

Legislative Locator

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



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March 2026

Support the Road to Housing Act

A significant, comprehensive housing package that recently passed the Senate could accelerate local leaders' efforts to improve housing affordability. The bill has substantial bipartisan backing and includes housing priorities championed by the White House.

The Road to Housing Act aims to boost housing supply through improving existing programs, unlocking private capital, and reducing federal regulatory barriers. Just as important for local governments, the package does not preempt local land-use or zoning authority and avoids unfunded mandates.

Please reach out to your member of Congress and encourage them to pass the Road to Housing Act.

Take Action

The League's Spring District Meetings and Resolutions Process

As a member driven organization, it is important we hear from you to accurately represent your municipality's needs with the General Assembly.

Each spring, League members receive the opportunity to submit policy suggestions through resolutions, shaping The League's policy agenda. Simply propose a [policy resolution](#) during your district meeting. Resolutions adopted at the district level will go to the Annual Municipal Leadership Summit for consideration by the resolutions committee and full League membership. This is a particularly important process because it sets the future policy priorities and positions of The League.

View The League's [2025 adopted resolutions](#) as a sample to prepare for this year's district meetings. Please contact Kaitlin Errickson, Governmental Affairs Manager, at kerrickson@pml.org if you have any questions.

Enacted Legislation

Enacted Legislation

Act 7 of 2026

Senate Bill 1036

Signed: February 11, 2026

Effective: April 12, 2026

[Act 7](#) moves the First Class Township Code into Title 73 of the PA Consolidated Statutes. There were a few amendments to the Code during this process:

- Vacancy by Death (Section 1771) - Delays creation of a vacancy by death until the next meeting of the board.
- Sidewalk Responsibility (Section 5904) - Clarifies property owners' responsibility to repair sidewalks on all sides of property, not just the front of property.
- Optional Per-meeting Compensation for Commissioners (Section 2103) - Prohibits compensation when a commissioner has an unexcused absence from a board meeting. Excused absences shall be determined by the board and include, but not be limited to, emergency illness, family, or business travel.
- Annual Audit Report (Section 1003) - Extends filing of the annual Audit Financial Report with DCED from April 1 to June 30.
- Memorials (Section 1313) - Authorizes memorials commemorating/honoring first responders.

Cosponsor Memos

Safety Standards at Recreation Centers

Representatives Tim Brennan and Brian Munroe announced their intention to introduce legislation prohibiting recreational facilities from using waivers of liability to shield themselves from legal responsibility for their own negligence.

RACP for Housing Development

Representative Heather Boyd and Senator Vincent Hughes announced their intention to introduce legislation authorizing the use of Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) to fund housing development projects.

Gas Tax Holiday

Representative Abby Major announced her intention to introduce legislation suspending the state-imposed portions of both gasoline and diesel taxes for a six-month period.

Legislation Affecting Local Government

Act 12 of 2016 Moratorium

Second Consideration in the House, March 25, 2026

[House Bill 1964](#) (PN 2472), introduced by Representative Danilo Burgos, would create the Public Water Protection and Fair Utility Transition Act. The bill would place a 12-month moratorium on the sale of privately owned water systems under Act 12 of 2016. There would be exceptions for acquisitions in the case of an emergency or if health and safety is an issue. A water utility working group would also be formed to analyze Act 12 of 2016 and provide comprehensive recommendations to ensure equitable rate structures, the protection of public ownership, along with greater transparency to guarantee safe and reliable delivery of drinking water.

Sunshine Act – Clarifying When a Posted Agenda May be Changed

First Consideration in the House, February 4, 2026

[House Bill 2146](#) (PN 2882), introduced by Representative Bob Freeman, would amend the Sunshine Act following a December 2025 PA Supreme Court decision regarding Act 65 of 2021. The Court ruled that Act 65 authorizes four reasons an agenda may be changed by a governing body after being posted 24 hours prior to a public meeting, including:

- emergency business;
- business arising within 24 hours before a meeting;
- business that is de minimis and arises during a meeting; or
- other business when approved by a majority vote of the local governing body.

Under this bill, the first three reasons listed above to modify an agenda remain unchanged, however, a fourth category of minor administrative approvals would be added. Exceptions to this category are as follows and require a solicitor to provide a ruling on whether the action falls under one of these exceptions:

- personnel actions after an executive session and limited to firing, leave, investigations or discipline;
- official action after an executive session related to legal filings or litigation;
- small purchases of no more than the current bidding thresholds for mitigating damage to agency property or purchase of property;
- grant applications with imminent deadlines;
- small borrowings if previously approved at an open meeting; or
- minor permit approvals for sewer modules.

Any change to a posted agenda would require a majority vote of the governing body. The reasons for the change must be announced at the meeting before the vote is conducted and the new agenda must be posted on the agency's website no later than the first business day following the meeting.

Extending Workers' Compensation for Fundraising Activities

Passed the Senate, March 24, 2026

[Senate Bill 1053](#) (PN 1230), introduced by Senator Scott Hutchinson, would amend the PA Workers' Compensation Act extending coverage to volunteer fire and EMS personnel who are engaged in a fundraising activity.

House Bill 2087, introduced by Representative Bob Freeman, is companion legislation in the House.

House and Senate Session Days 2026

House

April 13-15, 27-29

May 4-6

June 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-30

Senate

February 2-4

March 16-18, 23-25

April 20-22

**reminder - session dates are subject to change*



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