



# Local Government Committee

State Representative Robert L. Freeman  
Majority Chairman

207 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202136 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2136 • 717-783-3815

January 29, 2026

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the House Local Government Committee  
**FROM:** Rep. Robert L. Freeman, Majority Chairman  
**SUBJECT:** Voting Meeting Notification – February 4, 2026

Please be advised that the House Local Government Committee will hold a voting meeting on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @ 10:00 AM in 205 Ryan Office Building.**

The agenda will consist of the following legislation as well as any other business that may come before the committee:

- **HB 1291 (Freeman)** – Would amend the Newspaper Advertising Act to expand the definition of “newspaper of general circulation” to allow for public notice advertisements to appear in online-only or free newspapers under certain circumstances.
- **HB 1485 (Ciresi)** – Would amend the Emergency Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act to provide death benefits for public works employees who die as a result of the performance of their duties.
- **HB 2146 (Freeman)** – Would amend the Sunshine Act to address the recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling pertaining to the 24-hour notice rule when making changes to public meeting agendas.

If you have any questions, please contact Jon Castelli, Executive Director at 717-783-3815 or [jcastell@pahouse.net](mailto:jcastell@pahouse.net).

Please notify Christina Consylman at [cconsylm@pahouse.net](mailto:cconsylm@pahouse.net) with your attendance plans. If you will not be physically present at the meeting, please submit the applicable Vote by Designation Form or Official Leave Request Form to your respective chairman prior to the meeting. For those planning to participate virtually, a Teams link will be forthcoming.

## House Local Government Committee

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

10:00 AM

205 Ryan Office Building

### AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

#### Legislation to be Considered

- **HB 1291 (Freeman)** – Would amend the Newspaper Advertising Act to expand the definition of “newspaper of general circulation” to allow for public notice advertisements to appear in online-only or free newspapers under certain circumstances.
  - **Amendment A-02253 (Freeman)** – Omnibus amendment to address stakeholder concerns.
  - **Amendment A-02466 (Freeman)** – Clarifies that the requirement to publish legal notices and public notices in a newspapers of general circulation does not apply to a legal notice or public notice required by other law to be published in a legal newspaper.
- **HB 1485 (Ciresi)** – Would amend the Emergency Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act to provide death benefits for public works employees who die as a result of the performance of their duties.
  - **Amendment A-02381 (Freeman)** – Would extend state death benefits to coroners who die in the performance of their duties.
- **HB 2146 (Freeman)** – Would amend the Sunshine Act to address the recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling pertaining to the 24-hour notice rule when making changes to public meeting agendas.
  - **Amendment A-02459 (Freeman)** – Would add a new category of exceptions to the 24-hour rule for minor administrative approvals.
- **HB 2177 (Freeman)** -- Would amend the Borough Code and the Third Class City Code to clarify what information a public notice advertisement regarding a proposed ordinance must contain in its brief summary.

→ over

- **HB 2179 (Sappey)** – Would amend the Second Class Township Code to clarify what information a public notice advertisement regarding a proposed ordinance must contain in its brief summary.

### **Any Other Business**

### **Adjournment**

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1291

Sponsor: *Freeman, #136*

Printer's No. 1466

- 1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 4, by inserting after "rates"  
2 , for effect of failure to advertise when required  
3 Amend Bill, page 1, line 11, by inserting after "303"  
4 , 307  
5 Amend Bill, page 5, line 9, by inserting after "of"  
6 original  
7 Amend Bill, page 5, line 10, by striking out "shall not" and  
8 inserting  
9 does not  
10 Amend Bill, page 5, line 10, by striking out "25%" and  
11 inserting  
12 40%  
13 Amend Bill, page 5, lines 11 through 14, by striking out "\_\_  
14 does not primarily serve as a platform for promoting" in line 11  
15 and all of lines 12 through 14 and inserting  
16 as an annual average;  
17 (2) that is registered as a business with the Department  
18 of State of the Commonwealth;  
19 (3) that employs a local news staff;  
20 (4) that has a verifiable local audience;  
21 (5) that does not primarily serve as a platform for  
22 commercial advertising or promote the interests of a special  
23 interest group, individual or cause;  
24 (6) that follows ethics and standards of printed  
25 journalism; and  
26 Amend Bill, page 5, line 15, by striking out "(2)" and  
27 inserting  
28 (7) that

1 Amend Bill, page 8, lines 17 through 27, by striking out all  
2 of said lines and inserting

3 exists:

4 (i) a digital newspaper that posts all legal notices  
5 and public notices on the Statewide public notice website  
6 at no additional cost;

7 (ii) an online-only newspaper that posts all legal  
8 notices and public notices on the Statewide public notice  
9 website at no additional cost; or

10 (iii) a free newspaper that:

11 (A) posts all legal notices and public notices  
12 on its website at no additional cost; and

13 (B) posts all legal notices and public notices  
14 on the Statewide public notice website at no  
15 additional cost.

16 Amend Bill, page 10, line 5, by inserting after "of"

17 original

18 Amend Bill, page 10, lines 6 and 7, by striking out "must  
19 constitute" and inserting

20 constitutes

21 Amend Bill, page 10, line 7, by inserting after "content"

22 on an annual average

23 Amend Bill, page 10, by inserting between lines 12 and 13

24 (7) uses written content as its primary reporting method  
25 and means of communication;

26 (8) employs a local news staff;

27 (9) has a verifiable local audience;

28 Amend Bill, page 10, line 13, by striking out "(7)" and  
29 inserting

30 (10)

31 Amend Bill, page 10, line 15, by striking out "(8)" and  
32 inserting

33 (11)

34 Amend Bill, page 10, line 18, by striking out "(9)" and  
35 inserting

36 (12)

37 Amend Bill, page 16, by inserting between lines 13 and 14

1 § 307. Effect of failure to advertise when required.

