



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: Members of the Senate Transportation Committee
From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, The League and PSATC
Re: Support of Senate Bill 459 (PN 379)
Date: February 28, 2023

On behalf of the membership of the Pennsylvania Municipal League (The League) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 459 (PN 379) scheduled for Committee consideration tomorrow, March 1.

Local use of radar is a public safety measure. Pennsylvania is the only state in the country that does not allow for its use, and as a result, speeding on neighborhood streets is consistently the most common concern voiced by our members' residents. Radar is acknowledged by law enforcement as the safest, most accurate and efficient speed timing device. With outdated, nonradar technologies such as ENRADD and VASCAR ceasing production, local police will soon be left with just a stopwatch to enforce speed. Pennsylvania must authorize local use of radar so municipal police have the tools they need to keep our communities safe.

Senate Bill 459 will provide municipalities with the option to use radar, through the adoption of an ordinance. Additionally, the bill also provides several motorist protections including: implementing a 90 warning period; requiring the posting of signage notifying drivers that radar is in use; limiting issuance of tickets to drivers going 10 MPH or more over the speed limit; prohibiting the issuance of points on a driver's license; and prohibiting municipalities from setting speeding ticket quotas. Senate Bill 459 places limits on municipal revenue gained from speeding tickets to no more than a one percent increase over the previous year.

This bipartisan bill will allow municipal police to have access to a modern and efficient speed timing tool rather than depending on outdated methods. We greatly appreciate the Senate's support for local radar in the past and ask once again for the bill to be voted out of Committee for further consideration on the Senate Floor.

Thank you for your consideration.