

TIM MAHONEY



STATE REPRESENTATIVE › 51ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Capitol Office: 324 Main Capitol • P.O. Box 202051 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2051 • (717) 772-2174

District Offices: 66A Lebanon Ave. • Uniontown, PA 15401 • (724) 438-6100

2944 National Pike • P.O. Box 122 • Chalk Hill, PA 15421 • (724) 437-2521

Meyersdale Community Center • 215 Main St. • P.O. Box 60 • Meyersdale, PA 15552 • (724) 437-2521

Confluence Community Center • 711 Logan Place • Confluence, PA 15424 • (724) 437-2521

 www.facebook.com/RepMahoney

DOOR PRIZES

SENIOR & VETERANS FAIR

VENDORS

October 21st • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Uniontown Mall • 1368 Mall Run Road

- ✓ Federal, state, county and local agencies
- ✓ Programs for veterans and seniors
- ✓ Come find out your eligibility!

HEALTH SCREENINGS



REFRESHMENTS



For more information, call Rep. Mahoney's office at (724) 438-6100.

National Guard pay hiked with Mahoney's support

An early supporter of House Bill 602, which raises the minimum base pay for members of the Pennsylvania National Guard from \$75 to \$100, Rep. Mahoney is pleased to announce that the measure recently became law.

This legislation will financially enhance lower-rank enlisted personnel that are activated by the governor for duty during emergencies across the commonwealth, such as those activated for Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011.

Mahoney felt this move was needed because the minimum base pay was last increased in 1996, from \$45 to \$75 per day. The new minimum makes the pay scale more equitable to today's market, and is yet another way to compensate our National Guard personnel for their unselfish sacrifices to both commonwealth and country in time of disaster or emergency.



Mahoney favored extension of Persian Gulf bonus program

Originally due to expire last year, Rep. Mahoney supported the bill that became law to extend the state's Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus Program through Aug. 31, 2018.

Anyone who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserve component, or the Pennsylvania National Guard in the first Persian Gulf War between Aug. 2, 1990 and Aug. 31, 1991 may be eligible.

The program pays \$75 per month for qualifying, active-duty service members, up to a \$525 maximum. For those whose death was related to illness or injury received in the line of duty in the operations, an additional \$5,000 is available to the surviving family. Service members who were declared prisoners of war also may be eligible for an additional \$5,000.

The deadline to apply for this benefit is now Aug. 31, 2018. For detailed instructions on how to apply, please visit www.persiangulfbonus.pa.gov or contact one of Mahoney's district offices.

Pennsylvania's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs also is asking veterans who might have previously been denied the bonus to reapply. New applications are required to reopen a claim.

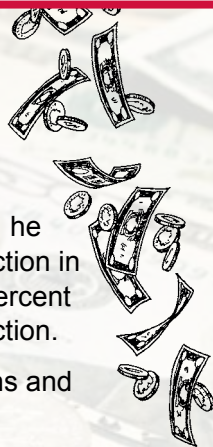
More disabled veterans would get property tax relief under bill supported by Mahoney

A bill Rep. Mahoney supports has been introduced, House Bill 1502, which would ease real estate tax burdens on disabled veterans, based on the degree of disability.

Currently, veterans classified as 100-percent disabled by the Veterans Administration are exempt from paying any real estate taxes on their primary home, provided they meet other program requirements.

Under this bill, if the Veterans Administration categorizes a veteran as 50-percent disabled, he or she would be entitled to a 50-percent reduction in real estate taxes owed. A veteran with a 20-percent disabled rating would earn a 20-percent reduction.

This bill is under review by the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee.



Be warned: You can get a year in prison for impersonating a vet

Act 32 of 2015 makes it a misdemeanor crime to falsely claim to be a veteran when requesting a veteran's driver's license or ID card.

This has become an issue since Act 176 of 2012 permitted the inclusion of a veteran's designation on state driver's licenses and photo IDs. The purpose of that law was to make it easier for veterans to prove their status without having to carry valuable papers with them at all times.

People convicted of making a false veteran's representation under this new law can face a fine of up to \$2,500 and/or one year in prison.

State registry for veterans makes it easier to get benefits

A new online Pennsylvania Veterans Registry is available to help veterans better access valuable benefits, services and programs.

The registry is operated by the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. A person who registers will have his or her information shared with the county Veterans Affairs Office and other relevant state agencies to coordinate services.

In addition, veterans who register can opt in to receive newsletters, news releases and program updates.

The site can be accessed at <https://register.dmva.pa.gov>.

