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## MEMO

To: Members of the House Labor and Industry Committee  
From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director – Advocacy, PA Municipal League  
Date: January 24, 2022  
Re: Support for House Bill 845 and Amendment A03459

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On behalf of the members of the PA Municipal League, I am writing in support of House Bill 845 and Amendment A03459 scheduled for Committee consideration on January 25.

This bill establishes the Public Employment Collective Bargaining Act and provides for more transparency in the outcomes of collective bargaining.

From the municipal employer perspective, the bill and amendment would require public notice of proposed collective bargaining agreements and final arbitration awards. These documents would also be accessible under the Right to Know Law.

The League supports transparency in the collective bargaining process. It is important that the public have the ability to access information regarding public employee contracts and arbitration awards, as taxpayers are ultimately responsible for the costs of public employee contracts.

Although this transparency legislation does not amend Act 111, it does impact the Act 111 process. The League has been a longtime advocate for commonsense reform of Act 111, including more transparency. We encourage the members of the General Assembly to continue to address Act 111. There are a number of changes that could be made to bring employer equity to this outdated law. For example, if the two parties go to arbitration, the employer (the taxpayers) foots the bill for the neutral third arbitrator on the panel. This cost varies, but can be thousands of dollars that rightfully should be split between the two parties to the arbitration proceedings.

We thank the Committee for considering this legislation and request an affirmative vote on the amendment and bill.

Thank you.