

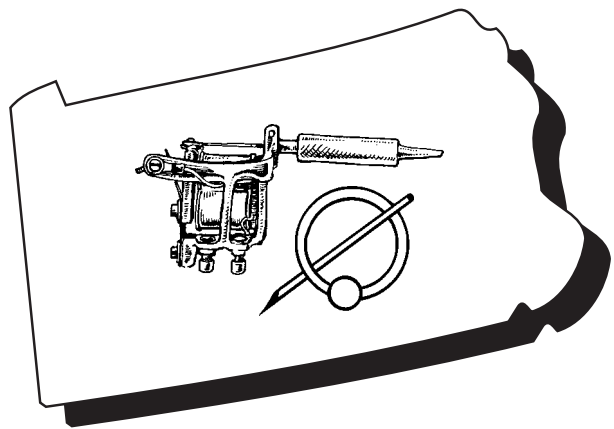
Pennsylvania Coalition of Professional Tattooists & Body Piercers Newsletter

In
Unity
There
Is
Strength!

May/June 1998
Volume 1, Issue 9

I N S I D E !

- The Future of House Bill 332•
- Official Coalition Petition•
- Writing to Your State Senator•



Coalition Hotline:

412•531•5319

<http://www.pa-tattoo.com>

R E A D T H I S N O W !

If you only read one item in this newsletter, I beg you to read this paragraph. It's the condensed, simplified version - it's the cold, hard truth! House Bill 332 has passed the House of Representatives and is now in the hands of a Senate Committee to determine whether it should be voted on or revised and returned to the House. I don't care who you are, where you work, what you're political views are, etc., the bottom line is that HB 332 is simply a bad piece of legislation (lawyers and the ACLU agree). If enacted, it would do more harm than good to our livelihoods! If you're already a Coalition member, then continue writing your letters and spreading the word to your clients and other studios in your area. If you're not involved, then you should be! This legislation will effect us ALL and it's not going away if we ignore it. We need to be involved and ensure that the outcome is a positive one for tattooing and piercing professionals!

Editor's Notes

Finally we have another newsletter - a bit late I know - but so much has transpired since our April meeting that I've been struggling to keep up with it all. With HB 332 passing in the House of Representatives on April 29th, the newsletter fell a few rungs down the priority ladder - getting the word out to everyone was at the TOP of the list!

Since there's so much to cover, I decided to just bullet point everything - which doesn't make for a very exciting newsletter - but we'll settle for function over form this time around.

- HB 332 has passed in the House and been forwarded to the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee. There are several scenarios that could take place, the worst of which would be that the Senate would pass HB 332 and send it to Governor Ridge for his signature into law! We're doing everything we can to ensure that this DOES NOT happen. We've already made contact with several members of the Senate Committee and we're scheduling meetings for this summer.

As we've always stated, we have no problem with safety and sterilization issues - if that's all this bill called for, I think we could all live with that - but only two paragraphs of this 14 page bill deal with that issue - the remainder of HB 332 targets our civil and constitutional rights, as well as those of our clients! The ACLU and two other lawyers have all said that, "This is a bad bill." We need to drive that message home to our Senators and Representatives.

The Senate session ended June 9th and won't reconvene until mid-September, so we have the summer to prepare and build our defense. We've been told that the Senate Committee won't get to this legislation until October, which is encouraging, but we were also told that the House most likely wouldn't do anything with HB 332 - a week later, it was passed! This isn't something we can sit and wait on, we have to act NOW!

There's a list of committee members and an example letter in this issue. You have to write letters and you have to encourage your customers to do the same. There's also a petition in this issue, keep it in your studio with a copy of HB 332, take a

minute to explain the situation to your customers and encourage them to sign the petition - writing a letter would be best, but we'll take what we can get at this point. Keep in mind that everyone who signs the petition should be 18 (voting age) and a resident of Pennsylvania - incorrect or bogus information can void an entire petition, even if it's only one in 10,000 signatures!

