

# Legislative Priorities



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## Modern Speed Detection: A Matter of Public Safety

Did you know Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation whose local police departments cannot use radar or other modern detection devices to control speeding on local roads? The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's most recent Report on [Crash Facts and Statistics](#) showed that 66,563 people were injured in reportable vehicle crashes. That factors to a rate of about 182 injuries each day. The vast majority of vehicle crashes happen on our local and secondary roads (non-interstate or turnpike) and speeding is the number one contributing factor.

Local use of radar could help to curtail these preventable crashes. It has helped in neighboring states. Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia permit local radar use, and all have lower traffic fatality rates than Pennsylvania. When local police lack access to radar, they are forced to rely on obsolete methods of speed enforcement. These alternatives are often time-consuming, resource-intensive, and less precise.

If the General Assembly does not act now, a stopwatch may soon be the only speed timing device available to our local police officers. This very unsettling development has and will continue to hinder local law enforcement operations across the Commonwealth and further endanger public safety.

## Media Resources:

Media Center Link to written quotes, video sound bites from PA Municipal League Executive Staff [pml.org](https://www.pml.org)



Staff provide pre-recorded answers to the following questions:

Why is it important for local police to be able to use radar technology for speed enforcement?

Should there be stipulations or restrictions on local police use of radar? If so, what?

What is the Pennsylvania Municipal League?

This is the 125<sup>th</sup> year of The League, why has it been able to survive and thrive for so long?

## More Information:

[PA General Assembly Title 75 Speed Timing Devices](#)

[Senate Bill 459](#)

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