

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

- The **Local Government Commission** is a bicameral, bipartisan legislative service agency. Created in 1935 by an Act of Assembly, it is one of the oldest agencies of its kind in the country. The Commission is comprised of five Senate Members and five House Members, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. A small staff, consisting of professional and support personnel, assists the Commission with its administrative and statutory duties.

Overview

- **Five-member research staff** addressing about 2,600 substantive inquiries annually, often requiring in-depth legal research and analysis, for Members, staff, local government officials and the public.
- Concurrently conducting ongoing projects and drafting legislation for the Commission and other Members.
- Providing a bridge between constituents and improvements for local governments.
- *Producing results that often are more difficult to achieve through caucus staff or advocacy groups alone.*

Major Initiatives

- **Intergovernmental Cooperation Law**, facilitating efficiencies among local governments.
- **Municipal Merger and Consolidation Act**, enabling cost savings and improved services.
- **HR 167 Task Force**, devising improvements to local policing.
- **Act 47 Task Force and amendments**, providing tools for municipalities to avoid and recover from financial distress.
- Cost savings on **mandatory legal advertising** by local governments.
- **SR 323 of 2010 Report**, determining costs and making recommendations for municipal mandate relief.
- **Assessment Reform Task Force**, making the property assessment process more modern, efficient, transparent and equitable.

Assessment Reform Task Force

- Formed at November 16, 2016 Commission meeting to address assessment-related litigation currently and in recent years, and reported inconsistencies and inequities in the Pennsylvania's property assessment system.
- Four members of the Local Government Commission, equally appointed from the Senate and House majority and minority caucuses.
- An appointment from the Department of Community and Economic Development
- An appointment from the Department of Revenue.
- Appointments from the LGC, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, Assessors' Association of Pennsylvania, Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, and State Tax Equalization Board.

Assessment Reform Task Force, cont'd.

- Facilitate development and implementation of remedies to address recommendations in recent House Resolution reports related to modernization, efficiency, transparency and fairness of the property assessment process in Pennsylvania.

House Resolution 334 of 2009 Report, *Pennsylvania's System for Property Valuation and Reassessment*, by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee,

The **Final Report of the House Resolution 343** [of 2011] Task Force on Property Valuation and Reassessment, and the **Final Report of the House Resolution 344** [of 2011] Task Force on Property Valuation and Reassessment and the Pennsylvania State Tax Equalization Board.

Assessment Reform Task Force, cont'd.

- Senate Bill 689 and House Bill 1361, amending the **Real Estate Appraisers Certification Act** to provide for the appointment of two Certified Pennsylvania Evaluators to the State Board of Real Estate Appraisers.
- Senate Bill 832 and House Bill 1594, amending the **Assessors Certification Act** to provide for the qualifications and training of revaluation company personnel and Certified Pennsylvania Evaluators.
- Senate Bill 950 and House Bill 1890, providing for a **Voluntary Real Estate Sales Verification Form Pilot Program**.
- Senate Bill 1006 and House Bill 1991, amending Consolidated County Assessment Law to further provide for submission of **building permit and substantial improvement information**.
- Senate Bill 1007 (Act 155 of 2018) and House Bill 1990, amending Consolidated County Assessment Law to provide for **appeal boards' qualifications, the appeals process and certain notifications**.
- **Data Collector Standards** for gathering data on characteristics of parcels required for property valuation, recommended to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania/Assessors' Association of Pennsylvania for adoption as a "best practice" and incorporation into their training program. Adopted by the AAP Board of Governors and the CCAP Board of Directors on July 13, 2018 and August 5, 2018, respectively.
- **Model RFP and Contracting Guidelines for County Reassessment Services** to help counties ensure that a reassessment is conducted appropriately and implemented successfully, recommended to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania for adoption and implementation. Adopted by the AAP Board of Governors and the CCAP Board of Directors on July 13, 2018 and August 5, 2018, respectively.
- **Pennsylvania Property Assessment: A Self-Evaluation Guide For County Officials** to provide the county governing body, county assessors and other county officials and employees, and the public with a primer on the reasons for periodic review of the status of the county's assessment system and the broad strokes of how that review may be conducted, recommended to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania/Assessors' Association of Pennsylvania for adoption as a "best practice" and incorporation into their training program. Adopted by the AAP Board of Governors and the CCAP Board of Directors on July 13, 2018 and August 5, 2018, respectively.

Statutory Duties

- Reviewing Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements as required by law. –53 Pa. C.S. §2314 (as amended by Act 92 of 2012).
- Publishing and distributing the municipal codes, gradually transitioning municipalities to more efficient electronic access.

