

# BOB MERSKI

## Sign Up to Stay in the Loop!

Don't miss out! Each week, I send out an e-newsletter to keep folks up to date on new state programs, services and the latest happenings here at home and in Harrisburg. You can sign up for my e-newsletter by visiting [www.RepMerski.com](http://www.RepMerski.com) and scrolling down to the sign-up form.



### CAPITOL OFFICE:

221 Irvis Office Building  
P.O. Box 202002  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 787-4358

### DISTRICT OFFICE:

3921 Buffalo Rd.  
Erie, PA 16510  
(814) 455-6319  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F

### SATELLITE OFFICES:

City of Erie  
2808 State St., Suite 106  
Erie, PA 16508  
Tuesday, Wednesday,  
and Thursday  
9:00 AM until 4:30 PM

Summit Township  
Municipal Bldg.  
1230 Townhall Road W.  
Erie, PA 16509  
Wednesday ONLY  
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
or by appointment.

Greene Township Office  
9333 Tate Rd., Room 102  
Erie, PA 16509-6055  
Monday ONLY  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
or by appointment



[RepMerski@pahouse.net](mailto:RepMerski@pahouse.net)

@RepMerski

## Dear Neighbor,

Being your representative in Harrisburg is a job I take very seriously. I believe in putting people over politics and cutting through the noise in Harrisburg to deliver real results for our community.

I refuse to let partisanship or bureaucracy stand between Erie families and the resources they need. That means rolling up my sleeves, publicizing grant opportunities, meeting one-on-one with local leaders and nonprofits to learn their needs, and staying on top of the process until the funds arrive. It means providing top-notch service to every person who walks through our door or calls our office. When you need help, I don't ask – nor do I care – if you're Republican, Democrat or independent. One of the missions I passionately embrace is using my experience and know-how to help make life better for all of us. This hands-on approach prioritizes people over political posturing and turns plans on paper into projects that improve daily life.



If you have questions, concerns, or need assistance, my team and I are ready to help. Call us at (814) 455-6319, visit our office at 3921 Buffalo Road, or stop by any of our satellite locations, including our brand-new Erie office at 2808 State Street. We're here to listen and to serve you.

Serving as your representative in the Pennsylvania General Assembly is the greatest honor. I remain committed to working for our community every day.

Respectfully,

Bob Merski

## NEW SATELLITE OFFICE OPENS IN THE CITY OF ERIE

We are pleased to announce a new satellite office conveniently located at 2808 State Street, Suite 106, Erie, PA 16508. The office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 AM until 4:30 PM. Our Greene Township and Summit Township satellite office hours remain, providing state services throughout the district and right in your neighborhood!

## MERSKI FIGHTS FOR BETTER CELL SERVICE ALONG THE LAKESHORE

In response to constituent feedback about poor cell service along the East Lake Road corridor, Rep. Merski contacted Verizon, AT&T, and T Mobile to fight for better cellular service in our district. Verizon has agreed to increase coverage in alignment with an overall system upgrade.



MY LEGISLATION



Legislation that Passed the House

(These bills are currently waiting awaiting consideration in the state Senate)

