

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,
FLEMING, DALEY AND GREEN, JUNE 11, 2024

SENATOR MASTRIANO, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 8, 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 ASSISTANCE TO FIRE COMPANIES AND EMS COMPANIES, FOR State <--
6 Fire Commissioner AND FOR CURRICULUM, TRAINING AND EDUCATION <--
7 CERTIFICATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM; in grants to fire companies
8 and emergency medical services companies, further providing
9 for ~~scope of chapter, for~~ definitions, for publication and <--
10 notice, for award of grants, for consolidation incentive, for
11 establishment, for publication and notice and for award of
12 grants, repealing provisions relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire
13 Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program, ~~further~~ <--
14 ~~providing for Fire Company Grant Program and for Emergency~~
15 ~~Services Company Grant Program, repealing provisions relating~~
16 ~~to additional funding~~ and to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and
17 Emergency Medical Services Grant Program, ~~providing for~~ <--
18 ~~hazardous materials and specialty funding,~~ further providing
19 for allocation of appropriated funds, repealing provisions
20 relating to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery
21 Grant Program, ~~providing for Hazardous Materials Team and~~ <--
22 ~~Specialty Team Grant Program, further providing for~~
23 ~~expiration of authority, repealing provisions relating to~~
24 expiration of authority relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire
25 Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program AND TO <--
26 EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL
27 SERVICES COVID-19 RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM and further
28 providing for special provisions and for annual reports; and

1 making transfers.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Section 7102 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania
5 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:
6 § 7102. Definitions.

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

10 * * *

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

16 * * *

17 SECTION 2. SECTION 7364(A), (B) AND (B.1) OF TITLE 35 ARE <--
18 AMENDED TO READ:

19 § 7364. ASSISTANCE TO FIRE COMPANIES AND EMS COMPANIES.

20 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE OFFICE IS AUTHORIZED, UPON
21 APPLICATION OF ANY FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY, TO MAKE LOANS
22 FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

23 (1) ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING FACILITIES THAT HOUSE
24 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLES. THE
25 AMOUNT OF A LOAN FOR ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING FACILITIES
26 MADE TO ANY ONE FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY SHALL NOT EXCEED
27 50% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE FACILITIES OR MODERNIZATION OR
28 [\$450,000] \$750,000, WHICHEVER IS LESS, AND A NOTARIZED
29 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) SHALL SHOW
30 THAT THE APPLICANT HAS AVAILABLE 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE

1 FACILITIES IN UNOBLIGATED FUNDS. PROCEEDS OF THE LOAN SHALL
2 BE USED ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF STRUCTURE OR LAND ACQUISITION OR
3 RENOVATION OR CONSTRUCTION AND SHALL NOT BE USED FOR PAYMENT
4 OF FEES FOR DESIGN, PLANNING, PREPARATION OF APPLICATIONS OR
5 ANY OTHER COST NOT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO STRUCTURE OR LAND
6 ACQUISITION OR RENOVATION OR CONSTRUCTION.

7 (2) PURCHASING FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS, AMBULANCES OR
8 RESCUE VEHICLES. THE AMOUNT OF A LOAN MADE FOR PURCHASING
9 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS TO ANY ONE FIRE COMPANY SHALL NOT
10 EXCEED [\$250,000] \$375,000 FOR ANY SINGLE FIREFIGHTING
11 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT OR UTILITY OR SPECIAL SERVICE VEHICLE OR
12 HEAVY DUTY RESCUE VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY REGULATION OR
13 GUIDELINE, OR 50% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE EQUIPMENT OR
14 VEHICLE, WHICHEVER IS LESS, EXCEPT FOR LOANS FOR AERIAL
15 APPARATUS AS DEFINED BY REGULATION OR GUIDELINE, WHICH SHALL
16 NOT EXCEED [\$350,000] \$750,000. THE AMOUNT OF A LOAN MADE TO
17 ANY ONE FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY FOR ANY AMBULANCE OR
18 LIGHT DUTY RESCUE VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY REGULATION OR
19 GUIDELINE SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$125,000] \$200,000 AND FOR A
20 WATERCRAFT RESCUE VEHICLE SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$35,000] \$75,000
21 OR 50% OF THE COST OF THE AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLE,
22 WHICHEVER IS LESS, AND A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FILED
23 UNDER SUBSECTION (C) SHALL SHOW THAT THE APPLICANT HAS
24 AVAILABLE 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE VEHICLE IN UNOBLIGATED
25 FUNDS.

