

Commonwealth Report

January/February 2011 Newsletter

News for the Citizens of the First Plymouth and Bristol District

Hello,

As this new Legislative session begins I would like to reach out to my constituents and inform you all on what my agenda is for this session and also give you an update from my office. We are in unprecedented fiscal times and we continue to face enormous challenges but please know it will continue to be my goal to represent the residents of my district the best I can. I encourage you to attend my upcoming office hours or contact me if you need assistance. Thank you,

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Senator Pacheco's Sworn In Outlines Legislative Agenda

Recently Senator Marc Pacheco and members of the Senate were sworn in for the 2011-2012 legislative session. Senator Pacheco wasted no time and outlined his legislative agenda for the session.

"I am honored the residents of the First Plymouth and Bristol district have given me the opportunity to continue serving them in the Massachusetts State Senate.

There are many challenges facing our communities today and I will work tirelessly with my colleagues in the legislature to ensure we face those challenges. During this session I will focus on serious issues like getting people back to work, creating jobs, increasing energy efficiency, finding ways to fund local aid and much more," said Pacheco.

Below are the bills Senator Pacheco highlighted:

An Act Providing Funding for Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Measures for Public Schools

This legislation would set up an energy efficiency bond program for public schools.

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Senate President Taps Pacheco's Expertise

Assigned Chair of Two Environmental Committees and Vice Chair of Energy Committee

Committee assignments for the Massachusetts State Senate were handed out recently. Senator Marc Pacheco D-Taunton has become the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change, Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee of Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy, a member of the Joint Committee on Transportation and, will serve as a member of the powerful Senate Committee on Ways and Means. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Pacheco Outlines Legislative Agenda

The program would be administered by the Massachusetts school building authority. This bill would help schools retrofit their facilities to be more energy efficient and for a project to be eligible, it must be revenue neutral.

The goal of this bill is to reduce energy consumption, save money and create jobs, all without increasing cost to the taxpayers.

An Act to Debar Employers Who Violate Federal Immigration Laws from Contracting

with the Commonwealth -This legislation would require the Administration to debar vendors that violate the federal laws prohibiting the employment of unauthorized aliens from state contracts.

An Act Establishing and Regulating Resort Casinos in the Commonwealth -This bill would allow for 3 resort casinos in the state, as well as allowing 1,200 slot machines at the each of the existing dog tracks, provided the track does not receive a casino license and does not elect to receive economic assistance under the act. Each track would be required to pay a licensing fee of at least

\$15,000,000 and commit to reinvest at least \$50,000,000 in the development and improvement of the gaming facility and related infrastructure.



An Act Relative to Dementia Special Care Units in Long-Term Care Facilities -Many nursing homes advertise that they provide specialized care to people with Alzheimer's, although there are no state standards defining Alzheimer's special care units. This bill directs the Commissioner of Public Health to promulgate regulations with input from the Alzheimer's Association and representatives from the provider community that will establish quality standards for long term care facilities that have special care units designed for people with dementia.

An Act Relative to the Repair, Removal and Replacement of Dams -There are more than 3,000 dams in the Commonwealth, many of which have been abandoned, are in

unsafe condition or no longer serve their original purpose. In addition, many dams pose a serious threat to people, property and the environment because they do not meet the state's health and safety standards. This bill would encourage dam removal wherever appropriate, strengthen enforcement measures, and ensure an inventory of dams is de-

veloped (complete with hazards classifications and emergency actions plans). It would also establish a revolving loan fund for private dam owners to inspect, repair and remove dams.

"These are just a few pieces of Legislation we will be working on, but I encourage the people I represent to continue to inform me of any concerns they have."

For more information on Senator Pacheco's legislative agenda, please contact his office.

