



Pennsylvania Municipal League
President – Derek Green, Councilmember, City of Philadelphia



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
President – Nathan Silcox, Commissioner, Hampden Township

MEMO

To: Members of the House Local Government Committee

From: Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, PML and PSATC

Date: May 4, 2021

Re: Bills on the Committee Schedule for May 5, 2021

On behalf of the members of the PA Municipal League and PA State Association of Township Commissioners, I am writing to provide our position on several bills coming before the Committee tomorrow, May 5.

House Bill 1169 (Moul) – Support – provides for building permits to be forwarded to county assessment offices.

House Bill 1171 (Freeman) – Support – places ethics requirements on Act 47 coordinators.

House Bill 1184 (Moul) – Support – provides for updates and technical changes to the Borough Code.

House Bill 141 (Maloney) – Oppose – this bill mandates that local subdivision ordinances be amended to accept a DEP waiver which the agency currently uses to waive testing requirements on non-building lots. This waiver is given by DEP when a sub-divider declares there is no present *or future* need for sewage facilities on a lot, for example -- at lot used for a cell tower or water tower.

Mandating DEP's waiver to control at the local level is inappropriate and circumvents the local land use process. Furthermore, there is no disclosure or recording process in the bill to identify lots granted the DEP waiver. This may result in a future owner, who does intend to build, not knowing his lot has never been through the local subdivision processes and perhaps is not even suitable for sewage facilities. At best, the use of this waiver, should be at the option of a municipality to accept.

Thank you for your consideration.