



Pennsylvania Municipal  
**League**



## MEMO

To: Members of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

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

Marie Wade, Esq., General Counsel, Delaware Valley Municipal  
Management Association

Ron Grutza, Senior Director of Governmental Affairs, PA State Association of  
Boroughs

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

Re: Opposition to House Bill 1632 – Post-traumatic Stress Injury for First Responders

Date: February 29, 2024

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On behalf of our collective members, please accept the following comments on House Bill 1632 which is scheduled for Committee action on Monday, March 4.

House Bill 1632 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, House Bill 1632 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 House Bill 1632 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.

Respectfully, for these reasons, we ask that House Bill 1632 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 House Bill 1632 will promote financial sustainability, thwart specious claims and reduce the likelihood of legal challenges.

Thank you for your consideration.