



Pennsylvania Municipal  
**League**

Pennsylvania Municipal League

President – Michael Lombardo, Mayor, City of Pittston



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners

President – Sam Juliano, Commissioner, North Versailles Township

## MEMO

TO: The Honorable Cris Dush, Senator

FROM: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director – Advocacy, The League, PSATC

RE: Support for Right to Know Vexatious Requestors Relief Legislation

DATE: January 20, 2023

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On behalf of the membership of the Pennsylvania Municipal League and Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners, I am writing to express our support of legislation amending the Right to Know Law to provide municipalities relief from vexatious requestors. We encourage you to reintroduce this important legislation this legislative session.

The Right to Know Law was implemented in 2008 to foster greater access to public records and to develop standards for the sharing of public information, and since its enactment, local governments have and continue to work to comply with the Law. However, burdensome or vexatious requests submitted to local governments for public records that are considered voluminous or repetitive in nature have become more of a problem for our members. Many times these vexatious requests have the intent to harass or unreasonably burden a local government, which has to devote personnel time and taxpayer dollars to generate these onerous requests. While the Right to Know Law is important to ensuring governmental transparency, it is equally important that the Law is not used to overburden a local government from performing other vital duties in its service to its community.

Your previously introduced legislation, Senate Bill 552, would have created a process for local governments to petition the Office of Open Records seeking relief from an alleged vexatious requestor under the Right to Know Law.

Again, we are supportive of this legislation and respectfully request its reintroduction. Thank you for your continued work on the Right to Know Law and your support to improve the Law while maintaining governmental transparency.

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