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TO: Members of the House Education Committee

SUBJECT: Position Paper – House Bill 91, P.N. 80 (Rep. Evankovich)

DATE: January 17, 2013

PBA SUPPORTS HOUSE BILL 91

Bill Summary

House Bill 91 amends the Tax Reform Code to include career or technical schools under the definition of “public school.” The bill also provides for a 10% set-aside of tax credits under the Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program for businesses that contribute to career or technical schools through Educational Improvement Organizations (EIOs).

PBA Position

PBA supports House Bill 91 for the reasons listed below. We ask that you vote in support of the legislation.

- **There is a critical need for career and technical training in Pennsylvania.** According to findings by the Governor’s Manufacturing Advisory Council, 82% of manufacturers report a moderate or serious skills gap among employees. The same holds true for a wide range of industries throughout the Commonwealth. This skills gap prevents growth, prohibits a decline in unemployment, and stagnates the economy.
- **Career and technical centers are tragically underfunded.** Direct funding for career and technical assistance accounts for less than 1% of the overall education budget in Pennsylvania. Despite the growing need for skilled employees and the enormous benefit that career & technical education (CTE) provides, these centers are not receiving the assistance they greatly need.
- **The EITC program allows businesses to have a stake in the regrowth of Pennsylvania’s economy.** House Bill 91 would allow businesses to invest in CTE and ensure that generations of skilled workers learn in Pennsylvania, work in Pennsylvania,

and stay in Pennsylvania. Encouraging contributions to CTE centers will allow those facilities to receive the same benefits as other public schools.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 717-386-9941 or bsailhamer@pabuilders.org.