- H.B. 273** — Establishes a Municipal Codes Enforcement Grant Program and a Municipal Neighborhood Mitigation Fund, authorizes counties to adopt property maintenance ordinances, and provides municipalities with resources to reclaim and restore blighted properties—strengthening community revitalization and public safety.
- H.B. 811** — Prohibits the fraudulent misrepresentation of a candidate using generative AI in campaign advertisements, creates civil remedies and penalties for dissemination without consent and with intent to unduly influence elections, and aims to protect election integrity and voter trust.
- H.B. 858** — Creates a comprehensive property registration list maintained by counties, requires accurate property contact information, assigns duties to chief assessors, and establishes penalties for noncompliance to improve municipal code enforcement and municipal–community communication.
- H.B. 1319** — Expands the definition of “materials” under the Mechanics’ Lien Law to explicitly cover rented machinery and specialized equipment, protecting equipment renters and small businesses from unpaid contractors and reducing disputes in the construction sector.
- H.B. 1403** — As prime co-sponsor, I helped lead efforts to ease the return of teachers with “voluntary inactive” certifications by waiving reactivation fees and permitting required continuing education to be completed through in-service days after they return to the classroom.
- H.B. 1404** — Extends the allowable period for intern certification, giving aspiring educators greater flexibility to balance work, study, and family while they complete training and transition into teaching careers.
- H.B. 1418** — Classifies e-foils and jetboards as personal watercraft where appropriate, aligns state boating rules with U.S. Coast Guard policy, requires registration, Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices, minimum onboard equipment, operator education, and engine cut-off standards, and empowers the Fish and Boat Commission to enforce these requirements—enhancing waterway safety while preserving recreational access.

Signed into Law

- H.B. 250 (Act 60 of 2024)** — Raises the annual income threshold for retirees qualifying for the reduced \$11 vehicle registration fee from \$19,200 to \$29,906, ties future adjustments to the Consumer Price Index, and eases financial burdens for fixed-income seniors while ensuring that relief keeps pace with inflation.
- H.B. 1431 (Act 36 of 2025)** — Permits Sunday hunting on dates set by the Pennsylvania Game Commission when private landowners opt in, addressing wildlife management challenges, reducing vehicle-deer collisions, and limiting crop and woodland damage while leaving participation to property owners’ discretion.

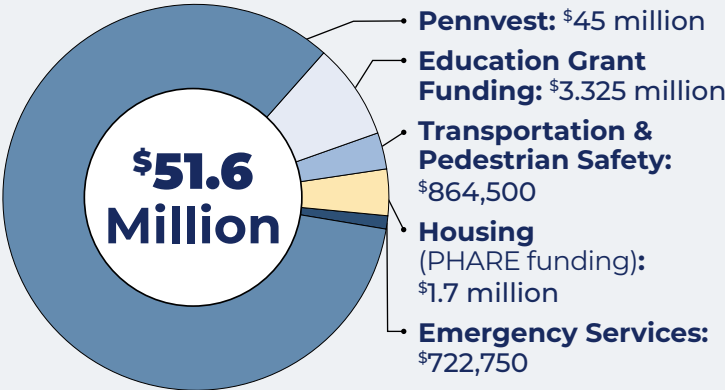
Legislation Awaiting Consideration in Committee

- H.B. 168** — Updates the Property Tax/Rent Rebate income definition to exclude Social Security COLA increases from countable income, preserving eligibility for households that exceed limits solely because of a COLA and protecting fixed-income seniors, widows, and disabled Pennsylvanians from losing vital relief.
- H.B. 169** — Requires the Department of General Services to offer used Pennsylvania State Police pursuit vehicles for sale directly to local and regional police departments at a fixed price before any public auction, allows departments to submit wish lists for notification when desired vehicles become available, and helps cash-strapped municipalities secure cruisers affordably to maintain public safety.
- H.B. 181** — Requires all political subdivisions and municipal authorities to maintain a publicly accessible website listing each board member’s name, term length and expiration date, contact email, appointing official or municipality, and the creating municipality’s public website, enhancing transparency, accountability, and public access to local governance.
- H.B.s 206 & 207** — Exempts non-military spouses of active-duty service members from local and state earned income taxes when they reside with the service member outside Pennsylvania, extending tax relief to military families and easing financial burdens during deployments.
- H.B. 208** — Eliminates the \$25 filing fee for national convention delegate and alternate candidates who appear on the primary ballot, leveling the playing field with party-selected delegates and removing a financial barrier to full participation in the nominating process.



