



PSAECO

**Pennsylvania State Association
Of Elected County Officials**

ω Pennsylvania State Association of County Auditors
ω County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
ω Pennsylvania State Association of County Controllers
ω Pennsylvania State Coroners Association
ω Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association
ω Pennsylvania State Association of Prothonotaries & Clerks of Courts
ω Pennsylvania Records of Deeds Association
ω Register of Wills & Clerks of Orphans' Court Association of Pennsylvania
ω Sheriffs' Association of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
ω County Treasurers' Association of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

April 10, 2025

Dear PA Legislator:

As you likely know, the Pennsylvania State Association of Elected County Officials (PSAECO) acts as a liaison between state associations and the General Assembly with efforts to create a more effective and efficient government. We work closely with the Local Government Commission and local government committees in the House and Senate to promote legislation that will enhance the function of government. For that reason, PSAECO would like to request that you join us in supporting the following bills that have been put forth by some of your colleagues on behalf of the PA State Coroner's Association (PSCA). If you are already signed on as a sponsor for either or both, we thank you. If you are not a sponsor, we would certainly appreciate your vote in support of this legislation.

Here are summaries of the bills . . .

PA State Rep. Joe Hamm has introduced them this session (they have been introduced in the past). They will benefit Coroners and Medical Examiners from across PA, and they will also benefit every individual needing organ or tissue transplantation in the future. The Bills are NON-PARTISAN.

They are **HB 569 PN 521 – Line of Duty Death Benefits for Coroners, Deputy Coroners, Medical Examiners – Currently, if a Coroner, Deputy Coroner or Medical Examiner dies as a result of performing their duties, their families do NOT qualify for the same death benefits provided to Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement Personnel. HB 569 would fix this disparity.**

And **HB 528 PN 573 – JNET Access for Coroners – In the past, coroner's offices had JNET (Justice Network) access for many years, but it was removed several years ago. JNET is a system that contains driver's license photos, addresses, physical features along with organ and tissue donor status. This had been utilized in the past to help identify the deceased so that Coroners and Medical Examiners could compare the JNET photo to the deceased. Their Emergency Contact information was also in the system (entered into the PennDOT site), and this would enable Coroners and Medical Examiners to more quickly and easily know who to notify of the death. By law, Coroners and Medical Examiners are to be the notifier of death to the Next of Kin. They are also required to identify the deceased and determine the cause and manner of death. They must also approve all organ and tissue donations. They have less than 24 hours to approve organ and tissue donation, and if they are impeded by not having the JNET access, it makes it difficult to approve any organ and tissue donation as they may not even be able to identify the deceased and often cannot notify their loved ones in sufficient time to allow for the donation/transplantation to take place. – update – We are asking for LIMITED access – Photo ID, Next of Kin, and Organ Donor status.**

Your work that you do in representing our row offices and your vote and/or sponsorship in support of these two bills is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for joining us in your support of HB 528 and HB 569.

Sincerely,

Dawn Blaich
President, PSAECO