



Pennsylvania Municipal League
President – Danene Sorace, Mayor, City of Lancaster



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
President – R. Samuel Valenza, Commissioner, Upper Merion Township

MEMO

TO: Members of the Senate Law and Justice Committee

FROM: Amy Sturges, Executive Deputy Director – Advocacy, The League and PSATC

RE: Opposition of Senate Bill 669 (PN 733)

DATE: May 23, 2022

On behalf of the membership of the Pennsylvania Municipal League and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners, I am writing to express our strong opposition of Senate Bill 669 up for Committee consideration tomorrow, May 24.

Senate Bill 669 would allow police officers to purchase pension service credits for prior full or part-time work. While this may sound like a good idea, the bill would actually place an unfunded mandate on local governments by requiring a new, unplanned pension benefit that will increase municipal employer costs.

Additionally, this bill overlooks the problems facing municipal pension plans. While this bill assumes municipal pension plans are fully funded, the reality is that many are not and adding an additional cost as Senate Bill 669 requires would place a great burden on municipalities to meet their obligations. Municipalities have to make up the difference if and when pension plans are not fully funded or experience future losses. The League and PSATC have been working for years to achieve municipal pension reform. The ills of the current pension system must be addressed before considering the expansion or transferability of benefits. For this reason, we simply cannot support the addition of new benefits without achieving true pension reform first.

We respectfully request a “no” vote when Senate Bill 669 is brought up for Committee consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.