- H.B. 210** — Requires the posting of National Human Trafficking Hotline information in restroom stalls, on mirrors, and near hand dryers and paper towel dispensers in public facilities to increase visibility and timely access to life-saving resources for trafficking victims.
- H.B. 272** — Establishes a Municipal and Emergency Responder Solar Grant Program, modeled on Solar for Schools, that provides grants covering up to 50% of solar project costs—including purchase and installation, lease or PPA prepayment, energy storage, interconnection, permit fees, and other eligible expenses—to lower energy costs for local governments and emergency responders, spur job growth, and expand clean energy access.
- H.B. 367** — Encourages employers with 50 or more employees in Pennsylvania to consider in good faith employee requests for flexible working arrangements—such as telework, hybrid schedules, or adjusted hours—without mandating adoption, to improve recruitment, reduce employer and employee costs, and help workers balance caregiving, training, and other responsibilities.
- H.B. 431** — Creates the offense of disseminating an AI- or computer-generated impersonation of an individual without that person’s consent, makes it a first-degree misdemeanor if the defendant knew or had reason to know the content was artificially generated, and elevates the crime to a third-degree felony when the dissemination was intended to defraud or injure another person.
- H.B. 522** — Authorizes leasing of designated submerged lands in Lake Erie for offshore hydropower, solar, and wind projects; requires DEP to consult with DGS, DCNR, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the Game Commission to map suitable areas that avoid nearshore zones, shipping lanes, and migratory bird pathways; and permits qualified lessees to develop projects in return for royalty payments to the Commonwealth, advancing renewable energy while protecting navigation and wildlife.
- H.B. 696** — Eliminates the statutory minimum 1,500-slot machine requirement for Category 1 and Category 2 casinos, allows casinos to adjust inventory to market demand while requiring Gaming Control Board approval for reductions exceeding two percent, mandates applicants demonstrate no adverse impact on revenue, taxes, employees, local governments, or the Commonwealth, and preserves regulatory oversight to protect revenues and communities.
- H.B. 787** — Allows dentists with compact privileges to apply to practice in Pennsylvania through interstate recognition, enabling dentists and dental hygienists in good standing to relocate and practice efficiently while preserving the State Board of Dentistry’s licensing authority and maintaining Pennsylvania’s high practice standards to expand access to dental care.
- H.B. 788** — Reduces the Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax rate from 11.5% to 8.99% immediately, implements annual scaled reductions until the rate reaches 4.99%, and extends the net operating loss lookback period from 3 years to 10 years, strengthening community-based mutual thrift institutions and supporting local economic stability.
- H.B. 1870** — Provides reduced-fee driver’s licenses and identification cards for qualifying retirees with annual incomes at or below \$29,906, indexes the income threshold to the CPI-U annually, and ties the reduced-fee amount to CPI-U adjustments every two years, mirroring the existing reduced vehicle registration benefit to ease costs for low-income seniors.

RECENT FUNDING AWARDS



Proud to have worked to secure a \$487,750 grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Erie Police Department to purchase a new SWAT vehicle.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



We had an incredible turnout at our annual Senior Fair, co-hosted with State Representative Pat Harkins. It was a pleasure meeting so many of our communities’ seniors and seeing firsthand how the services and resources on site are helping people.



Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and energy—your efforts made the day a great success. We’re already looking forward to next year!



Supporting students and teachers through our school supplies drive. Thank you to everyone who donated!



3921 Buffalo Road  
Erie, PA 16510

lpo.ks.1025



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like your help. Please contact me at: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like you to speak to my group or organization \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to know your views on: \_\_\_\_\_

The issues important to me are:

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Property Taxes
- ☐ Unemployment
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Economy
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Voting/Elections
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Snip off this form, insert it in an envelope, affix postage and address it to:  
**State Rep. Bob Merski, 3921 Buffalo Rd., Erie, PA 16510.**

ONLINE  
EXTRAS!

If you'd like to see our community outreach events and photos that didn't make the publication, or a detailed explanation of our grant funding, just follow the link below or use the QR Code.

