

# PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

## STATEMENT TO HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

APRIL 11, 2023



The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) wants to thank Chairmen Neilson and Benninghoff and the members of the House Transportation Committee for the opportunity to provide written remarks relative to the Motor License Fund (MLF) and the funding of the PSP.

We are appreciative of Governor Shapiro, his staff, and members of the General Assembly for their unwavering commitment to public safety.

The PSP has jurisdiction in all political subdivisions within the Commonwealth and provides full-time or part-time police service to approximately 67 percent of the Commonwealth's municipalities, 61 percent of the Commonwealth's roadways, and 81 percent of the Commonwealth's total land area.

Because our budget is primarily driven by personnel cost, finding a way to fully fund the PSP is inexorably linked to our ability to provide the residents of this great Commonwealth with the quality service they deserve and have come to expect. Governor Shapiro has proposed a budget that promises to provide dedicated funding through a new fund known as the Public Safety and Protection Fund and fully eliminate the PSP's reliance on the MLF by Fiscal Year 2027-28.

Since 1945, a portion of the PSP's funding was pulled from the MLF putting the PSP in the unenviable position of competing for money otherwise dedicated to transportation infrastructure improvements. The portion received increased, as PSP's overall budget increased, reaching a high-water mark of approximately \$801 million, 65% of the total PSP budget, in 2016/17. In 2016, the Wolf

Administration and General Assembly passed Act 85, which provided for an incremental reduction in the amount of MLF monies appropriated to PSP until it reached an annual cap of \$500 million.

The PSP genuinely appreciates the thoughtful deliberations of the Governor, his staff, and the General Assembly as they contemplate this matter. It is clear that all stakeholders recognize the importance of refreshing the Commonwealth's expansive infrastructure, while simultaneously grasping the necessity to support public safety. The Governor's proposal would provide a sustainable funding source for the PSP, eliminating any PSP reliance on the MLF, while infusing much needed funding into the Commonwealth's roads and bridges.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide remarks on this very important topic. The PSP remains committed to providing professional public safety services to the residents and visitors of this Commonwealth and all discussions in furtherance of this mission.