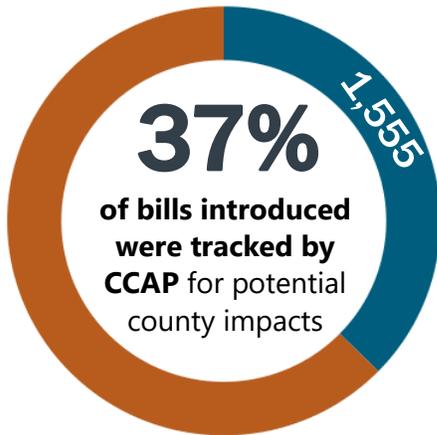


2019 - 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

4,164
bills introduced



Sharing the County Message

CCAP and its members provide input and testimony on legislation to a wide variety of committees, explaining how a bill might affect counties or how counties are involved in a particular issue area.

CCAP sent legislative memos on **54** bills to **16** Senate committees and **17** House committees, as well as the full House and Senate.

CCAP and its affiliates also testified at **16** hearings over the two-year period, and submitted written comments for **12** other hearings, covering policy issues like assessment and property taxes, elections, human services, criminal justice, technology, stormwater and more.

Other Legislative Wins

Counties also stopped or fixed several bills that would have had negative impacts on services and taxpayers, including unfunded mandates to counties, major cuts to county lines in tough state budgets and mitigated COVID-19 responsibility legislation, encouraging the state to bring counties to the table in response conversations. This resulted in weekly calls with the Governor, DOH and PEMA. Through the work of counties and the CCAP EMS Task Force, counties are consistently recognized as stakeholders in EMS legislative issues and solutions, including the introduction of SB 1274, which would allow for the creation of countywide or multi-municipal authorities for public safety purposes, including fire protection services and emergency medical services.

51 acts affecting county government signed into law, including:

- Act 19 of 2019: Human Services Code amendments including delay of MATP brokerage model
- Act 77 of 2019: Election Code modernization amendments, established mail-in ballots and \$90M bond for equipment funding
- Act 79 of 2019: Establishes uniform definition of "blight"
- Act 114 and Act 115 of 2019: JRI 2 Amendments
- Act 12 of 2020: Election Code amendments to postpone the primary election and other COVID-19 primary related provisions
- Act 15 of 2020: Authorizes and provides guidance for remote operations for local governments, including meetings and notarization during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Act 24 of 2020: Fiscal Code amendment to distribute \$625M in CARES Act federal funding to counties through the County Block Grant
- Act 37 of 2020: Reauthorizes the State Geospatial Coordinating Board until 2024
- Act 87 and Act 88 of 2020: Assessment Reform legislation to add CPEs to the State Board and clarify training requirements
- Act 91 of 2020: Makes changes to Fire and EMS loan programs and adds a CCAP gubernatorial appointment to the State Fire Advisory Board
- Act 111 of 2020: Codifies and clarifies provisions establishing county veterans' courts
- Act 130 of 2020: Requires pipeline operators to offer emergency response plans to county emergency management directors
- Act 134 of 2020: Increases the sheriff surcharge fee

2019 - 2020 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT A GLANCE

12



New members of the Senate

51



New members of the House

26

Policy committees in the House and Senate with typical jurisdiction over legislation impacting counties

CCAP government relations staff make an effort to meet with every new legislator and every committee chair—both Republican and Democrat—with jurisdiction over county-related legislation each session.

County Participation Matters

CCAP members responded to **18** calls to action and were heavily engaged on grassroots initiatives, including elections reforms, budget, legislative priorities, sheriffs fees and several other topics. Member grassroots engagement is one of the most critical elements of the legislative process—elected officials want to hear from counties as peers and subject-matter experts on the ground, in their communities.

CCAP members and county staff testified before legislative committees on several occasions:

- Valerie Arkoosh (Montgomery) and Ed Bustin (Bradford): Mental Health Funding, House Human Services Committee
- Kathi Cozzone (Chester): Modernizing Fire and EMS, Senate Democratic Policy Committee
- Joe Kantz (Snyder): Act 77 and Act 94 of 2019, Senate Republican Policy Committee
- Wendell Kay (Wayne), Mark Hamilton (Tioga), Jack Matson (Jefferson): MATP, House Transportation Committee
- Forrest Lehman (Lycoming Elections): Voting System Replacement, House State Government Committee
- Jeff Haste (Dauphin), Joe Kantz (Snyder) and Ken Lawrence (Montgomery): SB 48, Senate State Government Committee
- Barry Hutchins (Lycoming GIS) and Jim Zugay (Dauphin County Recorder of Deeds): SB 802, Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee
- Rob Postal (Mifflin): Transportation Funding Package, House Transportation Committee
- Matthew Quesenberry (Elk): Storm Water Management, House Local Government and House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees
- Diane Rosati (Bucks Drug and Alcohol) and Judy Rosser (Blair Drug and Alcohol): Drug and Alcohol Programs and the COVID-19 Pandemic, House Human Services Committee
- Rod Ruddock (Indiana): Broadband Expansion, Senate Communications and Technology Committee
- Cori Seilhamer (Franklin Mental Health): Police Response to Mental Health, House Democratic Policy Committee
- Bob Thomas (Franklin): Probation and Parole Reform, Senate Judiciary Committee