2 (a) General rule.--No legal proceeding, matter, or case in  
3 which notice is required to be given by public notice, official  
4 or legal advertising, shall be binding and effective upon any  
5 interested person unless such public notice, official and legal  
6 advertising is [printed and] published in the newspapers of  
7 general circulation, official newspapers, and legal newspapers  
8 defined by this title, in the manner and as required by statute,  
9 and by any rule, order, or decree of court, resolution of a  
10 corporation, or unincorporated association, or ordinance, rule,  
11 or regulation of any government unit, in the proper newspapers  
12 of general circulation, official newspapers, and legal  
13 newspapers, defined by this title, and a proof of publication is  
14 filed of record in such matter or proceeding.

15 (b) Public notice published in printed newspapers.--

16 (1) Public notice that is published by a printed  
17 newspaper that qualifies as a newspaper of general  
18 circulation on its Internet website and on the Statewide  
19 public notice website shall be binding and effective if  
20 notice is required by law within a time frame that does not  
21 permit a printed public notice by the same printed newspaper.

22 (2) A public notice published in accordance with this  
23 section shall be published in the next regularly scheduled  
24 print edition following publication on the printed  
25 newspaper's Internet website and the Statewide public notice  
26 website.

27 Amend Bill, page 17, line 4, by inserting after "website"

28 landing page clearly and conspicuously

29 Amend Bill, page 17, by inserting between lines 15 and 16

30 (c) Duty of government units.--

31 (1) The following government units shall adopt a  
32 resolution declaring which newspaper of general circulation  
33 shall be used to carry the government unit's legal notices  
34 and public notices:

35 (i) political subdivision;

36 (ii) intermediate unit;

37 (iii) charter school;

38 (iv) cyber charter school;

39 (v) public trade school;

40 (vi) area career and technical school;

41 (vii) local agency, authority, council, board and  
42 commission;

43 (viii) intergovernmental agency, authority, council,  
44 board and commission;

45 (ix) regional agency, authority, council, board and  
46 commission;

47 (x) municipal agency, authority, council, board and  
48 commission; and

1            (xi) similar government entity.

2            (2) The resolution under paragraph (1) shall be adopted  
3            at a public meeting that adheres to the requirements of 65  
4            Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings).

5            Section 3. Title 45 is amended by adding a section to read:  
6            \$ 312. Construction.

7            Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to supersede,  
8            alter or eliminate any requirement to publish a legal or public  
9            notice in a legal newspaper as required by any other law, rule,  
10           order or decree of court.

11           Amend Bill, page 17, line 16, by striking out "3" and  
12           inserting

13           4

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1291 (As amended by A02253)

Sponsor: *Rev. Freeman, #136*

Printer's No. 1466

1 Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 26 and 27

2 (A02253)

3 Amend Bill, page 16, lines 20 and 21, by striking out all  
4 of said lines and inserting5 (a) Limitation.--6 (1) Legal notices and public notices may only be  
7 published in newspapers of general circulation.8 (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to a legal notice  
9 or public notice required by other law to be published in  
10 a legal newspaper.



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB1291 PN1466	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Andrew Roof
<b>Committee:</b>	Local Government		(717) 787-9516
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Freeman, Robert	<b>Executive Director:</b>	Jon R. Castelli
<b>Date:</b>	9/29/2025		

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### A. Brief Concept

This legislation would amend Title 45 (Legal Notices) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to continue to provide for public notices to be published in print newspapers of general circulation. However, if such a newspaper does not exist, a public notice may be published in a digital newspaper of general circulation. If neither exists, such notice may be published in a free newspaper of general circulation.

### C. Analysis of the Bill

- This legislation would amend Title 45 (Legal Notices) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide flexibility for where public notices are required to be published. The bill would accomplish this by broadening the definition of newspapers of general circulation to a threefold definition of:
  1. A "printed newspaper" with an online website.
  2. If a printed newspaper with an online website does not exist, then a "digital newspaper".
  3. If a printed newspaper with an online website and a digital newspaper do not exist, then a "free newspaper" or an "online-only newspaper".
- A newspaper of general circulation would additionally be required to post all public notices on the Statewide public notice website at no additional cost.

Definitions:

"Printed newspaper" is defined as a printed paper or publication that:

- Bears a title or name and conveys reading or pictorial intelligence of passing events, local or general happenings.
- Is a continuous publication.
- May be a daily newspaper, weekly newspaper, newspaper of general circulation, official newspaper or a legal newspaper.
- The term does not include:
  - A printed paper or publication, regardless of size, contents or time of issue, or number of copies issued, distributed and circulated gratuitously.

"Digital newspaper" is defined as a newspaper delivered in an electronic form on a website that:

- Is formatted similarly to a printed newspaper and produced in an archivable format.
- Is a continuous publication, has been actively publishing for at least six months, and is updated at least weekly.
- Has as its primary purpose regularly reporting on matters of importance to the public relating to local and community issues in the publication area.
- One of the following:
  - Distributes, or has ownership interest in, another entity that distributes, newspapers printed in the state.
  - Is capable of circulating printed newspapers throughout the publication area; or
  - Is the digital descendent of a printed newspaper product.

“Free newspaper” is defined as a printed newspaper that:

- Is offered gratuitously and principally devoted to the dissemination of local or general news and other editorial content, which may not constitute less than 25% of overall content, does not primarily serve as a platform for promoting the interests of a special interest group, individual or cause, and follows ethnics and standards of print journalism; and
- Is a continuous publication and has been published at not less than weekly intervals in the same community and has been published for at least two years.