26 (3) PURCHASING PROTECTIVE, ACCESSORY OR COMMUNICATION
27 EQUIPMENT. NO FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY SHALL RECEIVE A
28 LOAN FOR PROTECTIVE, ACCESSORY OR COMMUNICATIVE EQUIPMENT
29 MORE THAN ONCE IN ANY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. EACH FIRE COMPANY OR
30 EMS COMPANY MAY APPLY FOR A LOAN FOR A MOBILE AND PORTABLE

1 RADIO UNIT FOR EACH EXISTING SERVICEABLE APPARATUS EQUIPMENT,
2 AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLE. RADIO EQUIPMENT OBTAINED THROUGH
3 LOANS UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH A
4 FREQUENCY OR FREQUENCIES LICENSED BY THE FEDERAL
5 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR FIREFIGHTING OR EMERGENCY
6 RESPONSE PURPOSES. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT OBTAINED THROUGH
7 LOANS UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL MEET STANDARDS ADOPTED BY
8 THE COMMISSIONER TO ENSURE THE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT DOES NOT
9 CONTAIN PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS). A
10 NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT SHALL BE FILED AND LOANS UNDER
11 THIS SUBCHAPTER FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROTECTIVE, ACCESSORY OR
12 COMMUNICATIVE EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$25,000] \$75,000.

13 (4) REFINANCING DEBT INCURRED OR CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO
14 AFTER NOVEMBER 4, 1975, AND USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF
15 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT OR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION
16 OF FACILITIES OR FOR MODIFICATION OF APPARATUS EQUIPMENT IN
17 ORDER TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
18 STANDARDS.

19 (5) REPAIR OR REHABILITATION OF APPARATUS EQUIPMENT.
20 WHERE IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT EXISTING APPARATUS
21 EQUIPMENT NO LONGER MEETS THE STANDARDS OF THE NATIONAL FIRE
22 PROTECTION ASSOCIATION AND THE REPAIR OR REHABILITATION OF
23 SUCH EQUIPMENT WILL BRING IT IN COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL FIRE
24 PROTECTION ASSOCIATION STANDARDS, LOANS FOR THE REPAIR OR
25 REHABILITATION FOR A SINGLE APPARATUS EQUIPMENT SHALL BE FOR
26 AT LEAST \$3,000 BUT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF [\$80,000]
27 \$150,000 OR 80% OF THE TOTAL COST OF REPAIR OR
28 REHABILITATION.

29 (6) PURCHASING OF USED FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS,
30 EQUIPMENT, USED AMBULANCES, USED RESCUE VEHICLES, USED

1 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, USED ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT OR USED
2 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, EXCEPT THAT THE USED VEHICLES AND
3 EQUIPMENT SHALL MEET THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
4 (NFPA) STANDARDS AND LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A USED SINGLE
5 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT EXCEED [~~\$200,000~~] \$300,000 OR
6 80% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE EQUIPMENT, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

7 * * *

8 (B) LOANS.--LOANS MADE BY THE OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF
9 \$50,000 OR LESS SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN TEN
10 YEARS. LOANS IN EXCESS OF \$50,000 BUT NOT IN EXCESS OF \$300,000
11 SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN [~~15~~] 20 YEARS. THE
12 PAYBACK PERIOD OF ANY LOAN IN EXCESS OF \$300,000 SHALL NOT
13 EXCEED [~~20~~] 30 YEARS. LOANS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF
14 INTEREST AT 2% PER YEAR AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SUCH SECURITY AS
15 SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF
16 INTEREST EARNED BY THE INVESTMENT OR REINVESTMENT OF ALL OR ANY
17 PART OF THE PRINCIPAL OF ANY LOAN SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE
18 OFFICE AND TRANSFERRED TO THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL
19 SERVICES LOAN FUND AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED AS PAYMENT OF
20 PRINCIPAL OR INTEREST ON THE LOAN. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN
21 SUBSECTION (A) (5) AND (7), THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF ANY LOAN SHALL
22 BE \$25,000.

23 (B.1) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.--BEGINNING [~~ONE YEAR AFTER THE~~
24 ~~EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION AND BIANNUALLY~~] JANUARY 1,
25 2026, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, ALL LOAN LIMITS UNDER THIS
26 SECTION SHALL INCREASE AT THE RATE OF INFLATION AS OUTLINED IN
27 THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS FOR THE
28 PHILADELPHIA-CAMDEN-WILMINGTON, PA-NJ-DE-MD AREA FOR THE MOST
29 RECENT 12-MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH THE FIGURES HAVE BEEN REPORTED
30 BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR

1 STATISTICS. IF THE RATE OF INFLATION DOES NOT INCREASE, ALL LOAN
2 LIMITS SHALL REMAIN THE SAME AS THEY WERE FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR.
3 THE OFFICE SHALL TRANSMIT NOTICE OF LOAN LIMIT INCREASES TO THE
4 LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FOR PUBLICATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA
5 BULLETIN.

