

Senate Bill to Strengthen PCEE Passes House Committee Awaits House of Representatives Review

SLIPPERY ROCK, PA – July 5, 2007 – A bill designed to strengthen The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE), has been passed by the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and awaits review by the full House. Senate Bill 356, sponsored by state Sen. Mary Jo White (R-21), would establish governance and a board for the center. PCEE was created ten years ago by Executive Order and provides important resources for use in environmental education by schools, not-for-profit organizations, businesses and individuals.

“We are encouraged by the progress of this bill to date,” said Kathleen Paul, Director of PCEE. “We especially appreciate the efforts of Sen. White on our behalf, as well as Sen. Raphael J. Musto (D-14) in the Senate, and the chairs of the state House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Rep. Camille “Bud” George (D-74) and Rep. Scott E. Hutchinson (R-64).”

The legislation was reintroduced in the current session by Sen. White to strengthen the successful statewide environmental education program based at Slippery Rock University, and was approved in March by the Senate.

The Senate approved similar legislation sponsored by White in the previous two legislative sessions, but the House of Representatives did not vote on the measures.

The legislation would amend the Environmental Education Act to establish the PCEE in statute.

About PCEE: The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) was created by Executive Order of the Governor in 1997 to “provide an avenue for increased participation by educators, local officials, citizen and non-profit groups, business and industry as partners in the implementation of quality environmental education on a state-wide basis.” Administered by the PA State System of Higher Education, PCEE is housed at Slippery Rock University.

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