

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2407 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, SAPPEY, GUENST, BOROWSKI, PIELLI, SCOTT, CONKLIN, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL, SANCHEZ, PROBST, BOYD, POWELL, MADSEN, DONAHUE, O'MARA, TAKAC, DELLOSO, KHAN, SCHLOSSBERG, CIRESI, GALLAGHER, WARREN, D. WILLIAMS, KUZMA, T. DAVIS AND FLEMING, JUNE 11, 2024

AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 27, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to
3 emergency management services, further providing for
4 definitions; in Commonwealth services, further providing for
5 State Fire Commissioner; in grants to fire companies and
6 emergency medical services companies, further providing for
7 scope of chapter, for definitions, for publication and
8 notice, for award of grants, for consolidation incentive, for
9 establishment, for publication and notice and for award of
10 grants, repealing provisions relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire
11 Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program, further
12 providing for Fire Company Grant Program and for Emergency
13 Services Company Grant Program, repealing provisions relating
14 to additional funding and to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and
15 Emergency Medical Services Grant Program, providing for
16 hazardous materials and specialty funding, further providing
17 for allocation of appropriated funds, repealing provisions
18 relating to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery
19 Grant Program, providing for Hazardous Materials Team and
20 Specialty Team Grant Program, further providing for
21 expiration of authority, repealing provisions relating to
22 expiration of authority relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire
23 Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program and
24 further providing for special provisions and for annual
25 reports; and making transfers.

26 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

27 hereby enacts as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 7102 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:
3 § 7102. Definitions.

4 The following words and phrases when used in this part shall
5 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
6 meanings given to them in this section:

7 * * *

8 "Fire department identification number" or "FDID number." A
9 unique, five-character identifier assigned by the commissioner
10 to identify an individual fire company, volunteer rescue
11 company, hazardous materials team or specialty team within this
12 Commonwealth.

13 * * *

14 Section 2. Section 7383(a) of Title 35 is amended by adding
15 a paragraph to read:
16 § 7383. State Fire Commissioner.

17 (a) State Fire Commissioner.--There shall be a State Fire
18 Commissioner, who shall report to the Governor on all matters
19 concerning fire services in this Commonwealth. The Office of the
20 State Fire Commissioner shall be within the agency for
21 administrative purposes only, and the commissioner shall not
22 report to the director of the agency. The commissioner shall
23 have the power and duty to:

24 * * *

25 (12) Issue and revoke fire department identification
26 numbers. The commissioner may establish guidelines for the
27 issuance and revocation of FDID numbers. The commissioner
28 shall transmit the guidelines to the Legislative Reference
29 Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the
30 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

1 * * *

2 Section 3. Sections 7801, 7802 and 7812 of Title 35 are
3 amended to read:

4 § 7801. Scope of chapter.

5 This chapter relates to grants to fire companies [and],
6 emergency medical services companies, hazardous materials teams
7 and specialty teams.

8 § 7802. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
10 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "ALS." Advanced life support.

13 "Advanced life support services." The term shall have the
14 meaning given to it in Chapter 81 (relating to emergency medical
15 services system).

16 ["Agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.]

17 "Airport fire company." A fire company that does all of the
18 following:

19 (1) Is associated with an airport.

20 (2) Has a mutual aid agreement with a neighboring
21 municipality.

22 (3) Has responded to at least 15 fire or rescue
23 emergency calls annually to neighboring fire companies as
24 provided in documentation requested by the [State Fire
25 Commissioner] commissioner.

26 "BLS." Basic life support.

27 "Basic life support services." The term shall have the
28 meaning given to it in Chapter 81 [(relating to emergency
29 medical services system)].

30 ["Career emergency medical services." As follows:

1 (1) A for-profit chartered emergency medical service
2 corporation, association or organization which meets all of
3 the following:

4 (i) Is located in this Commonwealth.

5 (ii) Is licensed by the Department of Health.

6 (iii) Is not associated or affiliated with a
7 hospital, unless recognized in accordance with section
8 7823(b.1) (relating to award of grants).

9 (iv) Is regularly engaged in the provision of
10 emergency medical services, including basic life support
11 or advanced life support services and advanced life
12 support squads as defined in 28 Pa. Code § 1027.1
13 (relating to general provisions).

14 (2) The term shall not include a corporation,
15 association or organization that is primarily engaged in the
16 operation of invalid coaches which are intended for the
17 routine transport of individuals who are convalescent or
18 nonambulatory and who do not ordinarily require emergency
19 medical treatment while in transit.]

20 "Combined fire company." A volunteer fire company located in
21 this Commonwealth with at least one paid employee in addition to
22 a fire chief. The term includes either an independent, nonprofit
23 entity or part of a unit of local government.

24 "Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.

25 "Director." The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical
26 Services of the Department of Health.