Resources

www.lgc.state.pa.us

- *Pennsylvania Legislator's Municipal Deskbook* - over 50 articles answering Member and constituent questions about local government (online).
- *Quarterly Legal Update* - local government related cases-in-brief (online).
- *Summaries of Acts Signed into Law* - concise summaries of all enactments and vetoes (searchable online).
- *Mandate Database* - up-to-date database of 7,500+ statutory mandates imposed on municipalities.

Commission Legislation 2017-2018

SENATE BILLS SPONSORED BY LGC						
BILL NUMBER	PRIOR PRINTER'S NUMBER(S)	CURRENT PRINTER'S NUMBER	PRIME SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	COMPANION BILL NUMBER
SB 690		848	Eichelberger	TITLE 53 (MUNICIPALITIES GENERALLY) – initial appointment of home rule or optional plan municipality, without a mayor, dividing into wards.	Act 53 of 2017.	HB 1362
SB 691		849	Hutchinson	TITLE 53 (MUNICIPALITIES GENERALLY) – military leave and residency qualification for municipal office.	Act 54 of 2017.	HB 1363
SB 771		969	McGarrigle	BOROUGH CODE & THIRD CLASS CITY CODE – providing for concise publication of annual financial reporting information.	Act 135 of 2018.	HB 1573
SB 772		970	McGarrigle	FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP CODE – providing for concise publication of annual financial reporting information.	Act 136 of 2018.	HB 1574
SB 773		971	McGarrigle	INCORPORATED TOWNS – providing for concise publication of annual financial reporting information.	Act 137 of 2018.	HB 1575
SB 801		1012	Hutchinson	BOROUGH CODE & THIRD CLASS CITY CODE – providing for the purchase of used personal property from volunteer emergency service organizations without bid.	Act 140 of 2018.	HB 1609
SB 802		1013	Hutchinson	FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP CODE – providing for township purchase of used personal property from volunteer emergency service organizations without bid.	Act 141 of 2018.	HB 1610
SB 803		1014	Hutchinson	SECOND CLASS TOWNSHIP CODE - providing for township purchase of used personal property from volunteer emergency service organizations without bid.	Act 142 of 2108.	HB 1611

Commission Legislation 2017-2018

SENATE BILLS SPONSORED BY LGC						
BILL NUMBER	PRIOR PRINTER'S NUMBER(S)	CURRENT PRINTER'S NUMBER	PRIME SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	COMPANION BILL NUMBER
SB 804		1015	Hutchinson	INCORPORATED TOWNS - providing for town purchase of used personal property from volunteer emergency service organizations without bid.	Act 143 of 2018.	HB 1612
SB 947		1330	Hutchinson	TITLES 8 & 11 – increasing the dollar threshold that triggers advertisement when selling municipal personal property.	Act 150 of 2018.	HB 1888
SB 948		1331	Hutchinson	FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP CODE – increasing the dollar threshold that triggers advertisement when selling municipal personal property.	Act 151 of 2018.	HB 1887
SB 949		1332	Hutchinson	INCORPORATED TOWNS – increasing the dollar threshold that triggers advertisement when selling municipal personal property.	Act 152 of 2018.	HB 1889
SB 1005	1394, 1563, 1782, 1896	2026	Eichelberger	County Code Revision.	Act 154 of 2018.	
SB 1007		1396	Eichelberger	CONSOLIDATED COUNTY ASSESSMENT LAW – training and qualifications of assessment appeal board and auxiliary appeal board members.	Act 155 of 2018.	HB 1990

Municipal Code Modernization

- **2nd Class Twp. Code, enacted 1995** -- Previously updated in 1947
- **Borough Code, enacted 2012**-Incorporated into Pa.C.S. in 2014 -- Previously updated in 1965
- **3rd Class City Code, enacted 2014**-Incorporated into Pa.C.S. in 2015 -- Previously updated in 1951
- **County Code, enacted 2018** -- Previously updated in 1955
- **1st Class Twp. Code, *in progress*** -- Previously updated in 1949

Thank You!

- Mailing Address
- Local Government Commission
Senate Box 203078
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3078

(717) 787-7680
(717) 772-4524
LGC@palegislature.us
[@Pa_LGC](mailto:LGC@Pa_LGC)
- David A. Greene, Esq.
- Assistant Director/Legal Counsel
- PA Local Government Commission
- Pennsylvania General Assembly
- Harrisburg, PA
- Phone 717-787-7680
- E-mail: dgreene@palegislature.us