- Keep in mind that there may be a public hearing in front of the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee in the Fall. If that happens, you should at least be present to show your support, or you may want to testify. If you do, let me know now so I can begin compiling a list and let you know what is involved. Suits and ties are a MUST at hearings!
- We've always thrown around the idea of raising money and hiring a lobbyist to represent us in Harrisburg. The question was recently raised, "why don't we just hire a lobbyist now and kill this bill?" It's a very valid question, especially when you consider that if only half of the 200+ studios in the state participated, it would only cost each studio about \$100 for us to hire a lobbyist. The catch is this - hiring a lobbyist DOES NOT guarantee killing House Bill 332! Certainly, lobbyists help defeat legislation all the time, but there's only so much they can do! The Coalition's goal has always been to exhaust our other resources before spending \$10,000 dollars of our hard earned money - it may come to that, but we'll do everything we can to avoid it!
- Damian Guerin (lawyer and professional tattooist from Philadelphia) has offered his legal support to the Coalition for this legislative issue. You may have recently read the article about the Tattoo Artists Legal Defense that Damian and Mario Barth have formed - Damian knows the score and has represented tattoo artists across the country. A Pennsylvania tattooist and lawyer - we couldn't ask for anything better!
- Along those same lines, Cathy Bubash, wife of long-time Pittsburgh tattoo artist Nick Bubash (Island Avenue Tattoos) has also offered her legal help to the Coalition. We're beginning to stack the deck!
- At the April meeting in Carlisle, it was decided that bi-monthly

Continued On Page 3

Notes Continued

newsletters and quarterly meetings would best suit everyone's schedule and the Coalition's budget. This is the May/June issue of the newsletter and our next meeting is scheduled for July 12th at 1 PM in Carlisle. As always, if we need to increase the frequency because of special circumstances, we will! (See Below)

- When HB 332 passed, we were flooded with phone calls and requests for information. So many calls came in from the Western Pennsylvania area that we decided to host a special meeting in Pittsburgh on Thursday, May 14th. We had over 55 people attend and signed up almost a dozen new Coalition members, so the effort was well worth it! I've spoken with Bob Stern (World Famous Tattoos, Perkasi) and we're going to coordinate a similar meeting for Eastern Pennsylvania, most likely in late July, early August. You'll be notified via mail with all of the information.
- Misery loves company and the press seems to love other people's misery even more, so when HB 332 passed, the papers were flooded with articles. I have a batch that I'll copy for the next meeting, but if you have any, please forward them to me. It was good that tattooists and piercers finally got to speak their piece, especially after all the media attention Rep. Krebs got several weeks earlier.
- Thanks to Duke Miller (Tattoos by Duke) we now have a copy of the proposed Ohio regulations. The Ohio Governor already signed these regulations into law and they were effective on October 14, 1997 - but the Ohio Department of Health is still trying to pull everything together. This material was dated late January, 1998, and they were just asking for tattooists and piercers to submit information! I'll have copies of select pages at the next meeting. The most interesting section is the three pages that outline how registration and license fees will be determined - do the math!

Western PA Car Pool Information

The van trip to Carlisle for our April Meeting went very well - everyone pitched in \$15-20 to cover the rental, gas and tolls and our trip went fine. We're planning the same for the July 12th meeting, so if you're interested, please call **Tim** at **412-531-5319**, as soon as possible. We're limited to 12 people, but if the demand is there, we can look into renting a larger vehicle, possibly even chartering a bus!

Date: Sunday, July 12th
Time: 9:00 AM
Place: Moio's Parking Lot (Monroeville Bus. Route 22, Across from Cochran dealership)
Cost: \$10-\$15 depending on the number of people

Using The Petition

The petition on the following page is for you to collect signatures in opposition to House Bill 332. Writing a personal letter to a Senator is the best way to communicate, but I know how hard it is to encourage people to write. This is the next best thing! Make as many copies as you need, or call me and I'll send you a stack. Keep the petition with a copy of HB 332 in your waiting room and encourage every customer to read the bill and sign the petition (get them to write a letter, too!). Be sure to answer any questions they might have. As you fill sheets, you can mail them to me or hang on to them and turn them in at the next meeting. The goal is to have a stack to turn over to the Senate!

There are two important rules - 1.) Everyone who signs the bill should be a Pennsylvania resident; 2.) Everyone who signs the bill should be at least 18 years old (voting age). You should also know that any false information will nullify a petition (even if it's only one signature in 10,000).

