



Pennsylvania Municipal League

Pennsylvania Municipal League
President – Derek Green, Councilmember, City of Philadelphia



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
President – Nathan Silcox, Commissioner, Hampden Township

MEMO

To: Members of the Senate Transportation Committee
 From: Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, PML and PSATC
 Re: Support of Senate Bills 419 (PN 418) and 615 (PN 692)
 Date: May 24, 2021

On behalf of the membership of the Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bills 419 (PN 418) and 615 (PN 692) scheduled for Committee consideration tomorrow, May 25.

Senate Bill 419 (Scavello) – Support - Pennsylvania is the only state in the country that does not allow for the local use of radar, and locally elected officials have expressed to us that speeding on local roads is the number one constituent concern. Local use of radar is strictly for the purpose of public safety and has been a legislative priority of both associations for many years. Senate Bill 419 would address a public safety gap by authorizing all municipal police officers to use radar for speed enforcement after appropriate training. This bipartisan bill would allow municipal police to have access to more modern and efficient speed timing tools rather than depending on current, inefficient methods.

Senate Bill 615 (Hutchinson) – Support – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s (PennDOT) Publication 212 provides requirements for special event permits, including indemnification requirements for third parties. However, Publication 212 also requires the host municipality to provide indemnification of a third party special event.

This is a duplicative indemnification requirement has only just been enforced by PennDOT over the last year, catching many municipalities by surprise and resulting in many cancelled community events. Additionally, municipal solicitors and insurance companies have advised municipalities not to provide indemnification. Municipalities do not have the power to indemnify and provide a defense of claims made by a third party, as they have no control over the actions or failures of a third party. If PennDOT continues to enforce this regulation, municipalities will have no choice but to deny special event permits for third parties.

Senate Bill 615 would address this issue by amending Title 75 prohibiting PennDOT from requiring the duplicative municipal indemnification when a third party already has provided indemnification to PennDOT, ultimately removing the legal hurdles for municipalities to continue to allow certain community events to take place within their jurisdiction.

Thank you for your consideration.