



## BCATO 2023-2024 Legislative Session Priorities

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### Standing Priorities

**Sterling Act Reimbursement/Commuter Tax Fairness**-Non-residents who work in Philadelphia must pay the Wage Tax. However, unlike the imposition of local taxes in all other taxing jurisdictions, none of the non-resident City Wage Tax is returned to the non-resident's home municipality.

[SB 671 Sterling Act Reimbursement](#) (Farry) Passed the Senate

[HB 1134 Commuter Tax Reimbursement](#) (Munroe) Introduced and referred to House Finance Committee

[HB 1148 Sterling Act Reimbursement Commuter Tax Fairness](#)(Marcell) Introduced and referred to House Finance Committee

**Authorization of local police to use RADAR/LIDAR for speed enforcement.**

[SB 459 Helping Local Police Protect Our Communities Through RADAR](#) (Rothman) Introduced and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Santarsiero is a co-sponsor. Similar to Rothman's legislation, SB419 passed the Senate last session 49-1.

### Legal Advertising Reform

As technology has transformed the way people get their news, the laws have not kept up. That is why PSATS supports additional options to print edition legal advertising mandates. Local governments are required to keep the public informed of meetings, bid opportunities, proposed ordinances, and more. The only current legal means for official notification remains expensive legal advertisements in physical print editions of paid newspapers. Each year townships spend thousands of taxpayer dollars on legal advertising. PSATS supports legislation that provides additional advertising options, including electronic advertisements, that reach a wider audience, have a shorter turnaround time, and reduce the financial burden on local taxpayers.

*\*(Testimony presented April 19, 2023 by PSATS before the PA House Local Government Committee delivered by Joseph Gerdes III, Director of Government Relations)*

### 2023 Annual Convention Resolutions, adopted by PSATS.

- 23-02 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to provide an alternative means of generating revenue for the maintenance and repair of local roads due to a reduction in Liquid Fuels taxes from alternative energy motor vehicles (e.g., electric, propane, liquified natural gas, hydrogen, etc.). BUCKS COUNTY.

*[Justification: There is a need for the Legislature to develop an alternative funding solution for the loss of liquid fuel funds from vehicles that do not pay a fuel tax. The number of alternative energy vehicles is increasing and now includes many fleets of other vehicles (trash haulers, FedEx, UPS, Commercial buses, etc.) in addition to personal vehicles which add to the wear and tear of roads. All vehicles using township roads need to pay their fair share of maintenance*

costs.]

SB 656 (Rothman and Dush) [Elimination of Alternative Fuel Tax on Electric Vehicles](#)

- 23-03 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek to amend the Second-Class Township Code to provide for a dedicated millage for the maintenance and repair of township roads. BUCKS COUNTY

*[Justification: Townships should be able to adopt a specific tax for the maintenance of roads, outside of the General Fund. Currently, special tax levies include streetlights, public buildings, fire protection, Emergency Medical Services, hydrants, parks, revolving fund for permanent street improvements, and road equipment. There is no specific levy allowed for the routine maintenance of township roads.]*

- 23-13 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to permit municipalities with excess police pension funds from a disbanded or defunct municipal police department to transfer these unencumbered funds to another municipal police pension fund within the Commonwealth. BUCKS COUNTY

*[Justification: The sponsoring municipality had disbanded its police department 30+ years ago and choose to contract with another municipality to provide service. After ensuring that its financial obligation to former police officers was properly addressed, the residual funds were retained. The municipality would like to close out the pension fund. It is not allowed to transfer funds to the non-uniform fund. The only other option is to return these funds to the Commonwealth. Current law only permits a police pension to be transferred to a regional or consolidated police department. There is a desire to transfer funds to a local municipality police pension fund that now provides coverage.]*

- 23-22 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to repeal a portion of the Burial Grounds Act [9 Pa.C.S.A. §301] that require a municipality to post funds into a permanently held lot care fund. BUCKS COUNTY [SB 887 Hutchinson](#) / [HB 1641 Moul](#)
- 23-23 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to repeal a portion of the Burial Grounds Act [9 Pa.C.S.A. §301(a)] requiring a municipality to annually set aside funds in a permanent lot care fund from the sale of lots, and construction and sale of crypts and niches in columbaria. BUCKS COUNTY [SB 887 Hutchinson](#) / [HB 1641](#)
- 23-24 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to repeal a portion of the Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act [9 Pa.C.S.A. §304(a)(1)] requiring a municipality to have a valid registration certificate from the State Real Estate Commission to sell cemetery lots, crypts and niches in columbaria. BUCKS COUNTY [SB 887 Hutchinson](#) / [HB 1641 Moul](#)

- [Justification 22, 23, 24 – A municipality is under County Court order to maintain a local church abandoned cemetery and to expend no more than \$100 per year for maintenance. Under state law, townships may not sell available lots to offset costs unless it posts \$75,000 to a cemetery fund and maintains a real estate license. Churches are exempt from requirements to maintain a perpetual fund or obtain a license to sell cemetery plots. As churches close or consolidate, there could be increased pressure on townships to pick up maintenance of these assets. Three resolutions are proposed to address this need.]*
- 23-31 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Act 12 of 2016 to prohibit for-profit private utilities from acquiring municipal and authority-owned water and sewer systems based on “fair market value” as defined in Act 12 instead of “book value” which was the valuation method used prior to Act 12, AND FURTHER, that “fair market value” be used when purchasing water or sewer systems from distressed municipalities or municipal authorities. BUCKS COUNTY [SB 432 Water Rate Payer Bill of Rights](#) (Kane, Santarsiero) Introduced and referred to Consumer Protection

[SB 866 Co-Sponsor Memo \(Sen. Kane\) Predatory Pricing Repeal](#)  
[Co-Sponsor Memo \(Sens. Kane, Santarsiero\) Reforming Water Protections for All](#)  
[Co-Sponsor Memo \(Sen. Schwank\) Establishing a Binding Ratepayer Referendum Approval for Municipal Water/Wastewater Sales](#)  
[HB 1308 Krueger Co-Sponsor Memo \(Rep. Krueger\) Acquisitions of Distressed Water and Wastewater Systems](#)  
[HB 626 Lawrence/HB 627 Lawrence /HB 628 Lawrence / HB 629](#) Co-Sponsor Memo (Rep. Lawrence) [Reform the Process of Selling Publicly Managed Utilities- Four Bill Package](#)

## Oppose

[HB 299 Establishing the Pennsylvania Occupational Safety and Health Review Board; providing for workplace inspections; and imposing penalties.](#)

- Subjects local governments, as well as volunteer fire companies and nonprofit EMS services, to federal OSHA standards.
- Without full state funding for the excessive regulatory requirements and punitive penalties that HB 299 would impose, elected officials will be forced to pass the costs of compliance onto property taxpayers.
- In addition, we support an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution to prohibit the enactment of new laws that impose costs on municipalities unless the General Assembly provides sufficient funding for implementation.

[HB 390 An Act providing for plumber and plumbing contractors licensure](#)

- The definition of “Plumbing Services” incorporates the elements of operating water and/or wastewater treatment systems.
- Many municipalities own their public water and/or wastewater systems.
- These systems are operated by trained utility employees or contractors.
- HB 390 would require municipalities to employ licensed plumbers to operate municipal-owned water and wastewater systems.

