



are both inconsistent with PSEBA's definition. Since the Ordinance's definitions were inconsistent with these requirements of PSEBA, the Court found that they exceeded the City's home rule powers and affirmed the lower court's ruling rendering them invalid, null, and void.

This *Local 50* decision is an important, welcome development for public labor unions. Municipal employers have long bristled against their PSEBA obligations. State-level legislation to narrow PSEBA has been repeatedly introduced over the last twenty years, but such legislation has failed each time due to lack of support. The City's Ordinance was the first attempt by a municipal employer to narrow PSEBA at the local level. The Court's ruling completely closes the door on all attempts to make changes at a level other than the General Assembly. Municipal employers must still award PSEBA benefits under the statewide definitions of "catastrophic injury" and "injury" as established in that statute and in judicial decisions, which have generally been employee-friendly. This decision will be an important tool in preventing the erosion of these important statutory rights.

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