“Online-only newspaper” is defined as a newspaper that:

- Is available to the general public exclusively online or digitally.
- Is a continuous publication and:
  - Has been actively and continuously publishing for at least one year.
  - Contains content that must be updated daily; and
  - Is registered as a business with the Department of State of the Commonwealth.
- Is principally devoted to the dissemination of local or general news and other editorial content that must constitute not less than 25% of overall content.
- Does not serve as a platform promoting the interests or opinions of a special interest group, individual or cause.
- Is produced in an archivable format and content must be archived on a server or website.

**Effective Date:**

The act would take effect 60 days after being signed into law by the Governor.

**G. Relevant Existing Laws**

Title 45 (Legal Notices), Chapter 3 (Legal Advertising), of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, also known as the Newspaper Advertising Act, outlines public notice requirements for local governments and school districts in Pennsylvania. State law requires that prior to taking certain actions local governments and school districts publish public notice advertisements in newspapers of general circulation, which as currently defined, includes only traditional print newspapers.

**E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

This legislation has not been previously introduced.

This document is a summary of proposed legislation and is prepared only as general information for use by the Democratic Members and Staff of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The document does not represent the legislative intent of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and may not be utilized as such.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1485 Session of  
2025

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, McNEILL, PROBST, SANCHEZ, BRIGGS, MADDEN,  
McANDREW, NEILSON, D. WILLIAMS, DELLOSO AND BRENNAN,  
MAY 16, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MAY 21, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424, No.101), entitled  
2 "An act providing for the payment of death benefits to the  
3 surviving spouse or children or parents of firefighters,  
4 ambulance service or rescue squad members, law enforcement  
5 officers or National Guard members who die as a result of the  
6 performance of their duties," further providing for death  
7 benefits and for definitions; and making an editorial change.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The title and section 1(a) introductory paragraph  
11 and (1), (a.1), (c) and (e) of the act of June 24, 1976  
12 (P.L.424, No.101), referred to as the Emergency and Law  
13 Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, are amended to read:

AN ACT

15 Providing for the payment of death benefits to the surviving  
16 spouse or children or parents of firefighters, ambulance  
17 service or rescue squad members, law enforcement officers,  
18 public works employees or National Guard members who die as a  
19 result of the performance of their duties.

20 Section 1. (a) In the event a law enforcement officer,

1 ambulance service or rescue squad member, firefighter, certified  
2 hazardous material response team member, member of the  
3 Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol, public works employee or National  
4 Guard member dies as a result of the performance of his duties,  
5 an application, including a certification of death, shall be  
6 made to the department within three years of the date of such  
7 death by any of the following:

8 (1) A political subdivision or an authority created by a  
9 political subdivision.

10 \* \* \*

11 (a.1) A firefighter, ambulance service or rescue squad  
12 member, law enforcement officer, certified hazardous material  
13 response team member, member of the Pennsylvania Civil Air  
14 Patrol, public works employee or National Guard member who  
15 suffers a fatal heart attack or stroke while on duty or not  
16 later than 24 hours after participating in a physical training  
17 exercise or responding to an emergency is presumed to have died  
18 as a result of the performance of his duties for purposes of  
19 this act.

20 \* \* \*

21 (c) A volunteer ambulance service, certified hazardous  
22 material response team or rescue squad member, public works  
23 employee or member of the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol shall be  
24 deemed to be acting in the performance of his duties for the  
25 purposes of this act going to or directly returning from an  
26 emergency which the ambulance service, certified hazardous  
27 material response team, rescue squad, public works employee or  
28 member of the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol attended including  
29 travel from and direct return to an ambulance service, certified  
30 hazardous material response team, rescue squad, public works

1 employee or Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol member's home, place  
2 of business or other place where he or she shall have been when  
3 he or she received the call or alarm or while participating in  
4 drills in which the ambulance service, certified hazardous  
5 material response team, rescue squad, municipality, municipal  
6 authority or Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol shall have  
7 participated or while repairing or doing other work about or on  
8 any emergency vehicle or buildings and grounds of the ambulance  
9 service, certified hazardous material response team, rescue  
10 squad, municipality, municipal authority or Pennsylvania Civil  
11 Air Patrol upon the authorization of the chief of the ambulance  
12 service, certified hazardous material response team, rescue  
13 squad, municipality, municipal authority or Pennsylvania Civil  
14 Air Patrol or other person in charge while answering any  
15 emergency calls for any purpose or while riding upon any  
16 vehicles which are owned or used by the ambulance service,  
17 certified hazardous material response team, rescue squad or  
18 Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol.

19 \* \* \*

20 (e) The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall pay out of the  
21 General Fund to the surviving spouse or, if there is no  
22 surviving spouse, the minor children of a National Guard member,  
23 certified hazardous material response team member, public works  
24 employee, member of the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol, volunteer  
25 firefighter, ambulance service or rescue squad member who died  
26 as a result of the performance of his duties the sum of  
27 \$100,000, adjusted in accordance with subsection (f) of this  
28 section. When no spouse or minor children survive, the benefit  
29 shall be paid to the parent or parents of such National Guard  
30 member, certified hazardous material response team member,

1 public works employee, member of the Pennsylvania Civil Air  
2 Patrol, volunteer firefighter, ambulance service or rescue squad  
3 member. The benefit shall be payable whether or not the National  
4 Guard member or certified hazardous material response team  
5 member, public works employee, member of the Pennsylvania Civil  
6 Air Patrol, volunteer firefighter, ambulance service or rescue  
7 squad member died as a result of the performance of his duty  
8 within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 2. Section 2 of the act is amended by adding a  
11 definition to read:

