

January 25, 2020



Budget Briefing

State Police Coverage of Municipalities

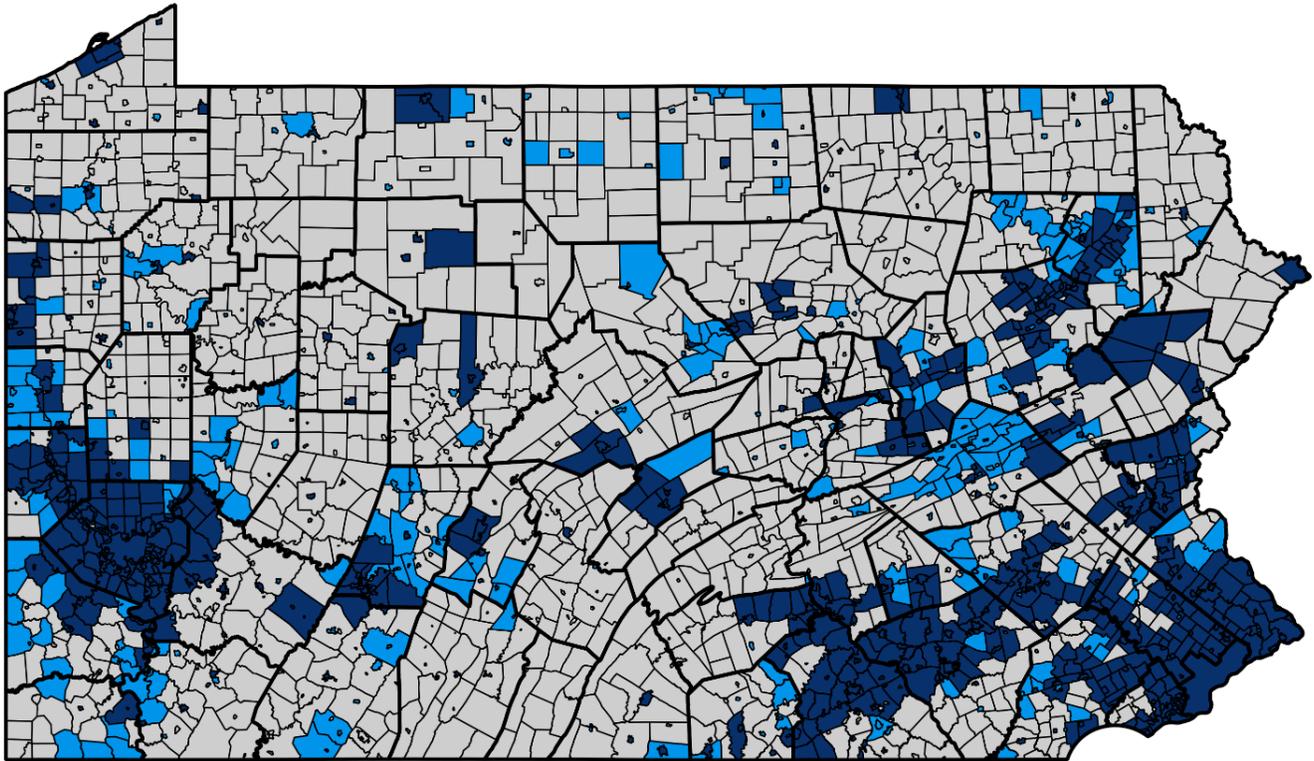
Brad Keen, Budget Analyst

Two-thirds of Pennsylvania municipalities rely on state police for part- or full-time patrol services in lieu of a full-time local police force. The area covered only fulltime for patrol and response by Pennsylvania State Police is mostly rural, and covers 81 percent the commonwealth’s land mass, but just 26 percent of residents. As PSP costs continue to rise by about 5% per year, and the Fiscal Code cap on Motor License Fund (MLF) appropriations limits available funding from that source, how the commonwealth funds state police to provide these services has become a growing concern.

In some years, like 2017, state police provided coverage to numerous new municipalities. In others, like 2018, the net change in the area covered was close to zero. Over the long term, despite year-to-year changes, the total area for which state police provides coverage has remained relatively stable (see appendix for additional data tables).

While the coverage area is not radically changing, the cost is growing. Patrol costs increased 5 percent per year on average over the last 10 years, and Pennsylvanian taxpayers – including those who live in areas with local police – pick up the tab for these state police services.