27 "Emergency medical services company" or "EMS company." [A
28 career or volunteer emergency medical services company.] As
29 follows:

30 (1) A municipal, for-profit or nonprofit chartered

1 emergency medical service corporation, association or
2 organization which meets all of the following:

3 (i) Is located in this Commonwealth.

4 (ii) Is licensed by the Department of Health to
5 provide emergency medical services as provided under
6 Chapter 81 (relating to emergency medical services
7 system).

8 (iii) Is not associated or affiliated with a
9 hospital, unless recognized in accordance with section
10 7823(b.1) (relating to award of grants).

11 (iv) Is regularly engaged in the provision of
12 emergency medical services.

13 (2) The term does not include a corporation, association
14 or organization that is primarily engaged in the routine
15 transport of individuals who are convalescent or
16 nonambulatory and who do not ordinarily require emergency
17 medical treatment while in transit.

18 "Facility." A structure or portion thereof intended for the
19 purpose of storage or protection of firefighting apparatus,
20 ambulances and rescue vehicles and related equipment and gear.
21 The term does not include meeting halls, social halls, social
22 rooms, lounges or any other facility not directly related to
23 firefighting or the furnishing of ambulance or rescue services.

24 "Fire company." A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire
25 company [or a combined volunteer and municipal], an airport fire
26 company or combined fire company located in this Commonwealth.
27 [The term includes an airport fire company.]

28 "Grant program." The Fire Company Grant Program established
29 in Subchapter B (relating to fire company grant program) [or],
30 the Emergency Medical Services Grant Program established in

1 Subchapter C (relating to emergency medical services grant
2 program) [.] or the Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team
3 Grant Program established in Subchapter F (relating to Hazardous
4 Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant Program).

5 "Hazardous materials team." A nonprofit team that is
6 certified by the agency as a hazardous materials response team
7 in accordance with section 209 of the act of December 7, 1990
8 (P.L.639, No.165), known as the Hazardous Material Emergency
9 Planning and Response Act.

10 ["Invalid coach." The term shall have the meaning given to
11 it in Chapter 81 (relating to emergency medical services
12 system).]

13 "Municipal fire company." A firefighting service that is
14 established and operated by a municipality as a part of the unit
15 of local government. The term does not include a nonprofit
16 chartered corporation, independent association or independent
17 organization.

18 "Quick response service" or "QRS." The term shall have the
19 meaning given to it in Chapter 81.

20 "Specialty team." A nonprofit team engaged in wilderness
21 search and rescue, a nonprofit wildland firefighting team
22 recognized by the Department of Conservation and Natural
23 Resources or a nonprofit squad that performs any of the
24 following:

- 25 (1) Water rescue.
- 26 (2) Technical rope rescue.
- 27 (3) Confined space rescue.
- 28 (4) Trench rescue.

29 "Volunteer ambulance service" or "volunteer EMS company." A
30 nonprofit EMS company.

1 ["Volunteer EMS company." Any
2 nonprofit chartered corporation, association or
3 organization
4 located in this Commonwealth, which is
5 licensed by the Department of Health and is
6 not associated or affiliated with any hospital,
7 unless recognized in accordance with section 7823(b.1)
8 (relating to award of grants), and which is
9 regularly engaged in the provision of emergency
10 medical services, including basic life support or
11 advanced life support services and advanced life support
12 squads as defined in 28 Pa. Code § 1027.1 (relating to
13 general provisions).

14 The term shall not include any corporation, association
15 or organization that is primarily engaged in the operation of
16 invalid coaches which are intended for the routine transport
17 of persons who are convalescent or otherwise nonambulatory
18 and do not ordinarily require emergency medical treatment
19 while in transit.]

20 "Volunteer fire company." As follows:

21 (1) A nonprofit chartered corporation, association or
22 organization which meets all of the following:

23 (i) Is located in this Commonwealth [which
24 provides].

25 (ii) Provides fire protection or rescue services and
26 [which] may offer other voluntary emergency services
27 within this Commonwealth. Voluntary emergency services
28 provided by a volunteer fire company may include
29 voluntary ambulance and voluntary rescue services.

30 (2) (Reserved).

1 "Volunteer rescue company." As follows:

2 (1) A nonprofit chartered corporation, association or
3 organization which meets all of the following:

4 (i) Is located in this Commonwealth [that provides].

5 (ii) Provides rescue services as part of the
6 response to fires or vehicle accidents within this
7 Commonwealth.

8 (2) (Reserved).

9 § 7812. Publication and notice.

10 The commissioner shall publish notice of the grant program
11 availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for
12 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin by August 8 for each
13 fiscal year. The commissioner shall post a notice of the grant
14 program and application for the grant program on the Office of
15 the State Fire Commissioner's publicly accessible Internet
16 website. To the greatest extent possible, the commissioner shall
17 utilize a single designated Commonwealth electronic application
18 for the grant programs under this chapter.

