

**A Call to Action**  
**Contact Your Legislators to**  
**Support the Local Use of Radar to Reduce Speeding and Accidents**

Traffic safety, particularly speeding, is a major concern of Lower Merion Township residents. According to the Pennsylvania Municipal League, Pennsylvania law enforcement personnel acknowledge radar to be the safest, most accurate and efficient speed timing device. Yet, Pennsylvania is the only state that prohibits the use of radar by local police departments.

Pennsylvania Senate Bills 509 and 542 have been introduced and referred to the Transportation Committee. Both allow, but do not require, municipalities to pass ordinances for use of radar by their local police departments. Both prohibit quotas and revenue generation abuse, addressing concerns raised when prior bills were introduced. The Pennsylvania Municipal League prepared the following summary of the two bills' features related to the proposed use of radar.

<b>Senate Bill 509 – introduced by Senator Rothman</b>	<b>Senate Bill 542 – introduced by Senator Santarsiero</b>
<p>“An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in rules of the road in general, further providing for maximum speed limits, providing for maximum speed limits enforced by local law enforcement officers with RADAR and further providing for speed timing devices; and imposing penalties. Co-Sponsorship Memo”</p>	<p>“An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for schedule of convictions and points; in rules of the road in general, further providing for speed timing devices; and, in powers of department and local authorities, further providing for specific powers of department and local authorities.”</p>
<p><b>General Information</b> Allows all municipal police to use radar</p> <p>A municipality must adopt an ordinance before using radar</p>	<p><b>General Information</b> Allows full time police in first, second, second class a, and third class counties to use radar and lidar A municipality must adopt an ordinance before using radar</p>
<p><b>Motorist Protections</b> Officers may only enforce speed using radar from a clearly marked vehicle that is visible to those driving A minimum of four official signs warning drivers of local police radar enforcement</p>	<p><b>Motorist Protections</b> Officers may only enforce speed using radar from a location that is visible to those driving Signs warning drivers of local police radar enforcement must be installed along the</p>

<p>must be installed along the main roads within 500 feet of municipal borders Officers would be prohibited from using radar in the immediate area (500 feet) of a sign decreasing the posted speed</p> <p><b>Penalties</b> Those in violation of a 65 MPH speed limit or higher would be fined \$42.50 Those in violation of any other speed limit would be fined \$35 Anyone exceeding a speed limit over 5 MPH would be fined an additional \$2 for each mile more than 5 MPH over the maximum speed limit. Those ticketed for speeding would be charged with a summary offense Points would not be added to an offender's license A municipality would not be allowed to mandate a quota for speeding citations. There would be a warning period for the first 90 days of radar enforcement</p> <p><b>Revenue</b> Revenue may not exceed 101% of what a municipality received in the prior year Revenue exceeding that amount would be remitted to the Motor License Fund Upon completing an annual audit, if the Auditor General finds that a municipality kept more revenue than allowed, then PennDOT shall deduct 200 percent of the amount not remitted from the respective municipality's share of the Motor License Fund.</p>	<p>main roads within 500 feet of municipal borders</p> <p><b>Penalties</b> Those exceeding a speed limit under 10 MPH may not be given points on their license, those driving 10 MPH over the speed limit may be issued points</p> <p>There would be a warning period for the first 90 days of radar enforcement</p> <p><b>Revenue</b> Revenue may not exceed 5% of the police department's budget Revenue exceeding that amount would be remitted to the Pennsylvania State Police</p>
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For additional information on **Senate Bill 509**, click [here](#).

For additional information on **Senate Bill 542**, click [here](#).

For your **legislators' contact information**, click [here](#).