



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

Celebrating Strengthening Communities



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MEMO

To: Senate Appropriations Committee

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

Re: Opposition to SB 780 – Homeless Encampments

Date: June 24, 2025

On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, I write in opposition to Senate Bill 780. This bill mandates municipal action to clear homeless encampments.

Our members have several concerns with the bill that I have enumerated below:

- The bill is an unfunded mandate that will expose municipalities to liability by requiring removal of encampments and its residents.
- It creates a private right of action by “interested individuals” who can force a municipality to act.
- It awards court expenses and attorney fees to “interested individuals” who can be property owners over ¼ mile from an encampment.
- The bill grants Commonwealth Court original jurisdiction, rather than the Common Pleas Court which is less costly overall.
- The bill requires a waiver of local governmental immunity in certain circumstances.
- The bill assumes public property is only owned by a municipality – encampments on federal, state, county, and school district property are not addressed?
- The bill does not address the multi-agency collaboration with social services that is necessary to assist those required to be removed from encampments.
- The likely outcome of this legislation will be homeless individuals being forced to move from camp to camp.

For the reasons stated, The League does not support moving Senate Bill 780 out of committee to the Senate Floor.

Thank you for your consideration.