



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: Members of the House Housing and Community Development Committee

From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director - Advocacy, The League and PSATC

Date: May 23, 2023

Re: Support for House Bills 255 and 775 with amendments

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On behalf of The PA Municipal League and PA State Association of Township Commissioners, I write in support of House Bills 255 and 775 with the agreed to amendments. These bills are on the Committee agenda for Wednesday, May 24. Both bills seek to give municipalities more tools to use in their code enforcement and blight remediation and prevention efforts.

**House Bill 255 with Amendment A00641** provides funding for code enforcement at both the municipal and county level. Whether a community is highly engaged in code enforcement or just beginning to develop a program, proper funding is an important but scarce resource. House Bill 255 recognizes this and provides funding opportunities to communities that have established code enforcement, as well as those that wish to create a code enforcement program. Counties are also authorized under this bill to implement property maintenance ordinances which would apply to county residents living in municipalities with no property maintenance ordinance of their own. Finally, we support the appropriation in the bill to fund the grant program.

**House Bill 775 with Amendment A00540** authorizes a local vacant and blighted property registry and fee schedule for property owners with vacant and blighted property. Local registries are optional and would help identify vacant and blighted structures. The fee structure in the bill will encourage owners to care for their property or face annual fees that increase the longer the property remains on the vacant and blighted registry.

The League and PSATC appreciate the opportunity to work with Chairs Sturla and Irvin, Representatives Merski and Twardzik and Committee staff to arrive at the amendatory language before the Committee.

We ask the Committee to amend and move both bills to the full House.

Thank you.