12 Section 2. The following words and phrases when used in this  
13 act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless  
14 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 \* \* \*

16 "Public works employee" means an employee of a municipality  
17 or municipal authority whose employment involves the care,  
18 maintenance or construction of municipally owned buildings, open  
19 space, parks, parking facilities, waste water treatment systems,  
20 water systems, sewers or other property, roads, highways or  
21 public infrastructure, and who, as a first responder, or in  
22 conjunction with first responders, may respond to emergencies  
23 while acting in an official capacity.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1485

Sponsor: *Freeman, #136*

Printer's No. 1739

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 7, by inserting after "benefits"  
2 for public works employees, coroners and staff persons

3 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 10 through 13, by striking out all  
4 of said lines and inserting

5 Section 1. The title and section 1(a) introductory paragraph  
6 and (1), (a.1), (c) and (d) of the act of June 24, 1976  
7 (P.L.424, No.101), referred to as the Emergency and Law  
8 Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, are amended and the  
9 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

10 Amend Bill, page 1, line 18, by inserting after "employees"  
11 , coroners

12 Amend Bill, page 2, line 3, by inserting after "Patrol,"  
13 coroner,

14 Amend Bill, page 2, line 14, by inserting after "Patrol,"  
15 coroner,

16 Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 18 and 19

17 (d) Upon receipt of such certification, the Commonwealth  
18 shall, from moneys payable out of the General Fund, pay to the  
19 surviving spouse or, if there is no surviving spouse, to the  
20 minor children of the paid firefighter, ambulance service or  
21 rescue squad member [or], law enforcement officer, public works  
22 employee or coroner who died as a result of the performance of  
23 his duty the sum of \$100,000, adjusted in accordance with  
24 subsection (f) of this section and an amount equal to the  
25 monthly salary, adjusted in accordance with subsection (f) of  
26 this section, of the deceased paid firefighter, ambulance  
27 service or rescue squad member [or], law enforcement officer,  
28 public works employee or coroner, less any workers' compensation  
29 or pension or retirement benefits paid to such survivors, and  
30 shall continue such monthly payments until there is no eligible  
31 beneficiary to receive them. For the purpose of this subsection,  
32 the term "eligible beneficiary" means the surviving spouse or

1 the child or children under the age of eighteen years or, if  
2 attending college, under the age of twenty-three years, of the  
3 firefighter, ambulance service or rescue squad member [or], law  
4 enforcement officer, public works employee or coroner who died  
5 as a result of the performance of his duty. When no spouse or  
6 minor children survive, a single sum of \$100,000, adjusted in  
7 accordance with subsection (f) of this section, shall be paid to  
8 the parent or parents of such firefighter, ambulance service  
9 member, rescue squad member [or], law enforcement officer,  
10 public works employee or coroner.

11 Amend Bill, page 3, lines 20 through 30; page 4, lines 1  
12 through 9; by striking out all of said lines on said pages and  
13 inserting

14 (h) A coroner shall be deemed to be acting in the  
15 performance of his duties for the purposes of this act when  
16 acting in accordance with 16 Pa.C.S. Ch. 139 (relating to  
17 coroner).

18 Amend Bill, page 4, lines 10 and 11, by striking out "a  
19 definition" and inserting  
20 definitions

21 Amend Bill, page 4, by inserting between lines 15 and 16

22 "Coroner" means an elected or appointed coroner or deputy  
23 coroner or an elected or appointed medical examiner. The term  
24 includes a staff person of an elected or appointed coroner or a  
25 staff person of an elected or appointed medical examiner.  
26 \* \* \*

27 Amend Bill, page 4, by inserting between lines 23 and 24

28 "Staff person" means an individual in the coroner's office or  
29 medical examiner's office who engages in activities relating to  
30 death investigations. The term includes a medical investigator,  
31 forensic technician, laboratory director, forensic supervisor,  
32 forensic investigator, scientist or autopsy or histology  
33 technician.

34 Section 3. Section 2.1 of the act is amended to read:

35 Section 2.1. This act shall be broadly construed to grant  
36 benefits to firefighters, ambulance service or rescue squad  
37 members, law enforcement officers, public works employees,  
38 coroners or National Guard personnel for deaths related to the  
39 performance of their duties.

40 Amend Bill, page 4, line 24, by striking out "3" and  
41 inserting

42 4



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB1485 PN1739	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Fernando Dysico (717) 783-3815
<b>Committee:</b>	Local Government	<b>Executive Director:</b>	Jon R. Castelli
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Ciresi, Joseph		
<b>Date:</b>	1/29/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Provides a death benefit payment to surviving family members of public works employees who die in the line of duty.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

Amends the Emergency Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act (Act 101 of 1976) to provide death benefits for public works employees (employed by a municipality or municipal authority) who die in the performance of their duties.

Duties of public works employees include:

- Maintenance or construction of municipally owned buildings, open space, parks, parking facilities, waste water treatment systems, water systems, sewers or other property, roads, highways or public infrastructure.
- First respondents or works with first responders when there are emergencies.

Under this legislation, state death benefits would be provided to the surviving spouse, children who are under the age of 18 (or 23 if the child is attending college), or parents of deceased public works employees in the form of a one-time payment no less than \$100,000 which accounts for inflation.

#### **Effective Date:**

60 days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

#### **Act 101 of 1976**

Under the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, the Bureau of Finance and Risk Management in the Department of General Services administers a death benefit program for the families of public servants in the following positions who die as a result of the performance of their duties:

- Paid firefighters, ambulance service or rescue squad members, or law enforcement officers;
- Volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance services or rescue squad members, certified hazardous material response members;
- Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol members; and
- Pennsylvania National Guard members.

