Wolf's Proposed PSP Fee Highlights PA's Police Funding Problems

Proposal would charge all municipalities to raise $168 million for PA state police

- The proposal would raise $168 million through a fee based in part on usage
- Every municipality would get a bill, even if the municipality has its own full time police department
- Previous state police fee proposals centered on the 1,286 municipalities that do not pay for their own local police and use state police exclusively
- The state police receives a significant amount of revenue from the state Motor License Fund, which is also used to fix roads and bridges
- 2016 legislation is gradually reducing and capping revenue from the Motor License Fund that can be used for state police
- Replacement revenue must be found to make up the loss from the Motor License Fund.

Why It Matters

- Police expenditures are usually the largest cost center for municipalities that pay for them
- Municipalities with paid local police departments are much more likely to be financially distressed than their neighbors, according to PEL research
- PEL has found that municipalities that pay for their own local police often respond in municipalities that exclusively use state police, furthering the inequity of who is paying for these services