6 * * *

7 Section 2 3. Section 7383(a) of Title 35 is amended by <--
8 adding a paragraph to read:

9 § 7383. State Fire Commissioner.

10 (a) State Fire Commissioner.--There shall be a State Fire
11 Commissioner, who shall report to the Governor on all matters
12 concerning fire services in this Commonwealth. The Office of the
13 State Fire Commissioner shall be within the agency for
14 administrative purposes only, and the commissioner shall not
15 report to the director of the agency. The commissioner shall
16 have the power and duty to:

17 * * *

18 (12) Issue and revoke fire department identification
19 numbers. The commissioner ~~may~~ SHALL establish guidelines for <--
20 the issuance and revocation of FDID numbers. The commissioner
21 shall transmit the guidelines to the Legislative Reference
22 Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the
23 Pennsylvania Bulletin, POST THE GUIDELINES ON THE OFFICE OF <--
24 THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET
25 WEBSITE AND SEND THE GUIDELINES TO ALL FIRE COMPANIES.

26 * * *

27 SECTION 4. SECTION 7383.1(G) OF TITLE 35 IS AMENDED AND THE <--
28 SECTION IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SUBSECTION TO READ:

29 § 7383.1. CURRICULUM, TRAINING AND EDUCATION CERTIFICATION
30 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

1 * * *

2 (B.1) ENTRY LEVEL TRAINING AND TESTING.--NOTWITHSTANDING ANY
3 OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING AT
4 THE FIREFIGHTER I LEVEL ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL
5 PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TESTING OPTIONS TO TRAINEES:

6 (1) A CUMULATIVE TEST TO BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF THE
7 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING PROGRAM; OR

8 (2) A TEST TO BE COMPLETED FOLLOWING A SUCCESSIVE
9 TRAINING MODULE OF THE PROGRAM, PROVIDED THAT ALL INDIVIDUAL
10 TESTS ARE COMPLETED IN THE SAME NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION
11 ASSOCIATION ACCREDITATION STANDARD PERIOD.

12 * * *

13 (G) ANNUAL REPORTS.--

14 (1) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON
15 THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION CERTIFICATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.
16 THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

17 (I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS IN THE SYSTEM,
18 DELINEATED BETWEEN PAID AND VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER.

19 (II) THE NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH
20 (I) WHO TOOK A COURSE ON THE SYSTEM DURING THE PREVIOUS
21 YEAR.

22 (III) THE NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH
23 (I) WHO ARE CERTIFIED AS FIREFIGHTER [1] I, FIREFIGHTER
24 [2] II, FIRE INSTRUCTOR 1 OR FIRE OFFICER 1.

25 (IV) A SUMMARY OF COURSES THAT WERE TAKEN BY
26 FIREFIGHTERS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I).

27 (V) A SUMMARY OF HOW THE FUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION
28 WERE EXPENDED.

29 (2) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT
30 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND BY

1 OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

2 (I) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS
3 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE
4 SENATE.

5 (II) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS
6 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE
7 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

8 (3) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL POST THE ANNUAL REPORT UNDER
9 PARAGRAPH (1) ON THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S
10 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

11 Section ~~3~~ 5. Sections ~~7801~~, 7802 and 7812 of Title 35 are <--
12 amended to read:

13 ~~§ 7801. Scope of chapter.~~ <--

14 ~~This chapter relates to grants to fire companies [and],~~
15 ~~emergency medical services companies, hazardous materials teams~~
16 ~~and specialty teams.~~

17 § 7802. Definitions.

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

21 "ALS." Advanced life support.

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

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

26 "Airport fire company." A fire company that does all of the
27 following:

28 (1) Is associated with an airport.

29 (2) Has a mutual aid agreement with a neighboring
30 municipality.

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

5 "BLS." Basic life support.

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

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

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

13 (i) Is located in this Commonwealth.

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

15 (iii) Is not associated or affiliated with a
16 hospital, unless recognized in accordance with section
17 7823(b.1) (relating to award of grants).

18 (iv) Is regularly engaged in the provision of
19 emergency medical services, including basic life support
20 or advanced life support services and advanced life
21 support squads as defined in 28 Pa. Code § 1027.1
22 (relating to general provisions).