"Performance of duties" includes instances where the death occurred because of a fatal heart attack or stroke within 24 hours after a physical training exercise or response to an emergency.

The benefit is paid to the surviving spouse of the deceased individual. If there is no surviving spouse, the benefit goes to the individual's minor children, which are children under the age of

18 or, if attending college, under the age of 23.

The law specifies that the families of certain public servants who qualify for the death benefit also qualify for a supplementary monthly benefit, and some positions have expanded definitions of "performance of duties." These benefits are explained in the following chart:

Position	Monthly Benefit	"Performance of duties" definition also includes...
National Guard member	No	
Civil Air Patrol member	No	Travel to/from emergency site and on-grounds work
Law enforcement officer	Yes	
Paid emergency responder	Yes	
Volunteer emergency responder (all those above and includes certified hazardous material response team members)	No	Travel to/from emergency site and on-grounds work.  Firefighters only: includes other duties related to the Fire and Panic Act.

As shown in the table above, the families of paid emergency responders and law enforcement officers are eligible to receive a monthly payment equal to the deceased's monthly salary, minus any worker's compensation, pension, or retirement benefits. This monthly benefit is paid to the surviving spouse, or if there is no surviving spouse, to the surviving children under 18, or under 23 while attending college. The monthly payment extends until there is no longer an eligible beneficiary.

If no spouse or eligible children survive, then a single sum of \$100,000 is paid to the parent or parents of the paid emergency responders or law enforcement officers.

To receive the benefit, an application, including the death certificate, must be made within three years of the date of death to the Department of General Services by the following applicable party:

- Any survivor eligible for payment of benefits under this act or individual authorized to act on the survivor's behalf.
- A political subdivision.
- A Commonwealth agency.
- For National Guard members, the Adjutant General.
- For a member of a Commonwealth law enforcement agency, the agency head.
- For a campus police officer, the university or college president.
- In the case of the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol, the State Commander.

#### **E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

This legislation has not been previously introduced.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2146 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY FREEMAN, B. MILLER, HILL-EVANS, SHUSTERMAN,  
VITALI, SANCHEZ, GREINER, RIVERA, PIELLI, WALSH, WATRO,  
SAPPEY, HARKINS, ROAE, KRUPA, NEILSON, WAXMAN, OTTEN, SCOTT,  
McNEILL, KAZEEM, DONAHUE, SOLOMON, INGLIS, BOROWSKI, JAMES,  
STENDER, ZIMMERMAN AND MADDEN, JANUARY 15, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 22, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in open meetings, further providing  
3 for notification of agency business required and exceptions.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 712.1(a), (c) and (e)(1) of Title 65 of  
7 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

8 § 712.1. Notification of agency business required and  
9 exceptions.

10 (a) Official action.--Except as provided in subsection (b),  
11 [(c), (d) or (e)] (c) or (d), an agency may not take official  
12 action on a matter of agency business at a meeting if the matter  
13 was not included in the notification required under section  
14 709(c.1) (relating to public notice).

15 \* \* \*

16 (c) Business arising within 24 hours before meeting.--An  
17 agency may take official action on a matter of agency business

1 that is not listed on a meeting agenda if the matter:

2 (1) [the matter] arises or is brought to the attention  
3 of the agency within the 24-hour period prior to the meeting;  
4 and

5 (2) [the matter] is de minimis in nature and does not  
6 involve the expenditure of funds or entering into a contract  
7 or agreement [by the agency].

8 \* \* \*

9 (e) Changes to agenda.--

10 (1) Upon majority vote of the individuals present and  
11 voting during the conduct of a meeting, an agency may add a  
12 matter of agency business arising under subsection (b), (c)  
13 or (d) to the agenda. The reasons for the changes to the  
14 agenda shall be announced at the meeting before any vote is  
15 conducted to make the changes to the agenda. The agency may  
16 subsequently take official action on the matter added to the  
17 agenda. The agency shall post the amended agenda on the  
18 agency's publicly accessible Internet website, if available,  
19 and at the agency's principal office location no later than  
20 the first business day following the meeting at which the  
21 agenda was changed.

22 \* \* \*

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2146

Sponsor: *Freeman, #136*

Printer's No. 2786

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 7, by inserting after "amended"  
2 and the section is amended by adding a subsection  
3 Amend Bill, page 1, line 11, by striking out "or" where it  
4 occurs the second time and inserting a comma

5 Amend Bill, page 1, line 11, by inserting after "(d)"  
6 or (d.1)

7 Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 8 and 9

8 (d.1) Minor administrative approvals.--

9 (1) An agency may take official action on a minor  
10 administrative approval not listed on a meeting agenda,  
11 including a minor administrative approval inadvertently  
12 omitted from the agenda, that would cause a hardship if  
13 delayed until the next meeting such as items discussed and  
14 acted on at a previous meeting. The exception under this  
15 subsection shall only include the following:

16 (i) Personnel actions after an executive session  
17 held in accordance with section 708(a)(1) and restricted  
18 to firing, leave, investigations or disciplining.

19 (ii) Official action, after an executive session  
20 held in accordance with section 708(a)(4), authorizing  
21 time-sensitive legal filings or other action related to  
22 litigation by the solicitor or chief legal counsel or  
23 other professional representatives. The opinion rendered  
24 by the solicitor under paragraph (2) shall include a  
25 description of why immediate action is required in order  
26 to preserve or promote the agency's legal interests.

27 (iii) Small purchasing and bill approvals of less  
28 than the current telephonic bidding threshold advertised  
29 in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for repairing or mitigating  
30 real or potential damage to property of the agency.

31 (iv) Small purchasing and bill approvals of less  
32 than the current bidding threshold advertised in the  
33 Pennsylvania Bulletin for purchase of property at an  
34 auction and facing an imminent deadline.