Pacheco and Legislature Pass Legislation Honoring Veterans

Senator Marc R. Pacheco recently announced the passage of legislation authorizing the renaming of five bridges in honor of six soldiers that served this country. The five bridges include: The bridge on state highway route 44 spanning the Nemas-ket River in the town of Middleboro shall be designated and known as the Staff Sergeant Bruce A. Rushforth, Jr. Bridge, in honor of the late Bruce A. Rushforth, Jr., who served as a member of the United States Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. The bridge on state highway route 18 spanning the Town River in the town of Bridgewater, shall be designated and known as the Lance Corporal Kevin Preach Bridge, in honor of the late Kevin Preach who served his coun-

try in Afghanistan. The bridge on state highway route 140 on Washington Street spanning over the Mill River in the city of Taunton shall be designated and known as the Frank "Gasper" Sylvia Bridge, in honor of the late Frank "Gasper" Sylvia, in recognition of his service to his country in World War II as well as his service as a councilor to the city of Taunton. The bridge on state highway route 140 spanning the Bay Colony railroad tracks in the city of Taunton shall be named the Fernand Medeiros POW Bridge, in honor of Fernand Medeiros, who was held prisoner of war during World War II and was a councilor to the city of Taunton. The bridge on state highway route 44, spanning Spring

Street in the town of Carver shall be named the Julian M. Southworth and Nelson J. Garnett Bridge, in memory of Julian M. Southworth and Nelson J. Garnett, veterans from the town of Carver who served their country during World War II. Senator Pacheco, the chief sponsor of the legislation had this to say: "I am very pleased this legislation passed as it is a tribute to these veterans' lives and all they accomplished. Although these men fought at different times and in different wars, each ensured the many freedoms we have today. It was my honor sponsoring this legislation and I look forward to the individual bridge dedication ceremonies."



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-Senator Pacheco

Senator Pacheco Announces Office Hours

Senator Marc R. Pacheco, will be holding office hours for his constituents in each community in the First Plymouth and Bristol Senatorial District. The office hours will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday February 1, 2011
Berkley Public Safety Building
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
3 North Main Street

Dighton Council on Aging
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
300 Lincoln Avenue

Bridgewater Senior Center
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
10 Wally Kruger Way

Thursday February 4, 2011
Carver Town Hall
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
108 Main Street

Wareham Town hall
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
54 Marion Road

Marion Town Hall
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
2 Spring Street

Friday February 5, 2011
Raynham Town Hall
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
558 South Main Street

Middleboro Council on Aging
11:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
558 Plymouth Street

"I want to encourage any constituent with a question or who may need assistance to attend the office hours", Senator Marc Pacheco said.

Contact Information

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Senate President Taps Pacheco's Expertise (Continued)

Pacheco, a long time energy and environmental advocate had this to say, "I am very pleased Senate President Murray has recognized my passion for energy and environmental issues. I look forward to using my leadership positions to focus on serious issues facing our communities today."

"These committees all have a core group of similarities which will allow me to make significant contributions in the areas I am most familiar with. As I have mentioned before, we need to create jobs and help our environment. One of my first priorities in this legislative session will be an energy efficiency bond bill

which will help create jobs, increase energy efficiency, help our environment and produce cost savings. I also look forward to working on the Southeastern Massachusetts Rail plan in terms of energy efficiency."

Recipients of Senate resolutions and citations:

Congratulations, and thank you for your service

Florence B. Stevens: retiring after 42 years of dedicated service to the Bridgewater/Raynham public school system

David Moore: retiring after 20 years of dedicated service to the Town of Bridgewater

Stephen Hanna: retiring after 29 years of dedicated service to the Bristol County Probate & Family Court

Robert Cammarata: retiring after 34 years with Taunton's Department of Human Services

Department of Mental Health retirees:

Slaire Deterra (RN) 24 years

Diane Haskell (RN) 17 years

William Scott (MHW) 33 years

Idalina Chaves (FSW) 22 years

Happy 80th Birthday Kevin St. George

Susan McKay of Berkley: received the Arc of Massachusetts Distinguished Citizen Award

Bill Pye of the Sacred Heart Food Pantry received the Community Partner of the Year Award

John Sullivan, owner of Rich's Transportation Services, Inc. received SEED's Small Business of the Year Award



Meghan McAlpine, National American Miss Massachusetts with Senator Pacheco



Lorenzo's Italian Restaurant, 60th year anniversary (Lorenzo Grosso and Senator Pacheco)