



Pennsylvania Municipal League
President – J. William Reynolds, Mayor, City of Bethlehem

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
President – Todd Miller, Commissioner, Crescent Township

MEMO

To: Members of the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee

From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, The League and PSATC

Re: Opposition to House Bill 1964 (PN 2471)

Date: March 20, 2026

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Municipal League (The League) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), I write in opposition to House Bill 1964 scheduled for a committee vote on Monday, March 23. ***The elimination of local decision-making is at the heart of our opposition to this legislation.***

House Bill 1964 would place a 12-month prohibition on the sale, lease or transfer of publicly owned water or wastewater systems. While a local governing body must be fully knowledgeable and transparent regarding the sale, lease or transfer of its public system, these options must remain available.

Local elected officials must consider the fiscal condition of their municipalities, but also of their water and wastewater systems. The ability to effectively manage and update aging infrastructure, as well absorb the costs of federal mandates can leave few options for municipalities, taxpayers and ratepayers. Therefore, privatization must remain on the table as a tool.

Furthermore, it appears the enactment of HB 1964 would nullify any transactions that are in progress, but not yet fully executed. This could result in a significant loss of time and money for all parties involved in carrying out a sale, lease or transfer.

Finally, HB 1964 also creates a working group to study and make recommendations on the privatization of public systems. The League and PSATC have been left off the list of entities represented on the working group.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request a no vote on HB 1964.

Thank you for your consideration.