1           (v) Grant applications subject to an imminent  
2           deadline.

3           (vi) Small borrowing or tax anticipation note  
4           paperwork under 53 Pa.C.S. Pt. VII Subpt. B (relating to  
5           indebtedness and borrowing) if the borrowing or note was  
6           previously approved in an open meeting.

7           (vii) Minor permit approvals for sewer modules. This  
8           subparagraph shall not supersede any requirements of the  
9           act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the  
10           Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

11           (2) Prior to taking action on an item under this  
12           subsection, the agency shall obtain an opinion from its  
13           solicitor or chief legal counsel, as the case may be, on  
14           whether the proposed official action falls under this  
15           subsection. The opinion shall be provided by the solicitor or  
16           chief legal counsel at the meeting or in writing prior to the  
17           meeting and shall be publicly disclosed at the meeting.

18           Amend Bill, page 2, line 13, by striking out "or" where it  
19 occurs the first time and inserting a comma

20           Amend Bill, page 2, line 13, by inserting after "(d)"

21           or (d.1)

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB2146 PN2786	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Ryan Carpenter (717) 783-3815,6110
<b>Committee:</b>	Local Government	<b>Executive Director:</b>	Jon R. Castelli
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Freeman, Robert		
<b>Date:</b>	1/8/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Would amend the Sunshine Act to limit what government entities may add their meeting agendas at the meeting.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

This legislation would amend Title 65 (Public Officers), Section 712.1 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to restrict which type of matters a government entity may consider at a public meeting when they were not included on a published meeting agenda at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. They may only consider matters that are:

- Concerning a real or potential emergency involving a clear and present danger to life or property,
- Brought to the attention of the government entity within 24 hours of the meeting, de minimis in nature, and do not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into a contract, or
- Brought to the attention of the government entity by a resident or taxpayer at the meeting, de minimis in nature, and do not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into a contract.

A government entity may add these matters to the agenda at the meeting by announcing the reason for changing the agenda to public and then adding them to the agenda by a majority vote.

### **Effective Date:**

Sixty days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

Chapter 7 (Open Meetings), Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, also known as the Sunshine Act, requires Commonwealth agencies and political subdivisions to meet in public.

In 2021 the General Assembly amended the Sunshine Act to require meeting agendas of government entities to be published at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. It provided for certain exceptions to this 24-hour rule that could be brought up at a meeting without being published on the agenda 24-hours prior. Additionally, it provided that a government entity may add an item to the agenda at a meeting by a majority vote by the governing body.

In *Coleman v. Parkland School District* (2025) the Pennsylvania Supreme Court interpreted the 2021 changes as including four exceptions to the 24 hour-rule:

- Matters concerning a real or potential emergency involving a clear and present danger to life or property.
- Matters brought to the attention of the government entity within 24 hours of the meeting, de minimis in nature, and do not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into a contract.

- Matters brought to the attention of the government entity by a resident or taxpayer at the meeting, de minimis in nature, and do not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into a contract.
- A matter that was added to the agenda at the meeting by a majority vote.

This decision allows for any substantive matter to be added to the agenda at the meeting through a majority vote rather than providing the majority vote to be a procedure for considering certain issues that were not published on the agenda at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

**E. Prior Session** (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

N/A

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2177 Session of  
2026

INTRODUCED BY FREEMAN, SAPPEY, SMITH-WADE-EL, JAMES AND  
B. MILLER, JANUARY 30, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 30, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns), 11 (Cities)  
2 and 16 (Counties) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes,  
3 in ordinances, further providing for publication; in council,  
4 further providing for publication of proposed ordinance; and,  
5 in county commissioners and chief clerks, further providing  
6 for ordinances and resolutions.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 3301.2(a) and (b) heading of Title 8 of  
10 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, amended March 8, 2024  
11 (P.L.2, No.2), are amended and the section is amended by adding  
12 subsections to read:

13 § 3301.2. Publication.

14 (a) Requirements.--Except as provided under this part or  
15 other law, council shall publish every proposed ordinance once  
16 in one newspaper of general circulation no less than seven days  
17 and no more than 60 days prior to the day when council shall  
18 vote on the proposed ordinance. Publication of any proposed  
19 ordinance shall include all of the following:

20 [(1) The full text or the title of the ordinance and a

1 brief summary prepared by the borough solicitor setting forth  
2 all the provisions in reasonable detail.]

3 (1) The full text of the proposed ordinance or the title  
4 and a brief summary of the proposed ordinance. The brief  
5 summary shall include a description of each of the following,  
6 as applicable:

7 (i) An adoption, amendment or repeal of a tax, fee,  
8 charge or assessment.

9 (ii) An adoption, amendment or repeal of a  
10 regulation that provides for an offense or civil or  
11 criminal penalty.

12 (iii) A provision or covenant that does one or more  
13 of the following:

14 (A) Provides for the payment or disbursement of  
15 funds for goods, services or contractual obligations.

16 (B) Restricts funds to a specific purpose or  
17 obligation.

18 (C) Pledges funds for a specific purpose or  
19 obligation.

20 (2) A reference to the borough office or other place  
21 where [borough records are kept where] copies of the proposed  
22 ordinance may be examined.

23 (3) A reference to the publicly accessible Internet  
24 website, if any, where the full text of the proposed  
25 ordinance may be examined.

26 (a.1) Legal sufficiency.--If a published summary is subject  
27 to a legal challenge, a summary shall be legally sufficient if  
28 the summary containing the information required under subsection  
29 (a)(1) is made available for examination at the time of  
30 publication in conformity with subsection (a)(2) and (3).

