



Pennsylvania Municipal League
President – Salvatore J. Panto, Jr., Mayor, City of Easton



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
President – Michael Higgins, Commissioner, Aston Township

MEMO

To: Members of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
and House Local Government Committee

From: Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, PML and PSATC

Re: Storm Water Management and Support for House Bills 473 and 474

Date: June 18, 2019

On behalf of the PA Municipal League and PA State Association of Township Commissioners, I write in support of House Bills 473 and 474 and the need for all municipalities to have tools to appropriately address the unfunded MS4 mandate, as well as general management and maintenance of storm water facilities.

House Bills 473 and 474 authorize cities, boroughs and first class townships to implement storm water management programs and charge reasonable and uniform fees to pay for these programs. This optional tool provides an avenue for dealing with the costs of the federal mandate, as well as general facility management. Without this option, local governments dealing with MS4 costs and facility upgrades have no choice but to turn to real property taxes to raise revenue for these expenses. As you well know, this is simply not a viable solution in many older communities. A reasonable and uniform fee, however, across all properties is a viable solution spreading the cost over all who benefit and providing a sustainable, dedicated funding source.

This authorization has been provided to municipal authorities and second class townships and now needs to be extended to the other forms of local government. This tool is especially important in urban and suburban, developing and built-out communities, where impervious surfaces are prevalent and facilities are older and in need of upgrades in order to comply with the mandate.

The House has passed this legislation in prior sessions and we respectfully request that the bills be voted from House Local Government so that they may be considered by the full House.

Thank you for holding the hearing today on this timely and important topic. Our members appreciate the committees' attention to this issue and look forward to this tool becoming available to help them navigate this mandate.