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MEDIA ADVISORY

Hearing to be held Thursday on Grucela impact-fees legislation

MT. BETHEL, July 30 – State Rep. Richard Grucela, D-Northampton, will host a House Local Government Committee hearing Thursday to gather testimony on his educational impact fees legislation, which would address rapidly expanding residential developments and their impact on school districts' funds for educational programs. Committee Chairman Robert L. Freeman, D-Northampton, also will participate.

The hearing will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 2 at the Upper Mt. Bethel Township Municipal Building, 387 Ye Olde Highway in Mt. Bethel.

Media coverage is invited.

Grucela's legislation (H.B. 72) would allow school districts to impose education impact fees on new residential developments. The fees would enable a school district to fund the programs and facilities necessary to accommodate increased student enrollment due to new development in the district, rather than having most of the cost fall on existing residents and businesses.

Also expected to offer testimony are:

- John Reinhart, superintendent, Bangor Area School District
- Dr. Tim Kelsey, professor, Penn State University Department of Agriculture
- John Rice, township solicitor
- Christopher Baj, school board member, East Stroudsburg Area School District and member of the Pennsylvania School Boards' Association
- Mark Mitman, Pennsylvania Builders Association
- Sherry Darr, resident, Washington Township,
- Robert Gerwig, resident, Upper Mt. Bethel Township,
- Tom Lilli, resident, Upper Mt. Bethel Township

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