



**TO:** **Members of the House Labor and Industry Committee**  
**FROM:** **PA Association of School Business Officials  
PA School Boards Association**  
**DATE:** **October 28, 2019**  
**SUBJECT:** **PASBO and PSBA Support House Bill 1234**

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The PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) and the PA School Boards Association (PSBA) support House Bill 1234.

House Bill 1234 addresses a 2013 decision of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Tooev v. AK Steel Corporation, 623 Pa. 60, 81 A.2d 851 (Pa. 2013), that shifted away from the Workers' Compensation Act and to tort law to govern employer liability for occupational diseases of employees that occur greater than 300 weeks from the exposure to the hazardous substance.

House Bill 1234 shifts employer liability for occupational diseases—such as asbestos-related illnesses—back to the Workers' Compensation Act when these diseases occur long after employment and exposure has ended. This legislation benefits both employers and employees, defining a clear, predictable and expeditious process for both parties.

PASBO and PSBA support this legislation, as removing these claims from tort law limits the potential liability for school districts and other local education agencies for claims that occur long after employment and hazardous substance exposure. While this legislation ensures that impacted employees receive compensation for occupational diseases with latent manifestations, it allows for that compensation through a mechanism and system that do not also have the potential to impose extreme financial stress on school district employers and taxpayers.

Additionally, allowing these claims to be subject to the process under the Workers' Compensation Act ensures a swift outcome for both employers and employees.

Both PASBO and PSBA support House Bill 1234, and we ask the members of the Committee for their support of this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.