



## MEMO

To: Members of the Pennsylvania Senate Labor and Industry Committee

From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, PA Municipal League and PA State Association of Township Commissioners

Jonathan Calpas, Esq., General Counsel, Delaware Valley Municipal Management Association

Ed Troxell, Director of Governmental Affairs, PA State Association of Boroughs

Joe Gerdes, Director of Government Relations, PA State Association of Township Supervisors

Frank Mazza, Director of Governmental Affairs, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 365 – Post-traumatic Stress Injury for First Responders

Date: June 26, 2023

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On behalf of our collective members, please accept the following comments on Senate Bill 365 which is scheduled for Committee action tomorrow, June 27.

Senate Bill 365 seeks to provide a wider avenue for first responders to receive benefits under the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act (Pa. WCA) for post-traumatic stress injury.

We are strongly opposed to the current version of the bill. As drafted, SB 365 is very broad and imposes a costly unfunded mandate that will severely stress municipal budgets to the ultimate detriment of first responders. The high cost to defend and pay out claims under SB 365 will increase taxes and decrease the availability of local funds to support first responders.

Since the 2019-2020 legislative session, our Coalition has provided information and proposed amendatory language that would clarify and narrow the provisions of this legislation to make it palatable and affordable for local governments while still addressing the needs of first responders suffering from post-traumatic stress injury. We have also offered to work with anyone interested in achieving this goal.

Again, this session, we reiterate our opposition, as well as our commitment to work toward a well written, balanced and fiscally responsible piece of legislation.

The amendment circulated on Sunday, does not improve the bill, but creates more ambiguity.

Respectfully, for these reasons, we ask that SB 365 remain in Committee for further work and until our concerns are addressed.

We encourage you as members of the Committee to work with us to ensure SB 365 will promote financial sustainability, thwart specious claims and reduce the likelihood of legal challenges.

Thank you for your consideration.