



# Senator Jim Brewster

## PROTECTING TAXPAYERS

### Charter School Reform *Accountability. Oversight. Integrity.*

*The laws governing charter schools need to be reformed. We need greater accountability and transparency so that our children are well educated and our taxpayers are protected. I have reintroduced bills to reform PA's weak charter school regulations to ensure that the legislature moves toward a better comprehensive education system.*

#### ■ Financial Reforms

- Post a bond to guarantee they can operate the whole school year
- Gain approval of the host school board for the financing of new charter school construction in excess of \$1 million (with certain exceptions)
- Provide a detailed financial impact statement
- End lease payments to charter school board members
- Provide invoices for actual services provided to special education students
- Return any investment funds or interest accrued by charters not used to pay operating or necessary expenses back to host school district
- Waive the requirement that charter school students be bussed by a school district if the host school district does not bus its own students
- Prohibit the use of taxpayer dollars in advertising about the charter school

#### ■ Accountability Reforms

- Gain approval from multiple school districts if students are drawn from outside the host district
- Report quarterly to the host school district, with copies of the report sent to all host school districts
- Increase the percentage of certified teachers from 75% to 90% (current faculty grandfathered to lessen disruptions)
- Moratorium on the approval of new cyber charter schools



#### ■ Charter Appeal Board (CAB) Reforms

- Limit the CAB determination if school board acted appropriately during review of an application for a charter
- Require the PA Department of Education to visit the site of a proposed charter school. Report will become part of the charter school's application and become part of the record on appeal to the CAB
- Mandate the impact of the charter school on fiscal health of the school district be considered as part of the appeal

*"The goal of the charter reforms efforts is to create a partnership so that public and charter schools can succeed together without placing more burdens on the taxpayers." – Sen. Jim Brewster*

For more details about my Charter Reform legislation, visit [www.SenatorBrewster.com/charterreform](http://www.SenatorBrewster.com/charterreform)



# GOVERNMENT REFORM

## Brewster Reintroduces Legislation to Ban Per Diems and Other Lawmaker Perks

“Legislators are public servants, we are to work for the good of the people. It is time to restore public trust and put an end to these perks and privileges.”

– Sen. Jim Brewster

### ■ Suspend Annual Pay Hikes

**SB 361** – Replaces yearly, automatic cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) with a once-per-decade raise consideration following the decennial U.S. Census and calculated by the Consumer Price Index.

### ■ Stop Per Diem Payment *(I have written legislation to end per diems for the last 5 years)*

**SB 362** – Replaces per diem payments with reimbursement for actual expenses upon sufficient documentation.

### ■ End Expensive Vehicle Leases

**SB 363** – Ends state vehicle leases for members of the General Assembly, instead reimbursing for actual mileage and tolls for documented government travel.

### ■ Ban Gifts of Any Value

**SB 364** – Outlaws gifts of any value to members of the General Assembly. No member could solicit or accept, for their personal use or for another's use; a gift, favor, entertainment, hospitality, loan, or any other item of monetary value.



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