

League Link

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



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August 2022



Advocacy Action

Legislation to Watch This Fall

The General Assembly will return to Harrisburg next month in what will be a busy fall before the end of the 2021/22 legislative session. With just a handful of legislative session days scheduled and an election looming, members of the General Assembly are under pressure to move legislation.

The League's Governmental Affairs staff continues to monitor bills of importance to local government. The three bills below have the potential to move this fall, and they would have a detrimental impact by placing unfunded mandates on local government and by preempting local permitting and zoning authority.

1. [Senate Bill 669](#) - introduced by Senator Mike Regan, would require municipalities to provide full-time vested police officers the option to purchase up to five years of their previous part-time or full-time employment for pension benefit purposes. This bill passed the Senate on June 15 and awaits consideration by the House Local Government Committee.
2. [Senate Bill 775](#) - introduced by Senator Camera Bartolotta, would amend the Workers' Compensation Law lowering the threshold for first responders to receive a benefit for a post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI). This bill awaits second consideration in the Senate.
3. [House Bill 2286](#) - introduced by Representative Tracy Pennycuik, would amend the Municipalities Planning Code mandating that municipalities allow temporary low-impact home-based businesses by right in residentially zoned districts during an emergency declaration or natural disaster. Any local permitting process would be prohibited; the business owner would only be responsible for providing the municipality with written notice of intent to relocate a business to their residence. This bill awaits second consideration in the House.

The League opposes these three bills as written and will continue to work with the General Assembly to improve the legislation.

Reminder: Voting Delegate/Resolutions Committee Appointment

An email was sent in the beginning of August to each member municipality's chief executive and chief appointed official requesting the appointment of a voting delegate to represent their municipality at both the Resolutions Committee and Annual Business Meetings during the 2022 Municipal Leadership Summit, October 6-9. Voting delegate appointments must be submitted to The League by Friday, September 9. 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 WILL GET
THROUGH THIS
TOGETHER**



League's Latest

Make your Hotel Reservations and Register Now for the Municipal

Leadership Summit!

Preliminary Summit Agenda Topics Include:

Sustainable Transportation and Autonomous Vehicles

Climate Change

Cyber Security

Hiring After COVID-19

De-Escalation Training

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

And much more!

Municipal Leadership Summit

PITTSBURGH  OCTOBER 6-9, 2022



Learn more & register now at:

PML.org/municipal-leadership-summit

Please welcome our newest member to The League – [East Whiteland Township](#), Chester County. Welcome aboard! We are now at an all-time high League membership of 125!

[West Penn Park Playground Build](#) – The Design Day program in West Penn Park was held on Tuesday, August 2, in an effort to rebuild the park's playground around the local kids' needs. At the West Penn Park community center, about a dozen children drew their ideal play area, which officials will consider when rebuilding the playground during build week, October 3-5. [Click here for Facebook album of Design day](#) along with this great [article from the Post Gazette](#). There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities available during this time, so stay tuned to the website for registration information. There are also [sponsorship opportunities which can be found here](#).

Register now for the [PELRAS Leadership Primer Workshops](#) coming up in late September and early November – they will be divided into regions. The [West Region](#) will be held on September 13 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh – Monroeville; the [Central Region](#) will be held on September 28 at the Hilton Harrisburg; and the [East Region](#) will be held on November 1 at the Delaware Valley Trusts Headquarters in Horsham.

Upcoming PCCA Classes: [ACC 101](#) – designed for code officials, inspectors, contractors, and design professionals. Three-day course, September 7-9; [Floodplain Ordinance Training](#) – In-depth review of the information contained in the model floodplain ordinance and how these regulations affect municipal floodplain management. September 15; [RA 101](#) – Four-day program providing a comprehensive review of Chapters 1-10 of the 2018 International Residential Code. September 19-22; [RA 501](#) – Three-day

program that includes examples, exercises and case studies designed to illustrate daily practices performed by a Residential Plumbing Inspector or Plans Examiner, October 11-13.

[Register now for the upcoming League Fall Sustainability Conference](#) – which will be held on November 15 at the Inn at Villanova University. Topics for this year's conference include: Renewable Energy, Recycling, Blight and Diversity Equity Inclusion

We have created a new [ARPA Tracking Form](#) and ask that you please fill out this brief form so we can share the great ways you are using your ARPA dollars with all members. Thank you!

We have compiled a list of articles for [League member actions regarding ARPA funding](#). We will continue to update this list as more information becomes available.

For more information, see our [News & Announcements and newsfeed](#) on our homepage.

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

Resource Roundup

[DEP's Funding and Remediation of Brownfields in Pennsylvania Webinar](#) – DEP's Land Recycling Program (LRP) will be hosting a Brownfields Grant Webinar on August 25, 2022. Attendees will receive a brief overview of brownfields properties and the Act 2 program followed by a description of potential brownfields grant opportunities.

[NLC announced the opening of the 2023 leadership application process this week](#) – This process is to apply for positions on NLC's Board of Directors and *leadership* for NLC committees, councils, and constituency groups. The application is available on [NLC's website](#) (with additional information), and at the [MyNLC](#) Member Portal. Applicants must be NLC members, if you are interested in NLC membership, contact Timothy Evans at Timothy Evans Evans@nlc.org.

[New Program to Help Small & Mid-Sized Cities Compete for Federal Infrastructure Dollars](#) – The National League of Cities and the [Local Infrastructure Hub](#) are proud to bring you a free series of bootcamp training courses designed to help small and mid-sized cities secure funding for infrastructure projects.

[DCNR Draft E-Bike Policy](#) – At CNRAC's July 27 meeting, DCNR released a draft internal policy on the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) on DCNR lands for public comment. An e-bike is a bicycle equipped with an electric motor that assists the rider when they are pedaling. **Comments are due by August 31.**

[Upcoming DOT Reconnecting Communities Webinars](#) – DOT is now accepting applications for the [Reconnecting Communities Pilot](#) discretionary grant program. **The application submission deadline is Thursday, October 13, 2022 on grants.gov.**

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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