



On behalf of Pennsylvania’s local government associations, we write to express ***our strong opposition to Senate Bill 1150.***

Senate Bill 1150 represents a reaction to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s interpretation of the plain language of Act 65 of 2021 which allows local governing bodies to add an item to a meeting agenda with a majority vote. The final language of Act 65 was the result of a series of negotiations between the sponsor of the bill and our local government associations, which were intended to provide transparency and accountability for meeting agendas, but yet still allow local governments to quickly act to address unexpected matters that come up after a meeting agenda has been published.

If an unexpected matter was to arise during a meeting, under Senate Bill 1150, the local governing body would be required to schedule and provide public notice for another meeting. While some local governing body members are paid at a full-time rate for their service, most are not, and the bill would require these dedicated volunteers to devote more of their personal time to meetings. This is neither productive nor needed.

Local governments routinely encounter important issues that surface after an agenda is published. While most of these issues are not emergencies, they are time sensitive and could be addressed at the current meeting, rather than a future one. Although local governments try to act with efficiency and foresight, it is not always possible to think of every possible issue to be considered at a meeting. Without the ability to amend an agenda in a public meeting, governing bodies will have delayed actions requiring additional special meetings at taxpayer expense or fail to meet immediate community needs.

Ultimately, Senate Bill 1150 would make the role of local government more difficult and inefficient.

We respectfully ask for your no vote on Senate Bill 1150.

Thank you for your consideration,

County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

Pennsylvania School Boards Association

Pennsylvania Municipal League

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners

Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association