Bill 87 would allow higher education institutions to charge active duty military personnel lower, in-state tuition rates when they are taking courses over the Internet or through other electronic means. Senate Bill 87 became Act 57 of 2010. Senate Bill 88 would allow a child whose parents have been called or ordered to active military duty to enroll in a Pennsylvania Cyber School. This bill was added to House Bill 101 and became law.
- Senator Pippy sponsored **Senate Bill 180** to provide Honor Guard burial details for veterans buried in the new National Cemetery of the Alleghenies in Washington County. Senate Bill 180 became Act 85 of 2008.

Environment and Energy

- Senator Pippy sponsored **Senate Bill 672** to require all buildings designed or constructed with state funds to comply with "green" building standards as set forth by the Department of Environmental Protection in conjunction with the Department of General Services. The bill would have solidified Pennsylvania's position nationwide as a leader in the manufacturing of green building materials and in the design and construction of green buildings.
- Senator Pippy introduced **Senate Bill 176** and **Senate Bill 205** to authorize municipalities and municipal authorities to use public funds for the improvement, extension, repair or rehabilitation of private lateral sewer lines connected to public sewer lines if any of the following applies: the use will benefit public health by preventing overflows and backups onto private property, a public health or environmental agency has issued an order to reduce infiltration and inflow, or an engineering study has identified private laterals as significant contributors to wet weather overflow.

Education

- Senator Pippy has been a longtime advocate of early childhood education programs and special education funding initiatives. He has championed the effort to provide valuable services and funding to Pennsylvania's facilities serving special needs children. He also serves on the Autism Caucus, which succeeded in passing landmark and national model legislation. **House Bill 1150** (O'Brien) became Act 62 of 2008 and requires Pennsylvania insurance companies, for the first time, to cover treatment for a wide spectrum of autism disorders.
- Senator Pippy introduced **Senate Bill 1161** and **Senate Bill 198** to expand the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program to allow Approved Private Schools (that provide special education services to public schools) and the Chartered Schools for the Deaf and the Blind to receive funding for innovative educational programming.

Housing

- Senator Pippy introduced **Senate Bill 1400** to establish the "Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Act" or "PHARE." Through this initiative, the underfunded Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency would be given the resources to develop programs to build, rehabilitate and preserve homes for low-to-moderate-income individuals and families, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. This bill passed the Senate and reached the House in 2008. Similar language passed in 2010 and became Act 105 of 2010.