

League Link

A Newsletter of [The Pennsylvania Municipal League](#)



August 2021



Advocacy Action

First Responder PTSI Bills Would Create an Expensive Unfunded Mandate

Senator Camera Bartolotta and Representative Frank Ryan introduced [Senate Bill 775](#) and [House Bill 1732](#) respectively to provide emergency service and public safety personnel benefits under workers' compensation for post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI), regardless of whether or not the injury is accompanied by a physical injury.

While The League supports increasing the awareness of PTSI in first responders and providing the necessary treatment, the current language of the bills would place an unsustainable mandate on local governments, estimated to cost approximately \$220,000 to \$240,000 per claim. The League in partnership with other local government organizations is calling for the bills to be amended in a manner that would ensure the PTSI benefit be sustainable and insurable at reasonable costs to local governments and taxpayers.

The League and its coalition partners [sent a letter](#) to the Senate co-sponsors asking for amendments to SB 775, including, but not limited to:

- limiting the compensable injury to PTSI as an injury under the Workers' Compensation Act rather than a presumptive occupational disease;
- requiring the claimant's PTSI be caused by direct exposure to a defined traumatic event which would be specifically listed in the legislation;
- precluding injuries that occurred prior to the legislation's enactment date;
- making the effective date of the legislation at least 12 months after enactment to allow local governments and their insuring entities to adjust to the new law; and
- placing a duration cap on benefits to guard against runaway claims.

Please [reach out to your Senators](#) to express the need to create a more sustainable solution to providing PTSI benefits than what is currently in the bills as introduced.

Reminder: Voting Delegate/Resolutions Committee Appointment

Please make your Voting Delegate/Resolutions Committee appointments for The League's Annual Summit by Friday, September 3. Contact Kaitlin Errickson, Governmental Affairs Representative, at kerrickson@pml.org with any questions.

Executive Director's Report



Check out the section on our website dedicated to member [Community Response During Coronavirus](#).

WE'RE ALL IN THIS
TOGETHER



League's Latest

The 2021 Municipal Leadership Summit will be held on October 7 – 9 at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square. [Click here to Register](#). The program agenda is now available [here](#).

The 2021 APMM Fall Managers' Meeting will be held on October 21 – 22 at the Hilton Harrisburg. [Click here to view the Save the Date!](#)

Message from PennPRIME Insurance Trusts – Cyber Safety Tips from PennPRIME: You or your coworkers might be continuing to work from home on a full or part-time basis as a result of the pandemic. Since most municipal entities do not have a dedicated IT person to address issues proactively, this can cause computer security problems to surface. Do you fall into any of these categories?

- You click on a link that appears to be related to COVID-19 information but is actually a phishing scam.
- You were quickly outfitted with a municipal laptop or other electronic device that had not been updated with malware detection and other security features that are standard when working in the office environment.
- You send emails, use the internet, or save files outside of your municipal cloud connection because it is faster/easier.
- While trying to juggle work, home schooling, and keeping connected to friends and family, you use your personal devices and work devices interchangeably to get the job done.
- You share the same password between personal and work accounts (23%) or you have a single password across all sites (33%) or your password isn't strong enough (75%). *(data from Capterra's Remote Work Survey 2020)*

The National League of Cities, a partner of PML/PennPRIME, has provided "[Tips to Improve Cybersecurity While Working Remotely](#)". We encourage you to read these suggestions and stay cyber-safe in the upcoming months. We value your membership in the PennPRIME Trusts and we appreciate all you do as frontline workers for your communities. Thank you for your continued service.

For more information, see our [News & Announcements and newsfeed](#) on our homepage as well as our League COVID-19 Weekly Update email blasts every Friday.

Also be sure to check out our [COVID-19 Resources for Local Leaders](#) webpage.



COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR LOCAL LEADERS

Resource Roundup

You are invited to join upcoming White House Briefings on the Build Back Better Agenda. [Please click here to view topics and register for these virtual events.](#)

[Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Funding, Using Rescue Act Funds, Capacity Building, and more!](#) Resources provided by the [Pennsylvania Downtown Center](#).

[Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award](#) – Just under 18,000 cities are now eligible to nominate their “hometown” heroes for this prestigious national recognition and we encourage all local officials to nominate their extraordinary civic volunteers!

[What's Next for Infrastructure Legislation in Congress?](#) The U.S. Senate passed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, which includes \$550 billion in new federal investments in America's infrastructure and will add an estimated two million jobs per year to the national economy. Local leaders in cities, towns, and villages helped make this infrastructure package possible in Washington after years of advocacy.

[State & Local Legal Center Supreme Court Preview Free Webinar](#) – Register for SLLC webinar, September 15, 1-2:15 p.m. Eastern time.

[Need Help with COVID-19? National Association of Counties Provides Resources](#)

Building Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure – Congress must prioritize strategic investments in our infrastructure to support a growing and strong economy. [See Key Infrastructure Priorities.](#)

[EDA Announces American Rescue Plan Programs, Ready for Foundation Grants, and More!](#) Communities Across the Country will be able to Apply for \$3 Billion in Funding Immediately. This EDA investment is the largest economic development initiative from the Department of Commerce in decades and will help communities across the country build back better.

Remember, you can access all archived editions of The League Link as well as other member publications, forms and resources in your [Member Dashboard](#).

Pennsylvania Municipal League

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