

Testimony of Joseph Regan, Fraternal Order of Police, PA State Lodge
Before Pennsylvania House Transportation Committee
April 4, 2018 – Radar for Local Law Enforcement

Good morning. My name is Joseph Regan. I am a retired veteran of the Lower Merion Township Police Department in Montgomery County. I also serve as Recording Secretary and Legislative Committee Chairman of the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge, which represents 40,000 law enforcement professionals throughout Pennsylvania.

At the outset of my testimony I would like to thank Committee Chairmen Taylor and Keller and the other House Transportation Committee for your work on matters of concern to Pennsylvania's Police Officers. I appear before you today to discuss the PA FOP's position on the use of radar and related speed timing equipment by local law enforcement. The FOP supports the use of radar by local police under appropriate circumstances, as we regularly endorse the use of new technologies to help Police Officers perform our work more effectively.

The PA FOP supports Senate Bill 251, PN 1316, because SB 251 permits the use of this new technology in local departments in a manner that addresses safety and health concerns of citizens and police officers and protects against possible abuses.

First, SB 251 permits the use of radar by municipal or regional police officers only upon satisfaction of training standards set by the Municipal Police Training and Education Commission. The utilization of MPOETC standards will ensure consistent use of local radar statewide in those communities that elect to use this new enforcement tool. It is the FOP's position that policing by certified, trained police officers is the best method of delivering law enforcement services to Pennsylvania's citizens. This approach should not be altered when it comes to the introduction of new tools like radar or LIDAR.

Second, SB 251 manages radar revenues in a manner that will enhance traffic safety for civilians and law enforcement officers throughout the Commonwealth, as opposed to keeping those revenues solely within the municipalities and counties that utilize radar. From the FOP's perspective, the goal for local radar must be citizen and officer safety, not enhanced local revenues. By limiting the local share of radar revenues, SB 251 protects against the possibility of abuse/overuse by overzealous municipalities.

Because the bill meets the criteria set forth above, the PA FOP supports SB 251. In closing, let me again thank the Committee members for your continued support of Pennsylvania's Law Enforcement Officers. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other issues to provide for safer roads and safer citizens throughout the Commonwealth. I would be happy to answer any questions on my testimony. Thank you.