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House Passes Emrick Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission Legislation

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - This week, with a 200-1 vote, the House overwhelmingly passed my legislation (House Bill 607), which aims to tighten control over activities of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC).

My bill would allow for an annual, joint audit of the DRJTBC's finances and management operations by both the auditor general of Pennsylvania and the state auditor of New Jersey. Additionally, it would grant the governor veto power over decisions of the Pennsylvania commissioners like the recent toll increase just implemented.

I think it is absolutely egregious that the DRJTBC would enact a toll increase while Pennsylvanians and our businesses are still suffering financially due to the pandemic. My legislation would allow the governor to oversee and review all actions made by the commission and create another level of checks and balances especially since their decisions would affect travel between Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It is critical to provide full transparency of the commission's finances. I want to thank my colleagues for their continued support and hope that the Senate will bring this bill up for consideration in the coming weeks.

Additional information regarding this legislation can be found by visiting here.

I have also filed a Right to Know request to the DRJTBC inquiring about their current financial status, cost-cutting measures during the pandemic and its current cash reserves. I am awaiting a response to this request.



House Passes Emrick Bill Seeking to Relieve Homeowners of Property Tax Penalty

Seeking to eliminate an unfair and unnecessary tax burden, the House passed my legislation, House Bill 430, on Wednesday, which would waive the 10% penalty upon receipt of an affidavit during the first year of ownership if the new owners did not receive their property tax bill. The property owners would pay the full amount of the property taxes due and present a copy of their deed to prove their date of purchase.

There is nothing more aggravating to homeowners than getting unexpected fines and penalties on a tax bill they never received, especially when it is through no fault of their own.

There are many instances and reasons why a new homeowner fails to receive their property tax bill. This delay in receiving said tax bill can cause the new owner to miss the payment deadline. My legislation would address this unfair and unnecessary tax burden and better assist first-time or new homeowners.

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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