To: Members of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee
From: Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, PA Municipal League
Re: Positions on SB 464 and SB 922
Date: October 28, 2019

On behalf of the members of the League, I write to provide our position on two bills scheduled for Committee consideration tomorrow, October 29.

**Senate Bill 464 – oppose.** SB 464 establishes the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act. It requires the Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor and Industry to adopt the federal Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHA) and requires all public employers in PA to comply with these standards. Local governments, as employers, would fall under these standards. Adopting and following the federal OSHA standards would be a new, expensive and onerous unfunded mandate on local governments.

Municipal employers are certainly concerned with workplace safety and minimizing worker injury to the greatest extent possible. Currently, municipalities must comply with the PA Worker and Community Right to Know Act. Additionally, many municipalities are engaged in risk management activities designed to reduce workplace injuries. Participation in such activities, not only enhances safety workplace practices, but has the potential to reduce insurance premiums.

Our members do not believe that adding the federal OSHA standards will necessarily increase worker safety to the point that it is a cost effective addition. Taxpayer dollars will ultimately pay for this mandate; therefore, we must be certain the benefit outweighs the cost.

For these reasons, we request a “no” vote when SB 464 comes before you.

**Senate Bill 922 – support.** SB 922 seeks to clarify the workers’ compensation benefits that may be recouped by an employer when an employee wins a settlement against a third party for the work-related injury. This bill will allow employers to recoup payments for both lost wages and medical expenses. Currently, the employee may keep both the settlement payment and the medical expenses paid out by his employer.