

## MEMO

To: The Honorable Dawn Keefer, Chair  
The Honorable Patty Kim, Chair  
Senate Local Government Committee

From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, PA Municipal League

Re: Positions on Bills in Committee

Date: March 25, 2025

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On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, I am writing to offer our positions on Senate Bills 194, 311, and 412 which were referred to the Senate Local Government Committee.

The League supports Senate Bill 194, introduced by Senator Doug Mastriano, providing local governments with several options to advertise public notices. This bill adds flexibility and transparency to municipal public notice advertising requirements by allowing local governments to determine which advertising method reaches the most constituents. With newspapers decreasing print publication or closing entirely, the print media in the commonwealth is not the ubiquitous news source it once was, and we must modernize our laws to meet this reality. We ask that this bill be brought before the Committee for consideration.

The League opposes Senate Bill 311, introduced by Senator Gene Yaw, which establishes energy choice. This bill is unnecessary, it preempts local decision making and will very likely create confusion. It also exposes municipalities to costly litigation because the language is nebulous, subjective, and unclear as to what it is actually intending to prohibit at the local level. For example, municipal grants to the business community to retrofit buildings for electricity or municipalities encouraging residents to consider installing solar could result in a claim of discrimination from an unfavored energy industry. For the reasons above, we ask that this bill remain in Committee.

The League supports Senate Bill 412, introduced by Senator Lindsey Williams, which lifts a preemption of local government authority. The bill repeals language enacted in last year's budget preempting local governments from regulating rodeos. Overall, The League opposes state or federal preemption of local authority, as we believe local officials are in the best position to determine what is best for their community. As Senate Bill 412 removes preemptive language, we ask that it be brought before the Committee for consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.