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News for Immediate Release

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Auditor General DePasquale Commends Senate Passage, Urges House to Take Up Reforms at Delaware River Port Authority

HARRISBURG – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today praised the Senate for passing legislation to implement several reform measures at the Delaware River Port Authority, including preventing the agency from engaging in economic development activities.

“I commend Senator Rafferty for leading the legislative push for much-needed reforms that will improve transparency, accountability and good governance at the Delaware River Port Authority,” DePasquale said.

“I will continue to fight for reforms at the DRPA and encourage the agency to focus on its sole mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable transportation.”

Senate Bills 286 and 287, sponsored by Transportation Committee Chairman Sen. John Rafferty, received unanimous approval by the full Senate today. They now go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Since joining the DRPA board in January 2013, DePasquale has been pushing to improve openness and transparency to boost public confidence in the agency which has a history of providing perks and patronage while conducting business behind closed doors.

Among the successful internal reforms, last year the agency adopted DePasquale’s transparency resolution to require public disclosure of political contributions made by Delaware River Port Authority contractors.

The DRPA is a regional transportation agency serving the people of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. It is administered by a 16-member board of commissioners – eight each from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. DRPA owns and operates the PATCO (Port Authority Transit Corp.) commuter rail line, and the Benjamin Franklin, Walt Whitman, Commodore Barry and Betsy Ross bridges.

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