19 Section 4. Section 7813(a)(7), (a.1), (a.2), (b)(1), (c)(2),
20 (d) and (e) introductory paragraph and (2)(i) of Title 35 are
21 amended and subsection (a) is amended by adding paragraphs to
22 read:

23 § 7813. Award of grants.

24 (a) Authorization.--The commissioner is authorized to make a
25 grant award to each eligible fire company for the following:

26 * * *

27 [(7) Revenue loss for grants issued in 2021 and 2022.]

28 (8) Personnel costs.

29 (9) Utility costs.

30 (10) Cancer screenings and other preventive health

1 measures.

2 (11) Mental health awareness and treatment.

3 (a.1) Additional uses for [paid] municipal fire companies.--

4 In addition to the authorized uses under subsection (a), the
5 commissioner may establish additional authorized uses of grant
6 funds for [paid] municipal fire companies. Additional authorized
7 uses established under this subsection must be published in the
8 Pennsylvania Bulletin and on the commissioner's publicly
9 accessible Internet website.

10 (a.2) Additional grants.--[Each fire company with not more
11 than 20 members who are certified by the National Board on Fire
12 Service Professional Qualifications or by the International Fire
13 Service Accreditation Congress and are verified by the
14 Pennsylvania State Fire Academy at a minimum level of
15 Firefighter 1 on or before July 1 of the year of the grant
16 application shall be eligible to receive additional grants under
17 a certification bonus point system as administered by the
18 commissioner.] The commissioner, in consultation with the State
19 Fire Advisory Board, may establish a system to award additional
20 funds to fire companies. The commissioner shall submit the
21 guidelines for a system to the Legislative Reference Bureau for
22 publication in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania
23 Bulletin concurrently with the notice required under section
24 7812 (relating to publication and
25 notice). In developing a system, the commissioner shall
26 evaluate the following factors as the factors relate to each
27 eligible fire company on or before July 1 of the year of the
28 grant application:

29 (1) Number and proportion of members who are certified
30 by the National Board on Fire Service Professional

1 Qualifications or by the International Fire Service
2 Accreditation Congress and are verified by the Pennsylvania
3 State Fire Academy at a minimum level of Firefighter 1.

4 (2) Population served.

5 ~~(3) Number of EMS patient care reports during the prior <--~~
6 ~~12 months as required to be provided to the regional EMS~~
7 ~~council that is assigned responsibilities for the region in~~
8 ~~which the EMS company is licensed.~~

9 (3) NUMBER OF INCIDENTS LOGGED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE <--
10 INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM DURING THE PRIOR 12 MONTHS.

11 (4) Land area served.

12 (5) Miles of public roadways within the area served.

13 (6) Population density within the area served.

14 (7) Unique geographic or other natural features within
15 the area served.

16 (8) Estimated cost of proposed uses authorized under
17 subsection (a).

18 (9) Any other factor determined by the commissioner in
19 consultation with the State Fire Advisory Board.

20 (b) Limits.--

21 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), grants shall be
22 not less than [~~\$2,500~~] the higher of \$10,000 or the amount
23 received in the 2023-2024 grant cycle and not more than
24 [~~\$20,000~~] \$40,000 per fire company. A fire company may
25 voluntarily agree to accept less than the higher of \$10,000
26 or the amount received in the 2023-2024 grant cycle if it is
27 unable to utilize the full amount it is eligible to receive.

28 * * *

29 (c) Time for filing application and department action.--

30 * * *

1 (2) Fire companies seeking grants under this chapter
2 shall submit completed applications to the commissioner and
3 the municipalities where the fire companies are located. The
4 application period shall remain open for 45 days each year.
5 The agency shall act to approve or disapprove applications
6 within 60 days of the application submission deadline each
7 year. Applications which have not been approved or
8 disapproved by the commissioner within 60 days after the
9 close of the application period each year shall be deemed
10 approved. The following apply:

11 (i) The commissioner may extend the application
12 period for up to 45 additional days for individual fire
13 companies, upon request, if the fire company demonstrates
14 hardship or undue burden that prevents the fire company
15 from applying within the 45-day application period. An
16 extension under this paragraph must be requested within
17 30 days of the date of the end of the application period.

18 (ii) The commissioner shall have sole discretion to
19 determine whether a fire company has demonstrated
20 hardship or undue burden.

21 (d) Eligibility.--To receive grant funds under this chapter,
22 a fire company must:

23 (1) Have actively responded to at least 15 fire or
24 rescue emergencies during the previous calendar year.

25 (2) Be actively participating in the Pennsylvania Fire
26 Information Reporting System under a signed agreement. The
27 commissioner shall develop and publish guidelines specifying
28 the criteria necessary to determine the level of
29 participation in the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting
30 System to remain eligible for grant funds.

1 (3) Have on record with the commissioner up-to-date
2 point of contact information for the fire company or
3 municipality. The contact information shall include a mailing
4 address, a telephone number and an email address and must be
5 submitted to the commissioner before July 31 of the grant
6 year.

