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MEMO

To: Members of the House Local Government Committee
From: Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, PA Municipal League
Re: Position on bills before the Committee, Tuesday, October 26
Date: October 25, 2021

On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, please see our positions below on bills scheduled for Committee consideration tomorrow.

House Bill 1947 – Oppose without Freeman Amendment A02727. HB 1947 seeks to preempt local actions regarding energy sources and use. The language in HB 1947 is overreaching, broadly written and includes terminology that is subjective, such as “discrimination” and “has the effect of.” The League cannot support the bill’s loosely written language that could easily be argued to apply to and prohibit local policies and incentives that address energy efficiencies, energy costs and the environmental impacts of climate change. Many municipalities have developed such local policies to varying degrees, not only concerning municipal operations, but on a community level, as well. We believe that HB 1947 exposes these initiatives to legal challenge at taxpayer expense. **The League supports Representative Freeman’s Amendment A02727 which narrows and clarifies the bill by removing the subjective language. We would support HB 1947 with the adoption of Amendment A02727.**

House Bill 1877 – Support – Amends Title 53 establishing the Municipal Boundary Change Act to provide for statutory procedure for changes in boundaries between municipalities.

Senate Bill 208 – Support – Amends the Municipalities Planning Code clarifying bonding requirements for property improvements.

Thank you for your consideration.