



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 Pennsylvania House of Representatives
From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, The League and PSATC
Re: Opposition to House Bill 299 (PN 962) – OSHA for Public Employees
Date: May 2, 2023

On behalf of the members of the PA Municipal League and the PA State Association of Township Commissioners, I write in strong opposition to House Bill 299 now in the House Appropriations Committee.

House Bill 299 establishes the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requiring the PA Department of Labor and Industry to adopt the federal Occupational Safety and Health Standards. As employers, municipalities would fall under these standards. Compliance would result in a new, expensive and administratively onerous unfunded mandate on local governments.

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. At this time, there is no indication a safety problem exists at the local level that would require these additional and burdensome regulations.

Our members question if the imposition of federal OSHA standards will actually increase worker safety at the local level. Furthermore, public work does not necessarily match with private employment. How would OSHA regulations apply to the inherently dangerous, yet essential public safety positions of police and fire?

Additionally, we do not agree with the fines outlined in the bill as public tax dollars will be the source. In fact, taxpayer dollars will ultimately pay for this entire mandate. Therefore, we must be certain this is the most appropriate way to promote workplace safety at the local level.

As House Bill 299 comes before the House for final passage, we ask for a no vote.

Thank you for your consideration.