7 (4) Be registered with the appropriate Public Safety
8 Answering Point as an active response agency.

9 (5) Have an FDID number that is associated solely with
10 the fire company applying for the grant.

11 (6) Be designated by a municipality, by resolution or
12 ordinance, as a provider of fire or rescue services within
13 the municipality.

14 (7) Demonstrate that:

15 (i) the fire company or volunteer rescue squad
16 receives a certification under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6344
17 (relating to employees having contact with children;
18 adoptive and foster parents) or 6344.2 (relating to
19 volunteers having contact with children) for every member
20 of the fire company or volunteer rescue squad; and

21 (ii) the fire company or volunteer rescue squad does
22 not employ or have as a volunteer member any individual
23 whose employment or participation could be denied under
24 the provisions of 23 Pa.C.S. § 6344(c).

25 (e) Construction Savings Account.--A fire company may apply
26 for a grant under subsection (a) for the purpose of constructing
27 [a new] or renovating a facility. The grant shall be deposited
28 into the Construction Savings Account, which is established
29 within the State Treasury. Money in the Construction Savings
30 Account may be withdrawn by application of the fire company. The

1 Construction Savings Account shall be administered by the
2 commissioner. The following shall apply:

3 * * *

4 (2) For a fire company to withdraw money from the
5 Construction Savings Account:

6 (i) The application shall contain the signatures of
7 two [duly elected] officers of the fire company or
8 municipality.

9 * * *

10 Section 5. Sections 7814, 7821 and 7822 of Title 35 are
11 amended to read:

12 § 7814. Consolidation incentive.

13 If two or more [volunteer] fire companies consolidate their
14 use of facilities, equipment, firefighters and services, the
15 consolidated entity may, upon notification of the commissioner,
16 be eligible for a reduction of the interest rate payable on any
17 outstanding principal balance owed, as of the date of
18 consolidation, by any or all of the consolidating companies to
19 the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Fund for loans made
20 under the act of July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, No.208), known as the
21 Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad
22 Assistance Act, or under Subchapter E of Chapter 73 (relating to
23 Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Program). The reduction
24 in the interest rate payable shall be from 2% to 1%. Upon
25 receipt of such notification, the commissioner shall determine
26 and verify that the consolidated entity is in fact a bona fide
27 consolidated [volunteer] fire company. If the commissioner
28 determines that the consolidated entity is a bona fide
29 consolidated [volunteer] fire company, the commissioner shall
30 reduce the interest rate payable on any outstanding principal

1 balance owed to the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan
2 Fund for loans made under the former Volunteer Fire Company,
3 Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad Assistance Act, or under
4 Subchapter E of Chapter 73, for which the consolidating
5 companies or the consolidated entity may be individually or
6 jointly responsible. The commissioner may promulgate such rules
7 and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions
8 of this section.

9 § 7821. Establishment.

10 The Emergency Medical Services Grant Program is established
11 and shall be administered by the commissioner. Grants provided
12 under this program shall be used to improve and enhance the
13 capabilities of EMS [to provide ambulance, emergency medical,
14 basic life support and advanced life support services.]
15 companies to provide emergency medical services.

16 § 7822. Publication and notice.

17 The commissioner shall publish notice of the grant program
18 availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for
19 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin by August 8 for each
20 fiscal year. To the greatest extent possible, the commissioner
21 shall utilize a single designated Commonwealth electronic
22 application for the grant programs under this chapter.

23 Section 6. Section 7823(a)(1), (2) and (7), (b)(1) and (c)
24 (2) of Title 35 are amended, subsections (a) and (b) are amended
25 by adding paragraphs and the section is amended by adding
26 subsections to read:

27 § 7823. Award of grants.

28 (a) Authorization.--The commissioner is authorized to make a
29 grant award to each eligible EMS company for the following:

30 (1) Construction and renovation of the EMS company's

1 facilities and purchase or repair of fixtures, furnishings,
2 office equipment and support services necessary to maintain
3 or improve the capability of the services to provide
4 ambulance, emergency medical, squad, quick response, basic
5 life support and advanced life support services.

6 (2) Repair of ambulance, squad or QRS equipment or
7 purchase thereof.

8 * * *

9 [(7) Revenue loss for grants issued in 2021 and 2022.]

10 (8) Personnel costs.

11 (9) Utility costs.

12 (10) Cancer screenings and other preventive health
13 measures.

14 (11) Mental health awareness and treatment.

15 (a.1) Additional grants.--The commissioner, in consultation
16 with the director, may establish a system to award additional
17 funds to EMS companies. The commissioner shall submit the
18 guidelines for a system to the Legislative Reference Bureau for
19 publication in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania
20 Bulletin concurrently with the notice required under section
21 7812 (relating to publication and notice). In developing a
22 system, the commissioner shall evaluate the following factors as
23 the factors relate to each eligible EMS company on or before
24 July 1 of the year of the grant application:

25 (1) Number and proportion of members who are certified
26 as each type of EMS provider as provided at section 8113(a)
27 (relating to certification).