State Police Coverage in Municipalities
(January 2020)



Data Source: PSP, Municipality coverage as of Jan. 2020
House Appropriations Committee (D), Feb 2020

Legend

□ Full-Time PSP Coverage ■ Full-Time Local Coverage ■ Part-Time PSP Coverage



Fees for State Police Services

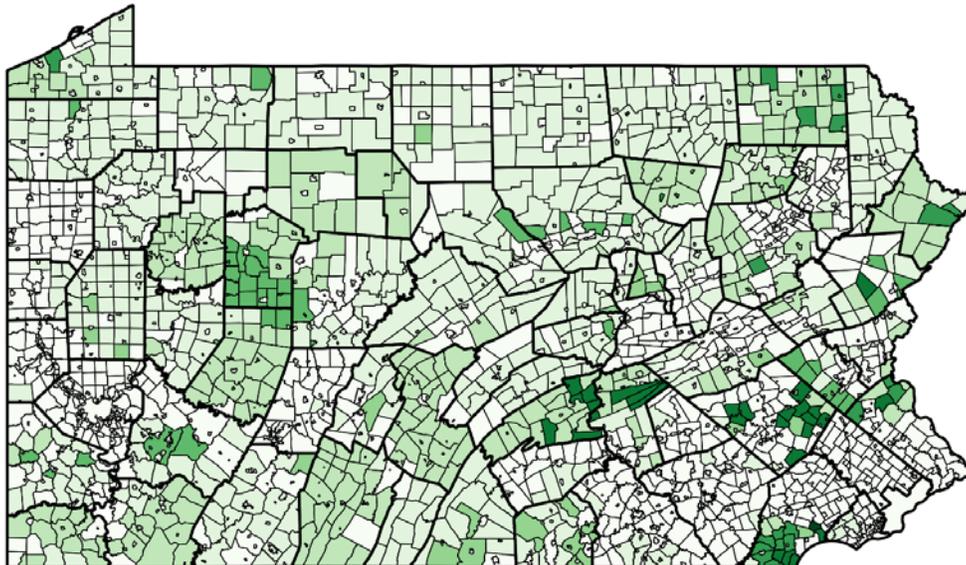
The state police’s role as primary law enforcement in certain areas, and not in others, has long raised questions of equity. In response, policy makers have proposed various remedies including studies on efficiency, fees on municipalities with state police coverage, and policies to incentivize participation in regional police departments. The current proposal takes into account the fact that the state police provide certain services to all municipalities, regardless of whether or not they have their own full time local coverage.

Gov. Wolf’s New Proposal

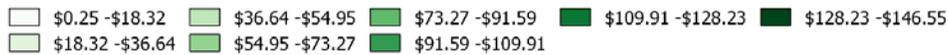
Gov. Wolf has proposed a fee on all municipalities for their use of state police services. The fee is predicated on station coverage costs, which are driven by incidents and coverage area, and considers various factors, including population and household income. It is further weighted for municipalities benefitting from full-time or part-time services. A detailed description of the equation is available in the appendix. Calculations of the per capita fee are estimated to range between \$0.25 and \$146.55. If Gov. Wolf’s proposal is implemented, it would raise an estimated \$136 million. The average per capita fee for municipalities with full-time state police coverage would be \$32.55.

	Municipalities		Area		Population		Average Per-Capita Fee	
Full-Time PSP	1,310	50.95%	32,742	72.22%	2,592,835	20.32%	\$	32.55
Part-Time PSP	409	15.91%	4,155	9.16%	748,221	5.86%	\$	13.53
Full-Time Local	852	33.14%	8,440	18.62%	9,421,037	73.82%	\$	4.10
Total	2,571	100.00%	45,337	100.00%	12,762,093	100.00%	\$	20.10

Proposed Per Capita Municipality Fees for State Police Coverage



Data Source: PSP, Municipality coverage as of Jan. 2020
 Governor’s Budget Office
 House Appropriations Committee (D), Feb 2020



Follow this [link](#) to find the proposed fees for all municipalities.



Appendix

$$\text{Est. Per Capita Fee} = \left(\frac{\text{PSP Station Yearly Cost}}{\text{Population of All Municipalities Served by the Station}} \right) * (\text{PSP Usage Factor}) * (\text{Household Income Tier Factor})$$

$$\text{Est. Municipalty Fee} = \left(\left(\frac{\text{PSP Station Yearly Cost}}{\text{Population of All Municipalities Served by the Station}} \right) * (\text{PSP Usage Factor}) * (\text{Household Income Tier Factor}) \right) * (\text{Municipality Population})$$

The PSP Usage Factor is calculated using the following table:

PSP Utilization	Factor
Full-Time PSP	1
Part-Time PSP	.5
Full-Time Local Police	.25

The Median Income Tier Factor is calculated using the following table:

Municipality Household Income	Tier	Factor
<\$50,001	1	.1
\$50,001-\$80,000	2	.25
\$80,001-\$110,000	3	.63
\$110,001-\$150,000	4	.77
>\$150,001	5	.06

Example:

County	Municipality	Municipality Population	Total Station Population	Household Income	PSP Station	Yearly Station Cost	Proposed Municipality Fee	Proposed Per Capita Fee
Chester	Avondale Borough	1,401	79,255	\$72,143	PSP Avondale	\$12,098,366	\$26,733.03	\$19.08

(Note: Demographic data provided by the State Data Center, station cost provided by Pennsylvania State Police, January 2020)

