

# Legislative Locator

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



September 2025



## Local Services Tax Talking Points



### Background

- The LST supports the safety of workers in a municipality
- Established in 2004 at \$52 annually, it has not been raised to keep up with costs
  - \$52 is only \$1 per week
- The LST can be used to fund police, fire, or emergency services, road construction or maintenance, and property tax relief
- Expiration of ARPA dollars and increased economic pressures have put a strain on municipal budgets
  - Authorization to increase the LST helps prevent municipal distress

### Costs Continue to Rise

- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, what could be purchased for \$1 in January 2004 now costs \$1.75 in August 2025
  - In 2004, a fire truck cost \$200,000 to \$400,000, today it costs over \$1 million
  - In 2004, a police car cost around \$25,000, today it costs over \$60,000
  - In 2004, the median salary for a police officer was around \$50,700, today it is around \$76,200
  - In 2004, a dump truck cost around \$50,000, today it costs an average of \$190,000

### An Increased LST Would Support Municipal Services

- An increased LST would mean municipalities can
  - Hire part or full-time police officers
  - Purchase fire, police, and EMS safety apparatuses and equipment
  - Support volunteer, paid, or combination fire departments
  - Support ambulance services
  - Purchase needed road construction and maintenance equipment

### Legislative Ask – Sign on as a cosponsor

- A bipartisan co-sponsorship memo introduced by Representatives Flick and Smith-Wade-El proposes an increase to the LST up to \$156

**TAKE ACTION!**



## Local Government Symposium

The Local Government Commission will hold their annual Local Government Symposium on October 9. The Symposium will also serve as The League's fifth Capitol Conference Webinar.

To view the Symposium's agenda, please [click here](#).

[Click Here to Register](#)

## Cosponsor Memos

### Extending the Workers' Compensation Act

Representative Bob Freeman has announced his intention to introduce legislation extending the Workers' Compensation Act to those volunteering during a fundraising event for volunteer and EMS services.

### Data Center Pre-Application Meeting

Senator Rosemary Brown has announced her intention to introduce legislation requiring a local pre-application meeting as part of any data center development proposal submitted to a Pennsylvania municipality planning board.

### Local Hire Mandate

Senator Devlin Robinson has announced his intention to introduce legislation requiring contractors on public projects to hire local labor, with at least half of workers on state and local projects exceeding \$500,000 must be residents of Pennsylvania or a border county.

## Legislation Affecting Local Government

### Expanded Tax-Exemption for Disabled Veterans

*First Consideration in the House, June 16, 2025*

[House Bill 1257](#) (PN 1936), introduced by Representative Tarah Probst, would amend the PA Constitution removing the requirement that a veteran must have served during war or armed conflict as a prerequisite for the Real Estate Tax Exemption Program. The bill would also expand the exemption program to veterans at least 50% disabled. It would mandate municipalities exempt veterans rated between 50% and 90% disabled from property taxes at a rate equal to their percentage of disability. Finally, the bill would expand the exemption to spouses of deceased disabled veterans or service members killed in action, missing in action, or taken prisoner of war.

### Mercantile, Business Privilege and Gross Receipts Tax

*House Finance Committee, June 10, 2025*

[House Bill 1582](#) (PN 1886), introduced by Representative Joe Kerwin, would amend the Local Tax Enabling Act setting an expiration date of December 31, 2025 for all mercantile, business

privilege, and gross receipts taxes levied by local governments. There is no replacement revenue in the bill.

## Vacancies and Vacancy Boards

*First Consideration in the House, June 25, 2025*

[House Bill 1651](#) (PN 2004), introduced by Representative Bob Freeman, would amend the Second Class Township Code regarding vacancy boards and the filling of vacancies.

- If a majority of seats on a governing body are vacant, the Court of Common Pleas shall fill the vacancies upon petition from the remaining board members or fifteen registered voters;
- If a resignation would preclude the majority of a board from accepting the tendered resignation, the resignation is effective the second business day after being tendered;
- If a governing body convenes to fill a vacancy, the proceedings may be ended after 15 days instead of the current 30 days, if the seated members vote to disband because they cannot fill the vacancy; and
- A vacancy board chair may not vote for themselves to fill any vacancy.

## First Class Township Code Codification

*House Local Government Committee, September 4, 2025*

[House Bill 1836](#) (PN 2259), introduced by Representative Bob Freeman, begins the initiative to codify the First Class Township Code into the PA Consolidated Statutes. The bill proposes a few amendments to the current Code that was updated in 2020. The proposed amendments come from first class township suggestions, as well as suggestions from the Local Government Commission. Once enacted, the Code will be found in Title 73 of the Consolidated Statutes. A benefit of consolidation will be that one bill can cover all of the local government codes that have been consolidated, rather than having to have separate bills to amend each code.

## PennDOT Owned Traffic Lights

*House Transportation Committee, September 9, 2025*

[House Bill 1838](#) (PN 2274), introduced by Representative Ryan Warner, would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) to require PennDOT to pay the cost of the installation and maintenance of traffic signals on state highways. If a state highway and local road intersect, the bill would require PennDOT to pay proportionally based on the number of state highways intersecting.

## House and Senate Session Days 2025

### House

October 1, 6-8, 27-29

November 17-19

December 15-17

### Senate

October 6-8, 20-22, 27-29

November 17-19

December 8-10

*\*reminder - session dates are subject to change*



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