28 (2) Population served.

29 ~~(3) Number of incidents logged in the Pennsylvania Fire~~ <--
30 ~~Information Reporting System during the prior twelve months.~~

1 (3) NUMBER OF EMS PATIENT CARE REPORTS DURING THE PRIOR <--
2 12 MONTHS AS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED TO THE REGIONAL EMS
3 COUNCIL THAT IS ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE REGION IN
4 WHICH THE EMS COMPANY IS LICENSED.

5 (4) Land area served.

6 (5) Miles of public roadways within the area served.

7 (6) Population density within the area served.

8 (7) Unique geographic or other natural features within
9 the area served.

10 (8) Estimated cost of proposed uses authorized under
11 subsection (a).

12 (9) Any other factor determined by the commissioner in
13 consultation with the director.

14 (b) Limits.--

15 (1) Grants shall be [not less than \$2,500 and not more
16 than \$15,000 per EMS company.]:

17 (i) Not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$10,000
18 per EMS company whose highest level of licensure is to
19 operate an ALS squad, intermediate ALS squad, BLS squad
20 or quick response service.

21 (ii) Not less than the higher of the amount received
22 in the 2023-2024 grant cycle or \$10,000 and not more than
23 \$40,000 per EMS company whose highest level of licensure
24 is to operate an ALS ambulance, intermediate ALS
25 ambulance or BLS ambulance service.

26 (1.1) An EMS company may voluntarily agree to accept
27 less than the higher of \$10,000 or the amount received in the
28 2023-2024 grant cycle if the EMS company is unable to utilize
29 the full amount it is eligible to receive.

30 * * *

1 (5) An EMS company may only apply for a grant for up to
2 five years for the purpose under subsection (d).

3 (c) Time for filing application and department action.--

4 * * *

5 (2) EMS companies seeking grants under this chapter
6 shall submit completed applications to the commissioner. The
7 application period shall remain open for 45 days each year.
8 The commissioner shall act to approve or disapprove
9 applications within 60 days of the application submission
10 deadline each year. Applications which have not been approved
11 or disapproved by the commissioner within 60 days after the
12 close of the application period each year shall be deemed
13 approved. The following apply:

14 (i) The commissioner may extend the application
15 period for up to 45 additional days for individual EMS
16 companies, upon request, if the EMS company demonstrates
17 hardship or undue burden that prevents the EMS company
18 from applying within the 45-day application period. An
19 extension under this paragraph must be requested within
20 30 days of the date of the end of the application period.

21 (ii) The commissioner shall have sole discretion to
22 determine whether an EMS company has demonstrated
23 hardship or undue burden.

24 (d) Construction Savings Account.--An EMS company may apply
25 for a grant under subsection (a) for the purpose of constructing
26 a new facility. The grant shall be deposited into the
27 Construction Savings Account, which is established within the
28 State Treasury. Money in the Construction Savings Account may be
29 withdrawn by application of the EMS company. The Construction
30 Savings Account shall be administered by the director. The

1 following shall apply:

2 (1) An EMS company may only access money in the
3 Construction Savings Account for emergency purposes and at
4 the discretion of the director.

5 (2) For an EMS company to withdraw money from the
6 Construction Savings Account:

7 (i) The application shall contain the signatures of
8 two officers of the EMS company or municipality.

9 (ii) The EMS company shall indicate on the
10 application how the money is going to be used under
11 subsection (a).

12 (3) Interest accrued on the Construction Savings Account
13 may be used by the director for administrative purposes.

14 Section 7. Subchapter C.1 of Chapter 78 of Title 35 is
15 repealed:

16 [SUBCHAPTER C.1

17 COVID-19 CRISIS FIRE COMPANY AND

18 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

19 Sec.

20 7827.1. Establishment.

21 7827.2. Publication and notice.

22 7827.3. Award of grants.

23 § 7827.1. Establishment.

24 The COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical
25 Services Grant Program is established and shall be administered
26 by the agency. Grants provided under the program shall be used
27 by fire companies and EMS companies to provide services during
28 the novel coronavirus pandemic as identified in the proclamation
29 of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020,
30 published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of

1 the state of disaster emergency.

2 § 7827.2. Publication and notice.

3 The agency shall transmit notice of the COVID-19 Crisis Fire
4 Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program
5 availability to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication
6 in the Pennsylvania Bulletin within 30 days of the effective
7 date of this section.

8 § 7827.3. Award of grants.

9 (a) Authorization.--The agency shall make a grant award from
10 the COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services
11 Grant Program to:

12 (1) Each eligible fire company that received a grant
13 award in fiscal year 2019-2020 under section 7813 (relating
14 to award of grants) for the purposes under section 7813(a)
15 and (a.1).