1     (a.2) Land use ordinances.--Notwithstanding subsection (a)  
2     (1), the requirements of this section shall not supersede the  
3     publication or notification requirements of a proposed ordinance  
4     under the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the  
5     Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

6     (b) [Summary] Full text availability.--If the full text is  
7     not included in the publication of the proposed ordinance, the  
8     following shall apply:

9             \* \* \*

10     Section 2. Section 11018.9(b)(1) of Title 11 is amended and  
11     the section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

12     § 11018.9. Publication of proposed ordinances.

13             \* \* \*

14     (b) Contents.--

15             (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, the publication  
16     of a proposed ordinance shall include [either:

17                 (i) the full text; or

18                 (ii) the title and a summary of the ordinance

19             setting forth the provisions in reasonable detail and a  
20             reference to a place within the city where copies of the  
21             proposed ordinance may be examined.] all of the

22             following:

23                 (i) The full text of the proposed ordinance or the  
24                 title and a brief summary of the proposed ordinance. The  
25                 brief summary shall include a description of each of the  
26                 following, as applicable:

27                     (A) An adoption, amendment or repeal of a tax,  
28                     fee, charge or assessment.

29                     (B) An adoption, amendment or repeal of a  
30                     regulation that provides for an offense or civil or

1           criminal penalty.

2           (C) A provision or covenant that does one or  
3           more of the following:

4                   (I) Provides for the payment or disbursement  
5                   of funds for goods, services or contractual  
6                   obligations.

7                   (II) Restricts funds to a specific purpose  
8                   or obligation.

9                   (III) Pledges funds for a specific purpose  
10                   or obligation.

11           (ii) A reference to the city office or other place  
12           where copies of the proposed ordinance may be examined.

13           (iii) A reference to the publicly accessible  
14           Internet website, if any, where the full text of the  
15           proposed ordinances may be examined.

16           \* \* \*

17           (b.1) Legal sufficiency.--If a published summary is subject  
18           to a legal challenge, a summary shall be legally sufficient if  
19           the summary containing the information required under subsection  
20           (b)(1)(i) is made available for examination at the time of  
21           publication in conformity with subsection (b)(1)(ii) and (iii).

22           (b.2) Land use ordinances.--Notwithstanding subsection (b)  
23           (1)(i), the requirements of this section shall not supersede the  
24           publication or notification requirements of a proposed ordinance  
25           under the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the  
26           Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

27           \* \* \*

28           Section 3. Section 12509(b)(2) of Title 16, added May 8,  
29           2024 (P.L.50, No.14), is amended and the section is amended by  
30           adding subsections to read:

1 § 12509. Ordinances and resolutions.

2 \* \* \*

3 (b) Publication.--

4 \* \* \*

5 (2) A public notice of a proposed ordinance shall  
6 include [the full text of the proposed ordinance or the title  
7 and a brief summary of the proposed ordinance prepared by the  
8 county solicitor setting forth all the provisions in  
9 reasonable detail and a reference to a location within the  
10 county in which copies of the proposed ordinance may be  
11 examined.] all of the following:

12 (i) The full text of the proposed ordinance or the  
13 title and a brief summary of the proposed ordinance. The  
14 brief summary shall include a description of each of the  
15 following, as applicable:

16 (A) An adoption, amendment or repeal of a tax,  
17 fee, charge or assessment.

18 (B) An adoption, amendment or repeal of a  
19 regulation that provides for an offense or civil or  
20 criminal penalty.

21 (C) A provision or covenant that does one or  
22 more of the following:

23 (I) Provides for the payment or disbursement  
24 of funds for goods, services or contractual  
25 obligations.

26 (II) Restricts funds to a specific purpose  
27 or obligation.

28 (III) Pledges funds for a specific purpose  
29 or obligation.

30 (ii) A reference to the county office or other place

1       where copies of the proposed ordinance may be examined.

2           (iii) A reference to the publicly accessible  
3       Internet website, if any, where the full text of the  
4       proposed ordinances may be examined.

5       \* \* \*

6       (b.1) Legal sufficiency.--If a published summary is subject  
7       to a legal challenge, a summary shall be legally sufficient if  
8       the summary containing the information required under subsection  
9       (b) (2) (i) is made available for examination at the time of  
10      publication in conformity with subsection (b) (2) (ii) and (iii).

11      (b.2) Land use ordinances.--Notwithstanding subsection (b)  
12      (2) (i), the requirements of this section shall not supersede the  
13      publication or notification requirements of a proposed ordinance  
14      under the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the  
15      Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

16      \* \* \*

17      Section 4. The publication requirements under this act shall  
18      apply to any provision of an ordinance that is advertised on or  
19      after the effective date of this section.

20      Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB2177 PN2832	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Ryan Carpenter (717) 783-3815,6110
<b>Committee:</b>	Local Government	<b>Executive Director:</b>	Jon R. Castelli
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Freeman, Robert		
<b>Date:</b>	1/30/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Would clarify what a brief summary of a proposed borough, third class city, or county ordinance needs to include for public notice requirements.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

This legislation would amend Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns), Section 3301.2, Title 11 (Cities), Section 11018.9, and Title 16 (Counties), Section 12509, to clarify what subjects must be included in a brief summary of a public notice advertisement for a proposed ordinance. A brief summary would need to include a description of each of the following, as applicable:

- An adoption, amendment or repeal of a tax, fee, charge or assessment.
- An adoption, amendment or repeal of a regulation that provides for an offense or civil or criminal penalty.
- A provision or covenant that does one or more of the following:
  - Provides for the payment or disbursement of funds for goods, services or contractual obligations.
  - Restricts funds to a specific purpose or obligation.
  - Pledges funds for a specific purpose or obligation.

