

Legislative Locator

The Legislative Locator is a Bimonthly Publication of The Pennsylvania Municipal League



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March 2025

The League's Spring District Meetings and Resolutions Process

As a member driven organization, it is important we hear from you to accurately represent your municipality's needs with the General Assembly.

Each spring, League members receive the opportunity to submit policy suggestions through resolutions, shaping The League's policy agenda. Simply propose a [policy resolution](#) during our district meetings and member appreciation tour in March, April, and May. Resolutions adopted at the district level will go to the Annual Municipal Leadership Summit for consideration by the resolutions committee and full League membership. This is a particularly important process because it sets the future policy priorities and positions of The League.

View The League's [2024 adopted resolutions](#) as a sample to prepare for this year's district meetings. Please contact Kaitlin Errickson, Governmental Affairs Manager, at kerrickson@pml.org if you have any questions.

Joint State Government Commission Releases Short-term Rental Study

The General Assembly, through House Resolution 425 in the 2023/2024 legislative session, directed the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on short-term rentals. The report provides a comprehensive review of the commonwealth's short-term rental industry, including an examination of relevant state laws and regulations and existing municipal ordinances. Please find the full report [here](#).

PennDOT Updates

2025 Public Comment Period for the 12-Year Plan is Open

The State Transportation Commission (STC) and PennDOT are excited to announce the start of the 2025 Public Comment Period for the update of the 12-Year Program, which continues through April 30, 2025.

Please take a few minutes to complete PennDOT's [Transportation Survey](#) online or contact them at [717-783-2262](tel:717-783-2262) to request a paper copy or to complete the survey over the phone. You can also access PennDOT's [Online Toolkit](#), which serves as a resource to help share information and campaign materials.

2025 Transportation Performance Report

The STC recently released the 2025 [Transportation Performance Report](#) (TPR) which contains information about how Pennsylvania's transportation system performed over the last two years. We encourage you to read and share the report.

[Register for Online Public Forum](#)

PennDOT will host an Online Public Forum on Thursday, April 10, 2025, featuring a presentation from PennDOT Secretary of Transportation, Michael Carroll, as well as a live Q&A session with PennDOT personnel and STC members. Register for the forum today and submit your transportation questions for the Q&A session by filling out the [registration form](#) or emailing them to RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov.

Digital Connectivity Technology Program Round Two - Webinars & Breakout Sessions

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) is hosting two webinars in anticipation of opening the second round of the [Digital Connectivity Technology Program \(DCTP\)](#). Each webinar will provide an overview of the program, review FAQs, and will implement breakout sessions focusing on libraries, non-profits, workforce, and education. Each breakout session will include an awardee from Round One of the program who will provide background on their project and will highlight the key elements that contributed to their success.

You can find additional details for each webinar, including registration, by clicking the links below. Please note that content covered at each session will be the same, however, questions and dialogue may differ. PBDA will be recording these sessions to post as resources on our website.

- [Tuesday, March 25, 2025](#)
- [Wednesday, April 2, 2025](#)

Cosponsor Memos

Redevelopment of Shopping Malls

Representative Josh Siegel has announced his intention to reintroduce legislation providing municipalities and developers with incentives to redevelop shopping malls into mixed use communities.

Voluntary Municipal Dissolution

Representative Emily Kinkead and Senator Nick Pisciotano have announced their intention to reintroduce legislation allowing distressed municipalities in second class counties to dissolve into unincorporated districts in favor of the county taking over the services and taxing authority

EMS Authorities

Senators Lisa Baker and Tim Kearney have announced their intention to reintroduce legislation authorizing the creation of EMS public safety authorities.

Legislation Affecting Local Government

Local Government Week and Day

Reported from the House Local Government Committee, March 19, 2025

[House Resolution 118](#) (PN 956), introduced by Representative Bob Freeman, would recognize April 14 through the 18 as Local Government Week and April 16 as Local Government Day.

Local Control of Pesticide Application

Senate Local Government Committee, February 3, 2025

[Senate Bill 228](#) (PN 174), introduced by Senator Tim Kearney, would amend the Pennsylvania Pesticide Control Act authorizing municipalities to, by ordinance, establish a restricted application district in a contiguous geographic area where population density is not less than 300 persons per square mile. The ordinance may limit or prohibit the application of specified pesticides in outdoor areas by a commercial applicator on private property. The bill charges DCED with developing a sample ordinance.

COLA Increase for Retired Municipal Police and Fire

Senate Law and Justice Committee, February 26, 2025

[Senate Bill 344](#) (PN 281), introduced by Senator Tracy Pennycuik would amend Act 147 of 1988 known as the Special Ad Hoc Municipal Police and Firefighter Postretirement Adjustment Act mandating a COLA to retired municipal police officers and firefighters on the following schedule:

- \$75/month if retired for at least 5 years, but less than 10;
- \$150/month if retired at least 10 years, but less than 20; and
- \$300/month if retired at least 20 years.

If a retiree is receiving more than one municipal pension, COLA payments would be reduced so that the retiree's payment does not exceed the amount specified above. Further, if a retiree is receiving payments under the 2002 adjustment, their payment is reduced.

The bill provides reimbursement from the Act 205 Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act. Municipalities must submit a certification to the Auditor General by April 1 of each year to receive reimbursement, which would be placed into the municipality's general fund.

Increasing the Limits of Governmental Liability: Catastrophic Claims

Senate Judiciary Committee, February 28, 2025

[Senate Bill 383](#) (PN 296), introduced by Senator Wayne Langerholc, would increase the current limitations on liability under the PA Sovereign and Governmental Immunity Law. Currently, the local government immunity cap is \$500,000 and the state government cap is \$250,000. For catastrophic claims, including permanent dismemberment or death, the liability cap for both local and state government would be increased to \$1 million or \$2 million in the aggregate. Additionally, the bill would increase recoverable medical expenses for permanent loss of a bodily function, disfigurement or dismemberment from \$1,500 to \$10,000.

House and Senate Session Days 2025

House

April 7-9, 22-24

May 5-7, 12-14

June 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23-27, 30

Senate

April 1-2

May 5-7, 12-13

June 2-4, 9-11, 23-30

**reminder - session dates are subject to change*



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