

The Pennsylvania Radar Coalition

Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association	Fraternal Order of Police -Pennsylvania State Lodge	Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association
Pennsylvania Municipal League	Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs	Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors	Pennsylvania State Mayors' Association	

March 9, 2022

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives:

Public safety is and always has been the number one reason our members have advocated for local use of radar. It is long past time to provide local police with appropriate and modern speed-timing technology. House Bill 606 (PN 1027) will provide that new technology while ensuring it is used responsibly. Please see the attached list of provisions in HB 606.

Simply put, speeding motorists are breaking the law, endangering themselves and others. Local police are charged with protecting the public and enforcing traffic laws. Pennsylvania can no longer deny local law enforcement the appropriate tools for their job.

Today, as we continue to advocate for local use of radar, Pennsylvania is facing a public safety “perfect storm” that needs your attention and quick action.

Startling new developments concerning non-radar technology used by local police, as well as stark new data regarding a dramatic increase in traffic fatalities warrant swift passage of House Bill 606.

In regards to technology, Pennsylvania is so far behind that public safety is in jeopardy. Specifically, Traffic Safety Systems, manufacturer of VASCAR, has gone out of business. The ENRADD speed timing device, manufactured by YCG, Inc., has been discontinued and will not be replaced. Most of the remaining PennDOT approved speed timing devices are not available having been out of production for 20 plus years. In addition, local police are finding that their current equipment is incompatible with new police vehicles. These developments mean a stopwatch will become the only means of monitoring speed on local roads. This will further hinder local law enforcement operations and have a significant impact on public safety.

Moreover, on February 1, 2022, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that the number of traffic fatalities during the first nine months of 2021 was, “the highest number of fatalities during the first nine months of any year since 2006 and the highest percentage increase during the first nine months in the Fatality Analysis Reporting System’s history.”

Statistics at the state level, recently published in the 2022 *Pennsylvania’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan* reveal that, “one-quarter of all reportable crashes and approximately 200 fatalities occur every year on the local road network.” The Plan also recommends authorization of local radar for municipal police as a way to advance public safety.

Based on the technology void and the state and national statistics described above, the Radar Coalition and its members call on the House to act! Support local police and public safety by bringing HB 606 to a vote this spring.

Sincerely,

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Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association

Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director - Advocacy
Pennsylvania Municipal League
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners

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