

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1099

PRINTER NO. 1426

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact
See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund
Fire and Emergency Medical
Services Loan Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 12, 2024

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Mastriano

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1099 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to reauthorize and make technical changes to the Fire Company Grant Program and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Grant Program. This legislation reauthorizes the grant programs for an additional ten years until December 31, 2034. Additionally, this legislation makes career fire companies eligible for the consolidation incentive interest rate reduction for loans from the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Fund.

This legislation is scheduled to take effect in 30 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on the Commonwealth's General Fund.

The Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Fund provides low-interest loans to both volunteer and career fire and EMS companies for acquisition, rehabilitation or improvement of apparatus, facilities and equipment. Interest rates are statutorily fixed at 2%. Volunteer fire companies as well as volunteer and career EMS companies that consolidate their use of facilities, equipment, personnel and services are eligible to receive a reduction in the interest rate (from 2% to 1%) on outstanding principal balances owed to the fund. Extending eligibility for the consolidation incentive to career fire companies is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Fund. For information purposes, the fund is projected to have a June 30, 2024, ending balance of \$57.6 million.