The legislation would also require that advertisements for proposed ordinances must include references to the government office where copies of the proposed ordinance may be viewed, and to the publicly accessible Internet website where the full text of the ordinance may be viewed, if such a website exists.

Furthermore, the legislation would clarify that if a published summary contains the required descriptions of the proposed ordinance and information on where to view then it, shall be considered legally sufficient. This legislation would also clarify that these new sections would not supersede publication and notification requirements of a proposed ordinance under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

### **Effective Date:**

Sixty days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

Currently, boroughs, third class cities, and counties are required to publish brief summaries of proposed ordinances, and the descriptions of these ordinances must be in "reasonable detail." Additionally, they are required to include reference to the office where the proposed ordinance may be examined but are not required to include a reference to where they may be viewed on a publicly accessible internet website.

A recent court case invalidated a City of Lancaster shade tree ordinance on the grounds that the "brief summary" of the ordinance, required by the municipal codes to be in "reasonable detail," was insufficient.

### **E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

N/A

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2179 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY SAPPEY, FREEMAN, SMITH-WADE-EL, JAMES AND  
B. MILLER, JANUARY 30, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 30, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), entitled "An  
2 act concerning townships of the second class; and amending,  
3 revising, consolidating and changing the law relating  
4 thereto," in ordinances, further providing for ordinances.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 1601(a) of the act of May 1, 1933  
8 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, is  
9 amended and the section is amended by adding subsections to  
10 read:

11 Section 1601. Ordinances.--(a) The board of supervisors may  
12 adopt ordinances in which general or specific powers of the  
13 township may be exercised, and, by the enactment of subsequent  
14 ordinances, the board of supervisors may amend, repeal or revise  
15 existing ordinances. All proposed ordinances, whether original,  
16 amended, repealed, revised, consolidated or codified, shall be  
17 published not more than sixty days nor less than seven days  
18 before passage at least once in one newspaper circulating  
19 generally in the township. [Public notices shall include either

1 the full text or a brief summary of the proposed ordinance which  
2 lists the provisions in reasonable detail and a reference to a  
3 place within the township where copies of the proposed ordinance  
4 may be examined.] Publication of a proposed ordinance shall

5 include the following:

6 (1) The full text of the proposed ordinance or the title and  
7 a brief summary of the proposed ordinance. A brief summary shall  
8 include, as applicable, a description of any:

9 (i) adoption, amendment or repeal of any tax, fee, charge or  
10 assessment;

11 (ii) adoption, amendment or repeal of a regulation that  
12 provides for an offense or civil or criminal penalty; and

13 (iii) provision or covenant that:

14 (A) provides for the payment or disbursement of funds for  
15 goods, services or contractual obligations;

16 (B) restricts funds for a specific purpose or obligation; or

17 (C) pledges funds for a specific purpose or obligation.

18 (2) A reference to a place within the township where a copy  
19 of the proposed ordinance may be examined.

20 (3) A reference to the publicly accessible Internet website,  
21 if any, where the full text of the proposed ordinance may be  
22 examined.

23 \* \* \*

24 (a.2) If a brief summary published under subsection (a) is  
25 the subject of a legal challenge, the summary shall be legally  
26 sufficient if the summary:

27 (1) contains the information required under subsection (a)  
28 (1); and

29 (2) is made available for examination at the time of  
30 publication in conformity with subsection (a)(2) and (3).

1     (a.3) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), the requirements of  
2 this section shall not supersede the publication or notification  
3 requirements of a proposed ordinance under the act of July 31,  
4 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the "Pennsylvania  
5 Municipalities Planning Code."

6     \* \* \*

7     Section 2. The publication requirements under this act shall  
8 apply to the advertisement of an ordinance occurring after the  
9 effective date of this section.

10    Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB2179 PN2833	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Ryan Carpenter (717) 783-3815,6110
<b>Committee:</b>	Local Government	<b>Executive Director:</b>	Jon R. Castelli
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Sappey, Christina		
<b>Date:</b>	1/30/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Would clarify what a brief summary of a proposed second class township ordinance needs to include for public notice advertisement requirements.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

This legislation would amend Section 1601 of the Second Class Township Code (Act 69 of 1933) to clarify what subjects must be included in a brief summary of an advertised proposed ordinance. A brief summary would need to include a description of each of the following, as applicable:

- An adoption, amendment or repeal of a tax, fee, charge or assessment.
- An adoption, amendment or repeal of a regulation that provides for an offense or civil or criminal penalty.
- A provision or covenant that does one or more of the following:
  - Provides for the payment or disbursement of funds for goods, services or contractual obligations.
  - Restricts funds to a specific purpose or obligation.
  - Pledges funds for a specific purpose or obligation.

The legislation would also require that advertisements for proposed ordinances must include references to the township office where copies of the proposed ordinance may be viewed, and to the publicly accessible Internet website where the full text of the ordinance may be viewed, if such a website exists.

Furthermore, the legislation would clarify that if a published summary contains the required descriptions of the proposed ordinance and information on where to view then it shall be considered legally sufficient. This legislation would also clarify that these new sections would not supersede publication and notification requirements of a proposed ordinance under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

### **Effective Date:**

Sixty days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

Currently, second class townships are required to publish brief summaries of proposed ordinances and the descriptions of these ordinances be in "reasonable detail." Additionally, they are required to include reference to the office where the proposed ordinance may be examined but are not required to include a reference to where they may be viewed on a publicly accessible internet website.

A recent court case invalidated a City of Lancaster shade tree ordinance on the grounds that the "brief summary" of the ordinance, required by the municipal codes to be in "reasonable detail," was insufficient.

### **E. Prior Session** (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

N/A

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