



# County of Bucks

## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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*County Commissioners*

JAMES F. CAWLEY, ESQ., *Chairman*

CHARLES H. MARTIN

DIANE M. ELLIS-MARSEGLIA, LCSW

June 20, 2008

Hon. Edward G. Rendell  
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**RE: Support of Commonwealth budget funding for district attorney salaries**

Dear Governor Rendell,

We, the Board of Bucks County Commissioners, are writing to urge you to work with the General Assembly to appropriate funds to cover 65 percent of full-time district attorney salaries as part of the Commonwealth budget, as stipulated by Act 57 of 2005.

As you are aware, Act 57 mandates that counties have full-time district attorneys, with the exception of those classified eighth class. This law included the provision that the state pay 65 percent of the salary of a full-time district attorney.

During the summer of 2007, legislation was signed that created a special fund designed to provide for the Commonwealth's share of district attorney's salaries through fees for certain convictions. This critical fund has dwindled to \$30,000, not nearly enough to cover the approximately \$6.5 million required for reimbursement to counties in 2008.

Further, we are deeply concerned that HB 2380, as amended, does not contain any funding for the Commonwealth's mandated 65 percent share. We implore you to address the shortcoming by allocating approximately \$7.5 million to honor the Commonwealth's obligation, which is clearly stated in Act 57. We also ask that you compensate counties for previous shortfalls occurring in the reimbursements of 2006 and 2007.

Sincerely,

James F. Cawley, Esq.  
Chairman

Charles H. Martin

Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW

cc: Michelle Henry, Bucks County District Attorney