Mahoney favors hiking prescription drug program income limits

Rep. Mahoney voted for legislation earlier this year that would expand prescription drug coverage to more than 32,000 older Pennsylvanians by increasing income eligibility guidelines for the PACENET program.

It's been 14 years since the PACENET income limits have increased. By updating the income requirements, Mahoney believes we ensure access to affordable prescription drugs and help thousands of our friends and family members maintain their quality of life.

House Bill 2069 would increase the annual maximum income limits in the PACENET program to \$31,000 for a single person, up from \$23,500, and to \$41,000 for a married couple, up from \$31,500.

The new limits haven't gone into effect yet – the Senate has to pass the bill and the governor has to sign it into law. Mahoney is hopeful that will happen soon.

The income limits for the first tier of prescription assistance, PACE, remain at \$14,500 or less for single people and \$17,700 or less for a married couple.

The PACE and PACENET programs provide low-cost prescription drugs to nearly 282,000 Pennsylvanians 65 or older. Both programs are funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery.

If you have questions about PACE/PACENET, Medicare or health insurance coverage, please contact or visit one of Mahoney's constituent service offices.

Property tax rebate deadline extended; Mahoney's offices offer free application help

The deadline to file a 2015 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application has been extended from June 30 to Dec. 31, 2016, and Rep. Mahoney's offices are here to help!

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Please don't assume you are not eligible. Half of Social Security income is discounted, and claimants are not disqualified from rebates solely because of Social Security cost-of-living adjustments.

The House last year passed legislation, House Bill 406, which would permanently extend the application deadline to Dec. 31 each year. It also would double the death benefit exemption to \$10,000 when calculating income eligibility for the program.



Mahoney supports law to better protect seniors from telemarketer scams

Financial exploitation is the fastest-growing category of elder abuse in the state, and Rep. Mahoney supports a bill that would provide seniors with greater protections.

The state's Do Not Call list currently prevents many telemarketers from calling you, if you're signed up. There are some exceptions to who may call you, including nonprofit organizations and businesses with whom you have an established relationship; however, violations do happen.

The Attorney General's Office is required to notify the General Assembly of any investigations and enforcement it takes against telemarketers who violate the law. Mahoney has supported a bill that would require the attorney general to make those reports monthly to the Department of Aging if any of the violations involve a consumer who is 60 or older.

The idea behind this bill is to help ensure that the Department of Aging can coordinate with local area agencies on aging to identify and prevent potential patterns of scams, sweepstakes fraud and other methods of financial exploitation.



Are you on the Do Not Call List?

You can find out by calling 1-888-777-3406 or visiting www.attorneygeneral.gov. You also may call one of Rep. Mahoney's offices and his staff can help you find out and sign up for it.

If you are on the Do Not Call List and you receive an unsolicited call from a telemarketer, you may file a complaint with the Bureau of Consumer Protection at 1-800-441-2555.

Seniors: Beware IRS telephone scam hitting our area



Rep. Mahoney would like to warn you about a continuing phone scam targeting people across the nation. Residents, including those in the 51st Legislative District, have recently received these calls.

Callers are claiming to be from the IRS and telling intended victims they owe taxes and must pay immediately. Those who refuse are threatened with arrest, a lawsuit, or loss of a business or driver's license.

Always remember: The IRS does not ask for credit card numbers, nor does it make its initial contact, over the telephone.

Additionally, it is important to know that the IRS:

- Never insists that taxpayers use a specific payment method to pay tax obligations.
- Never requests immediate payment over the telephone and will not take enforcement action immediately following a phone conversation. Taxpayers usually receive prior notification of IRS enforcement action involving IRS tax liens or levies.

Other characteristics of this scam include the callers using common names and fake IRS badge numbers; knowing the last four digits of the victim's Social Security number; making caller ID appear as if the IRS is calling; sending fake IRS emails to support their calls; and calling back claiming to be the police or DMV with a fake caller ID.

If you get one of these phone calls, do not provide any information, especially Social Security or account numbers.

To learn more about this and other scams involving the IRS, visit www.irs.gov/uac/tax-scams-consumer-alerts.

Other tips:

- If you know or think you owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. IRS employees can help with a payment issue if there is one.
- If you don't owe taxes, call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General at 1-800-366-4484.
- Also contact the Federal Trade Commission to register a complaint; add "IRS telephone scam" to the comments of your complaint. The address is: www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov

My offices can help you with...

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/ Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies



Any problem with state government!