



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 930 (PN 964) – Workers’ Compensation Expansion
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 930 now in the House Appropriations Committee.

The League and PSATC oppose the expansion of workers’ compensation disfigurement benefits to the full body. This expansion is an unfunded mandate with significant fiscal consequences for local government, state government and business.

We argue that the Workers’ Compensation Law was not put in place to provide employees with compensation for physical and emotional distress. The purpose is to compensate for lost wages.

House Bill 930 upends the current standard in the Law which provides a monetary, lump sum award when a scar results in “permanent and unsightly” disfigurement. House Bill 930 eliminates that standard and opens the door to lump sum payments for any mark on the skin resulting from injury or surgery. This expansion will certainly create additional strain on the Department of Labor and Industry as the number of claims going through the system will skyrocket.

For employers, including local governments, the increase in potential claims will increase workers’ compensation insurance premiums, as well as litigation costs and monetary awards. At the local level, these increases will be shouldered by taxpayers through increased property taxes. Arguably, this expansion will certainly not help Pennsylvania keep and attract new businesses.

Unfortunately, claimants and their attorneys will be incentivized to file claims because even simple scars that are not disfiguring or that can be covered by clothing will now have monetary value. The opportunity to receive a large lump sum award for a non-disfiguring scar may even induce employees to elect to have surgery when non-surgical or non-invasive treatments are options.

Finally, House Bill 930 removes the prohibition on receiving both disability and disfigurement benefits simultaneously. Allowing double-dipping will not encourage employees to return to work.

For the reasons above, we ask for a no vote when House Bill 930 comes before the House for final passage.

Thank you for your consideration.