

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

The meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott Hutchinson at 9:02 a.m. in Room 515 Irvis Office Building with the following Commission Members, staff and guests participating in-person and remotely:

MEMBERS

**Senator Scott E. Hutchinson, Chair
Senator Cris Dush
Senator Rosemary M. Brown
Senator Timothy P. Kearney
Senator Carolyn T. Comitta
Representative Robert Freeman
Representative Christina D. Sappey
Representative Dan Moul**

STAFF

**David A. Greene, Executive Director
Kristopher J. Gazsi, Assistant Director
Martin A. Toth, Associate Legal Counsel
Julia Frey, Senior Research Analyst
Rex Burman, Research Analyst
Karen S. Bear, Executive Assistant
Sonya I. Ebersole, Fiscal Administrator**

GUESTS

**Isaac Evans, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Emily Eyster, Senator Comitta's Office
Ryan Carpenter, Representative Freeman's Office
Miller Masson, House Fellow, Representative Freeman's Office
Teresa Leitner, Representative James' Office
Mary Yoder, Senate Local Government Committee (R)
Jon Castelli, House Local Government Committee (D)
Lindsay Ewing, House Research Office (R)
Frank Mazza, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Sophie Eyer, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Jennie Shade, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Logan Stover, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Joe Gerdes, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Brian Rengert, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Denise Dugan**

The Executive Director made a statement that the in-person and virtual meeting was being recorded and conducted with both Member and Commission staff participation. On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, notice of the meeting was posted on the committee meeting pages of the Senate of Pennsylvania and the House of Representatives through the Legislative Data Processing

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Center. The meeting agenda was posted on the Commission’s website, www.lgc.state.pa.us, on Monday, October 7, 2024, and outside of the Commission’s office located at 506 Irvis Office Building. Any questions on agenda items for consideration by the Commission were addressed during the meeting. After adjournment, the recording of the meeting will be posted on the Commission’s website at www.lgc.state.pa.us.

The Members reviewed the minutes of the September 18, 2024, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Dush and a second by Senator Brown. The financial reports for the month of September 2024 were presented, and an explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Freeman and a second by Representative Moul.

Proposed legislation that would amend the Workers’ Compensation Act to include the engagement in organized fundraising activities as within the scope of employment for members of volunteer fire departments, volunteer ambulance corps, and volunteer rescue squads, other than social members was provided to the Members for their review. The legislation amends the Act of June 2, 1915, P.L. 736, No. 338, Workers’ Compensation Act, by making changes to the following three sections:

- (1) Section 601(a)(1)-(a)(3) - Adds the language that a participating member of a volunteer fire department/company, volunteer ambulance corps, and volunteer rescue squad, to provide coverage for “engaging in organized fundraising activity.”
- (2) Section 601(f)(4) - Adds the language that a participating member of a volunteer fire department/company who does not respond to emergency calls and is not a social member is covered when “engaging in organized fundraising activity.”
- (3) Section 601(g)(3) - Adds the language that a participating member of a volunteer ambulance corps who does not respond to emergency calls and is not a social member is covered for “engaging in organized fundraising activity.”

This bill would provide coverage for volunteers who are injured while organizing or engaging in organized fundraising activities at volunteer fire departments and with the volunteer ambulance corps. Volunteers shall be covered as though they were employees and compensated for damages and injuries sustained while engaging in organized fundraising activities. Representative Moul queried if the amendment protects volunteers who are injured going to and from the location of the fundraising activity. Mr. Burman confirmed that the amendment would include travel for an event. This proposal is supported by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and their input was used in drafting language for this bill. The Members agreed unanimously to the proposed amendments and directed Commission staff to prepare the language for introduction into both chambers with Senator Dush and Representative Moul as prime sponsors.

Senior Research Analyst Julia Frey provided details on the fourth annual Local Government Symposium scheduled for Thursday, October 24. Ms. Frey stated that the morning session will focus on stormwater management and flood control planning, and the afternoon session will pertain to housing availability and affordability. Commission staff is finalizing the details. Registration for the event may be accomplished by visiting the Commission’s website at www.lgc.state.pa.us. Thanks to the work of Commission Associate Legal Counsel Martin Toth all

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attorneys attending, in person, may earn continuing legal education (CLE) credits. Ms. Frey stated that she will be contacting Commission Members to schedule their Symposium participation.

As the last orders of business, the Director announced that Commission Associate Legal Counsel Martin Toth is organizing a Lunch and Learn seminar to be held Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Attendees can earn CLE credits by listening to presentations with the American Planning Association on subdivision and zoning and housing powers as provided for in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 515 Irvis Office Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
November 1, 2024