



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



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners  
President – Sam Valenza, Commissioner, Upper Moreland Township

## MEMO

TO: Members of the House Local Government Committee

FROM: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director -- Advocacy, PML and PSATC

RE: Bills on the Committee Agenda for May 25, 2022

DATE: May 24, 2022

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On behalf of the membership of the Pennsylvania Municipal League and the Pennsylvania State Association on Township Commissioners, please see our positions below on bills scheduled for Committee consideration tomorrow, May 25.

**Support -- HB 2254** – Amending Title 11 (Cities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to update, clarify, and consolidate the law relating to the classification of cities in the Commonwealth.

**Support -- HB 2493** -- Amending the Administrative Code of 1929 to add a representative to the State Planning Board from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

**Support -- HB 2599** -- An Act providing for legal effect of surplus personal property disposed of by municipal officials and employees in support of the Ukrainian Government during 2022.

**Support -- SB 480** – Amending the Borough Code—Making Technical/Clarifying Changes and Revising Provisions Regulating Municipal Waste on Public and Private Property.

**Strongly Oppose -- SB 275** – An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preemptions, providing for restrictions on utility services prohibited.

This legislation is unnecessary and will create confusion and expose municipalities to litigation because the language is very broad, subjective and unclear.

Although touted as an energy choice bill and a way to ensure all residents of the Commonwealth are treated equally, it is not necessary. In Pennsylvania, the Public Utility Commission has jurisdiction over the regulation of utilities, therefore, local regulatory action of utilities is already prohibited. In other words, a municipality cannot restrict a source of energy, like natural gas, and to our knowledge, no municipality is looking to take such action.

Municipalities are, however, implementing environmental policies and working at varying degrees to address sustainability and resiliency in their communities through local actions that promote improved air quality, energy efficiency and energy costs. This legislation would expose municipalities with such community policies, incentives and actions to claims of discrimination by the energy industry. As written, the broad language in Senate Bill 275 leaves a wide gap for subjective interpretation of what is actually being prohibited, making it a dangerous bill for local governments and taxpayers alike.

As such, we oppose SB 275 and respectfully request a “NO” vote.

Thank you for your consideration.