16 (2) A fire company that did not apply for or receive a
17 grant award in fiscal year 2019-2020 under section 7813 and
18 that applies for a grant under this subchapter for the
19 purposes under section 7813(a) and (a.1).

20 (3) Each eligible EMS company that received a grant
21 award in fiscal year 2019-2020 under section 7823 (relating
22 to award of grants) for the purposes under section 7823(a).

23 (4) An EMS company that did not apply for or receive a
24 grant award in fiscal year 2019-2020 under section 7823 and
25 that applies for a grant under this subchapter for the
26 purposes under section 7823(a).

27 (b) Amount of award.--The amount of the grant award under
28 this subchapter shall be the same amount of the grant award for
29 fiscal year 2019-2020 to:

30 (1) An eligible fire company under section 7813.

1 (2) An eligible EMS company under section 7823.

2 (c) Application not required.--

3 (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2), no
4 additional application shall be required for a grant under
5 this subchapter.

6 (2) A fire company under subsection (a) (2) and an EMS
7 company under subsection (a) (4) must file an application for
8 a grant under this subchapter.]

9 Section 8. Sections 7831 and 7832 of Title 35 are amended to
10 read:

11 § 7831. Fire Company Grant Program.

12 (a) Expenditure.--The sum of \$22,000,000 of the amount
13 appropriated to the commissioner for fire company grants under
14 section 1799-E of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176),
15 known as The Fiscal Code, shall be expended for the purpose of
16 making grants to eligible fire companies under Subchapter B
17 (relating to fire company grant program).

18 (b) Transfer.--In addition to sums transferred under
19 subsection (a) and 3 Pa.C.S. § 1113(a) (relating to disposition
20 of certain funds), the sum of \$25,700,000 shall be transferred
21 annually from the Property Tax Relief Reserve Fund to the Fire
22 Company Grant Program for the purpose of making grants to
23 eligible fire companies under this subchapter.

24 § 7832. Emergency Medical Services Company Grant Program.

25 (a) Expenditure.--The sum of \$3,000,000 of the amount
26 appropriated to the commissioner for EMS company grants under
27 section 1799-E of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176),
28 known as The Fiscal Code, shall be expended for the purpose of
29 making grants to eligible EMS companies under Subchapter C
30 (relating to emergency medical services grant program).

1 (b) Transfer.--

2 (1) In addition to sums transferred under subsection (a)
3 and 3 Pa.C.S. § 1113(a) (relating to disposition of certain
4 funds), the sum of \$8,100,000 shall be transferred annually
5 from the Property Tax Relief Reserve Fund to the Emergency
6 Medical Services Grant Program for the purpose of making
7 grants to eligible EMS companies under this subchapter.

8 (2) No less than 85% of the money transferred under
9 paragraph (1) shall be used for grants to EMS companies whose
10 highest level of licensure is to operate an ALS ambulance,
11 Intermediate ALS ambulance or BLS ambulance service.

12 Section 9. Sections 7832.1 and 7832.2 of Title 35 are
13 repealed:

14 [§ 7832.1. Additional funding.]

15 In addition to sums transferred from the State Gaming Fund
16 and under section 2413(a)(1) of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6,
17 No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, the sum of
18 \$5,000,000 shall be transferred annually from the Property Tax
19 Relief Reserve Fund to the Fire Company Grant Program for the
20 purpose of making grants to eligible fire companies under this
21 subchapter.

22 § 7832.2. COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical
23 Services Grant Program.

24 The following shall apply to any appropriation from money
25 received by the Commonwealth under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief,
26 and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136, 134 Stat. 281)
27 for purposes of making grants under Subchapter C.1 (relating to
28 COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services
29 Grant Program):

30 (1) The sum of \$44,000,000 of the amount appropriated

1 shall be expended for the purpose of making grants to
2 eligible fire companies.

3 (2) The sum of \$6,000,000 of the amount appropriated
4 shall be expended for the purpose of making grants to
5 eligible EMS companies.

6 (3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), the agency
7 may use up to \$200,000 of unencumbered funds from the amount
8 appropriated for administrative costs for the implementation
9 of Subchapter C.1.]

10 Section 10. Title 35 is amended by adding a section to read:
11 § 7832.3. Hazardous materials and specialty funding.

12 The sum of \$1,200,000 shall be transferred annually from the
13 Property Tax Relief Reserve Fund to the Hazardous Material <--
14 MATERIALS Team and Specialty Team Grant Program for the purpose <--
15 of making grants to eligible entities under section 7852
16 (relating to hazardous materials team and specialty team
17 competitive grants).

18 Section 11. Section 7833 of Title 35 is amended to read:
19 § 7833. Allocation of appropriated funds.

20 (a) Administration.--

21 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), no money
22 from the appropriation for grants shall be used for expenses
23 or costs incurred by the commissioner for the administration
24 of the grant programs authorized under Subchapters B
25 (relating to fire company grant program) [and], C (relating
26 to emergency medical services grant program) and F (relating
27 to Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant
28 Program).