COALITION CLASSIFIEDS

Welcome to the Coalition Classifieds! Ads may be purchased under the following guidelines: Price is \$10 for one (1) issue, \$20 for three (3) issues. Ad size is one (1) column inch which translates to five (5) lines of typeset characters. The Editor reserves the right to edit copy to conform to space constraints. All ad copy should be typed or printed and should be mailed along with payment (check or money order payable to **Pennsylvania Coalition**) to: Pennsylvania Coalition, PO Box 502, Carnegie, PA 15106. Please indicate the number of insertions and include your phone number. Please call for pricing on larger ads. **412-531-5319**

FOR SALE: One (1) Autoclave, Castle 777 Speed Clave (\$250).
One (1) Branson Ultra Sonic Cleaner, Model 1210 (\$100).
Call The Quillian @ 610-770-7587.

FOR SALE: One (1) Electric Ritter Dentist Chair. Contour style, black pleather upholstery. Good Condition. \$400.
Call Drake @ 814-726-2860.

Target Mailing List

A letter to YOUR State Senator is certainly important, especially if HB 332 ever reaches the Senate floor for a vote, but a letter to one or all of the Senators that comprise the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee is even more urgent. This committee will review HB 332 and determine whether it should be voted on by the Senate, amended and returned to the House, etc. Below is a list of the Committee members and their addresses and phone numbers. Senator Bell (Chairman) and Senator Uliana (Vice Chairman) are the two most important members to target, but I would suggest writing a letter to Bell and Uliana and carbon copying all of the members - leave no stone unturned! If one of the committee members also happens to be your State Senator, then you're in an even better position as a voting constituent! You can use the example letter for guidance, or call me with questions.

Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee

- Senator Clarence Bell (R) -
Chairman, District 9
Senate Box 203009
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3009
- Senator Roy Afflerbach (D)
District 16
Senate Box 203016
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3016
- Senator Joseph Uliana (R) -
Vice Chairman, District 18
Senate Box 203018
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3018
- Senator Robert Jubelirer (R)
District 30
Senate Box 203030
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3030
- Senator Albert Belan (D)
District 45
Senate Box 203045
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3045
- Senator Stewart Greenleaf (R)
District 12
Senate Box 203012
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3012
- Senator Allen Kukovich (D)
District 39
Senate Box 203039
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3039
- Senator Gerald LaValle (D)
District 47
Senate Box 203047
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3047
- Senator Jeffrey Piccola (R)
District 15
Senate Box 203015
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3015
- Senator Robert Tomlinson (R)
District 6
Senate Box 203006
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3006
- Senator Daniel Delp (R)
District 28
Senate Box 203028
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3028

Bill Status

Following is a list of the active House and Senate Bills that deal with tattooing and/or body piercing and their status as of Monday, June 8, 1998.

- HB 332 (*Passed in House & Forwarded to Senate Professional Licensure Committee*)
- HB 950 (*in Health and Human Services Committee*)
- HB 2034 (*Judiciary Committee*)
- SB 847 (*Appropriations Committee*)

Example Letter...

Following is the e-mail that I sent to every Senator in the state on the same night that HB 332 was passed in the House. Since people are always asking, I thought this would be a good example - it's short, simple and direct, and most importantly, it got results - which is what you want. I had five Senators e-mail me back with invitations to discuss this legislation with them face to face! This certainly isn't the greatest letter ever written, but it's a starting point if you're looking for one. Always include your address and phone number so that Senators and Representatives can reply!

Honorable Senators of Pennsylvania,

I am writing this letter in response to House Bill 332, which was passed just hours ago and forwarded to the Senate for consideration.

My name is Tim Azinger and I am the director of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Professional Tattooists and Body Piercers, an organization formed in response to just such legislation.

Sterilization and safety issues have never been a question for practicing professionals - it's something that we base our businesses, our reputations, as well as the safety of our clients and ourselves on.

We do however take issue with the overzealous approach that Representative Krebs has taken to our livelihood. Despite our repeated attempts to be involved in the development of such legislation, Representative Krebs and his colleagues have given little (if any) attention to the information we have presented to them.

This legislation oversteps the bounds of protecting the general public from some perceived threat and, if passed, would only serve to drive the nonprofessional practitioners that it claims to target further underground - causing more harm than good. In addition, there are certain elements of HB 332 that I believe are blatant violations of our civil rights!

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss our opposition to HB 332 and the many ways we believe it will harm our business.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter and hope that we might be able to speak in person in the near future.

Sincerely,

Tim Azinger
Director
Pennsylvania Coalition of Professional
Tattooists & Body Piercers
412-531-5319 (Option #2)
PO Box 502
Carnegie, PA 15106