



Pennsylvania Municipal League
President – Michael Lombardo, Mayor, City of Pittston



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
President – Sam Juliano, Commissioner, North Versailles Township

To: Members of the House Labor and Industry Committee
From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, The League and PSATC
Re: House Bill 299 and House Bill 930
Date: April 21, 2023

On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Municipal League and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners, I am writing to provide our positions on House Bill 299 and House Bill 930 scheduled for committee consideration on Monday, April 24.

House Bill 299 – Establishing OSHA Regulations for Public Employers – Opposed

The League and PSATC are opposed to House Bill 299 which establishes the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act. It requires the Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor and Industry to adopt the federal Occupational Safety and Health Standards and requires all public employers in Pennsylvania to comply. Local governments, as employers, would fall under these regulations. Adopting and following the federal OSHA standards would be a new, expensive and administratively onerous unfunded mandate on local governments. Furthermore, public work does not necessarily match with private employment. For example, how would OSHA regulations apply to the inherently dangerous, yet essential public safety positions of police and fire?

Municipal employers are certainly concerned with minimizing worker injury to the greatest extent possible. Pennsylvania municipalities must comply with the PA Worker and Community Right to Know Act which covers exposure to hazardous materials, as well as CDL regulations from PennDOT. Additionally, municipalities are actively engaged in risk management practices as required by their insurers.

Our members question if the imposition of federal OSHA standards will necessarily increase worker safety at the local level. This is especially true when data is not illustrating a problem among public employers. Additionally, we do not agree with the fines outlined in the bill as public dollars will be the source. In fact, taxpayer dollars will ultimately pay for this entire mandate. Therefore, as a Commonwealth, we must be certain this is the most appropriate way to promote workplace safety for public employees.

For these reasons, we request a “no” vote when HB 299 comes before the committee.

House Bill 930 – Expanding Workers’ Compensation Benefits – Hold in Committee

The League and PSATC request that HB 930 be held in Committee until more work can be done to understand the impact of this proposed expansion of workers’ compensation benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.