29 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the commissioner may
30 use not more than [~~\$800,000~~] \$1,200,000 of any unencumbered

1 funds remaining in the fund for administrative costs for
2 grant program implementation under this chapter.

3 [(b) Grant allocation.--Unless otherwise expressly stated,
4 money appropriated to the commissioner for purposes of fire
5 company and EMS company grants shall be allocated as follows:

6 (1) Eighty-eight percent of the amount appropriated
7 shall be used for making grants to eligible fire companies
8 under Subchapter B.

9 (2) Twelve percent of the amount appropriated shall be
10 used for making grants to eligible EMS companies under
11 Subchapter C.]

12 (c) Transfers.--Funds appropriated under this chapter that
13 are not spent as of the effective date of this subsection or
14 after each annual grant cycle shall be transferred as follows:

15 (1) 50% of the amount shall be used for the purpose of
16 making grants under section 7385.1 (relating to capital
17 grants for municipal fire departments).

18 (2) 50% of the amount shall be used for the purpose of
19 making grants under section 7385.2 (relating to capital
20 grants for emergency service training centers).

21 Section 12. Subchapter E of Chapter 78 of Title 35 is
22 repealed:

23 [SUBCHAPTER E

24 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

25 COVID-19 RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

26 Sec.

27 7841. Establishment.

28 7842. Award of grants.

29 7843. Funding and costs.

30 7844. Report.

1 § 7841. Establishment.

2 The Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant
3 Program is established and shall be administered by the Office
4 of the State Fire Commissioner in consultation with the
5 Department of Health. Grants provided under the Emergency
6 Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program shall be used
7 by EMS companies to provide services in response to the novel
8 coronavirus pandemic.

9 § 7842. Award of grants.

10 (a) Application not required.--No application shall be
11 required to receive a grant under this subchapter.

12 (b) Notification.--The Office of the State Fire Commissioner
13 shall notify in writing each EMS company, as defined under
14 section 7802 (relating to definitions), of the availability of
15 grants from the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery
16 Grant Program for the purposes under section 7823(a) (relating
17 to award of grants).

18 (c) Certification.--The Office of the State Fire
19 Commissioner shall include with the written notification under
20 subsection (b) a form for each eligible EMS company to certify
21 that a grant received under this subchapter shall be used for
22 the purposes under section 7823(a) and provide a deadline by
23 which an EMS company must return the certification form.

24 (d) Amount.--Grants shall be awarded under this subchapter
25 in an amount equal to the total amount of funds appropriated
26 under section 7843 (relating to funding and costs) less the
27 amount used under section 7843(b) divided by the total number of
28 EMS companies that returned the certification under subsection

29 (c).

30 (e) Report.--No later than July 30, 2022, each EMS company

1 receiving a grant award under this subchapter shall report to
2 the Office of the State Fire Commissioner how it will use the
3 grant money awarded under subsection (d).

4 § 7843. Funding and costs.

5 (a) Appropriation.--The sum of \$25,000,000 of Federal funds
6 in the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account is appropriated to
7 the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for the Emergency
8 Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program under this
9 subchapter. The provisions of section 111-C(g) of the act of
10 April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, shall
11 not apply to the amount appropriated under this section.

12 (b) Administrative costs.--The Office of the State Fire
13 Commissioner may use up to \$200,000 of unencumbered funds from
14 the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for administrative
15 costs for the implementation of this subchapter.

16 § 7844. Report.

17 (a) Contents.--The commissioner shall prepare a report on
18 the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program.
19 The report shall include all of the following information:

20 (1) The total number of EMS companies that were notified
21 of the grant program.

22 (2) The total number of EMS companies that submitted a
23 certification for the grant program.

24 (3) The total number of EMS companies that received a
25 grant.

26 (4) The total amount of the grant received by each EMS
27 company.

28 (5) A summary of how each EMS company will use the grant
29 money awarded under the program.

30 (b) Submission.--The commissioner shall submit the report by

1 September 1, 2022, to all of the following:

2 (1) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs
3 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate.

4 (2) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs
5 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of
6 Representatives.

7 (3) The chair and minority chair of the Appropriations
8 Committee of the Senate.

9 (4) The chair and minority chair of the Appropriations
10 Committee of the House of Representatives.

11 (c) Posting.--The commissioner shall post the annual report
12 on the Office of the State Fire Commissioner's publicly
13 accessible Internet website.]

14 Section 13. Chapter 78 of Title 35 is amended by adding a
15 subchapter to read:

16 SUBCHAPTER F

17 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM AND SPECIALTY

18 TEAM GRANT PROGRAM

19 Sec.

20 7851. Establishment.

21 7852. Hazardous materials team and specialty team competitive
22 grants.

23 § 7851. Establishment.

