Local Use of Radar/LIDAR

Senate Bill 607 (PN 1384) amends Title 75 (Vehicles) authorizing municipalities to use radar/LIDAR as a speed control device. This bill was amended in the House Transportation Committee on November 18 and voted out to the full House unanimously.

The new version of the bill keeps many of the provisions from Senate Bill 607. Municipalities must pass a local ordinance to use radar/LIDAR and place signs within 500 feet of the municipal borders on the main entrance roads; officers must be trained in the use of radar/LIDAR; and a 90-day written warning period must be observed.

New provisions include: radar/LIDAR may only be used by full-service departments and full-time officers; radar/LIDAR may only be used from a clearly marked vehicle visible to motorists; calibration and testing of devices must be every 365 days at a minimum; and revenue from fines may not exceed 10% of a municipal budget. Except in school and work zones, a speeding conviction is not permitted unless speed is recorded at six or more miles over the speed limit. The same rule applies where the speed limit is posted at less than 55 miles per hour and the recorded speed is less than 10 miles per hour over the speed limit. Finally, radar/LIDAR may not be used within 500 feet of a sign decreasing the speed limit except in a school zone or work zone.

The bill’s next step in the process is Second Consideration in the House where more amendments may be considered.

The League and PSATC supported the amendment and movement of the bill to the full House.