24 The Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant Program
25 is established and shall be administered by the Office of the
26 State Fire Commissioner.

27 § 7852. Hazardous materials team and specialty team competitive
28 grants.

29 (a) Awards.--The commissioner shall use money transferred
30 under section 7832.3 (relating to hazardous materials and

1 specialty funding) to establish a grant program for hazardous
2 materials teams and specialty teams.

3 (b) Eligibility.--An eligible grant recipient under this
4 section shall meet all of the following:

5 (1) Be assigned an FDID number.

6 (2) Report incidents in the fire incident reporting
7 system.

8 (3) Have a letter of recommendation from the emergency
9 management coordinator of the host county affirming that the
10 team is a deployable resource.

11 (c) Uses.--The commissioner shall establish authorized uses
12 of grant funds under this section. Additional uses established
13 under this section shall be transmitted to the Legislative
14 Reference Bureau for publication in the next available issue of
15 the Pennsylvania Bulletin and on the commissioner's publicly
16 accessible Internet website.

17 (d) Guidelines.--The commissioner shall develop guidelines
18 for the grant program, including for the issuance and revocation
19 of FDID numbers for eligible applicants of the grant program,
20 and shall transmit the guidelines to the Legislative Reference
21 Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the
22 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

23 Section 14. Section 7891 of Title 35 is amended to read:

24 § 7891. Expiration of authority.

25 The authority of the commissioner to award grants under
26 Subchapters B (relating to fire company grant program) [and], C
27 (relating to emergency medical services grant program) and F
28 (relating to Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant
29 Program) shall expire [June 30, 2024] December 31, 2029.

30 Section 15. Sections 7892 and 7893 of Title 35 are repealed:

1 [§ 7892. Expiration of authority relating to COVID-19 Crisis
2 Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant
3 Program.]

4 The authority of the agency to award grants under Subchapter
5 C.1 (relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency
6 Medical Services Grant Program) shall expire six months after
7 the effective date of this section.

8 § 7893. Expiration of authority relating to Emergency Medical
9 Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program.

10 The authority of the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to
11 award grants under Subchapter E (relating to Emergency Medical
12 Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program) shall expire June 30,
13 2022.]

14 Section 16. Sections 7894(a) and (d) and 7895(a) of Title 35
15 are amended to read:

16 § 7894. Special provisions.

17 (a) Claim.--An applicant for a grant under this chapter who
18 failed to return a signed agreement for the preceding year shall
19 not be permitted to apply for a grant in the current year unless
20 the applicant has provided the commissioner with a reasonable
21 written explanation as to why it did not claim its grant prior
22 to the beginning of the application period.

23 * * *

24 (d) Approval.--An applicant shall not be approved for a
25 grant to be used for purposes other than those stated in section
26 7813(a) (relating to award of grants) [or] 7823(a) (relating to
27 award of grants) or 7852(c) (relating to hazardous materials
28 team and specialty team competitive grants).

29 § 7895. Annual reports.

30 (a) Contents.--The commissioner shall prepare an annual

1 report on the Fire Company Grant Program [and], the Emergency
2 Medical Services Grant Program and the Hazardous Materials Team
3 and Specialty Team Grant Program. The annual report shall
4 include all of the following information:

5 (1) The total number of fire companies [and], EMS
6 companies, hazardous materials teams and specialty teams that
7 were notified of the grant programs.

8 (2) The total number of fire companies [and], EMS
9 companies, hazardous materials teams and specialty teams that
10 submitted applications for the grant programs.

11 (3) The total number of fire companies [and], EMS
12 companies, hazardous materials teams and specialty teams that
13 were approved for grants.

14 (4) An analysis of how the grants to fire companies and
15 EMS companies were used for facilities, equipment, debt
16 reduction, training and certification, the education of the
17 general public, construction savings accounts and recruitment
18 and retention, including length of service award programs, as
19 delineated by county and municipality.

20 [(5) A list of the fire companies as delineated by
21 county that received additional grants under section
22 7813(a.2) (relating to award of grants).]

23 (6) A list of the different entities that received
24 grants, including hazardous materials teams, specialty teams,
25 combined fire companies, municipal fire companies, volunteer
26 fire companies[, municipal emergency medical services
27 companies and volunteer] and EMS companies.

28 (7) A list of the different reasons why grants were not
29 issued to fire companies [and], EMS companies, hazardous
30 materials teams and specialty teams, including, but not

1 limited to, the following:

2 (i) Failure to submit applications for the grant
3 programs.

4 (ii) Failure to run calls for emergencies.

5 (iii) Delinquencies and bankruptcies.

6 (8) A list of the fire companies and EMS companies that
7 utilized the grants to pay off loans under the Pennsylvania
8 Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Program.

9 Section 17. This act shall take effect as follows:

10 (1) The addition of 35 Pa.C.S. § 7852 shall take effect
11 in 180 days.

12 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect
13 immediately.