23 (2) The term shall not include a corporation,
24 association or organization that is primarily engaged in the
25 operation of invalid coaches which are intended for the
26 routine transport of individuals who are convalescent or
27 nonambulatory and who do not ordinarily require emergency
28 medical treatment while in transit.]

29 "Combined fire company." A volunteer fire company located in
30 this Commonwealth with at least one paid employee in addition to

1 a fire chief. The term includes either an independent, nonprofit
2 entity or part of a unit of local government.

3 "Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.

4 "Director." The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical
5 Services of the Department of Health.

6 "Emergency medical services company" or "EMS company." [A
7 career or volunteer emergency medical services company.] As
8 follows:

9 (1) A municipal, for-profit or nonprofit chartered
10 emergency medical service corporation, association or
11 organization which meets all of the following:

12 (i) Is located in this Commonwealth.

13 (ii) Is licensed by the Department of Health to
14 provide emergency medical services as provided under
15 Chapter 81 (relating to emergency medical services
16 system).

17 (iii) Is not associated or affiliated with a
18 hospital, unless recognized in accordance with section
19 7823(b.1) (relating to award of grants).

20 (iv) Is regularly engaged in the provision of
21 emergency medical services.

22 (2) The term does not include a corporation, association
23 or organization that is primarily engaged in the routine
24 transport of individuals who are convalescent or
25 nonambulatory and who do not ordinarily require emergency
26 medical treatment while in transit.

27 "Facility." A structure or portion thereof intended for the
28 purpose of storage or protection of firefighting apparatus,
29 ambulances and rescue vehicles and related equipment and gear.
30 The term does not include meeting halls, social halls, social

1 rooms, lounges or any other facility not directly related to
2 firefighting or the furnishing of ambulance or rescue services.

3 "Fire company." A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire
4 company [or a combined volunteer and municipal], an airport fire
5 company or combined fire company located in this Commonwealth.
6 [The term includes an airport fire company.]

7 "Grant program." The Fire Company Grant Program established
8 in Subchapter B (relating to fire company grant program) ~~for~~ <--
9 the Emergency Medical Services Grant Program established in
10 Subchapter C (relating to emergency medical services grant
11 program) ~~for~~ ~~or the Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team~~ <--
12 ~~Grant Program established in Subchapter F (relating to Hazardous~~
13 ~~Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant Program).~~

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

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

22 "Municipal fire company." A firefighting service that is
23 established and operated by a municipality as a part of the unit
24 of local government. The term does not include a nonprofit
25 chartered corporation, independent association or independent
26 organization.

27 ~~"Quick response service" or "QRS." The term shall have the~~ <--
28 ~~meaning given to it in Chapter 81.~~

29 ~~"Specialty team." A nonprofit team engaged in wilderness~~
30 ~~search and rescue, a nonprofit wildland firefighting team~~

1 ~~recognized by the Department of Conservation and Natural~~
2 ~~Resources or a nonprofit squad that performs any of the~~
3 ~~following:~~

- 4 ~~(1) Water rescue.~~
- 5 ~~(2) Technical rope rescue.~~
- 6 ~~(3) Confined space rescue.~~
- 7 ~~(4) Trench rescue.~~

8 "Volunteer ambulance service" or "volunteer EMS company." A
9 nonprofit EMS company.

10 ["Volunteer EMS company." Any
11 nonprofit chartered corporation, association or
12 organization
13 located in this Commonwealth, which is
14 licensed by the Department of Health and is
15 not associated or affiliated with any hospital,
16 unless recognized in accordance with section 7823(b.1)
17 (relating to award of grants), and which is
18 regularly engaged in the provision of emergency
19 medical services, including basic life support or
20 advanced life support services and advanced life support
21 squads as defined in 28 Pa. Code § 1027.1 (relating to
22 general provisions).
23 The term shall not include any corporation, association
24 or organization that is primarily engaged in the operation of
25 invalid coaches which are intended for the routine transport
26 of persons who are convalescent or otherwise nonambulatory
27 and do not ordinarily require emergency medical treatment
28 while in transit.]

29 "Volunteer fire company." As follows:

- 30 (1) A nonprofit chartered corporation, association or

1 organization which meets all of the following:

2 (i) Is located in this Commonwealth [which
3 provides].

4 (ii) Provides fire protection or rescue services and
5 [which] may offer other voluntary emergency services
6 within this Commonwealth. Voluntary emergency services
7 provided by a volunteer fire company may include
8 voluntary ambulance and voluntary rescue services.

9 (2) (Reserved).

10 "Volunteer rescue company." As follows:

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

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

14 (ii) Provides rescue services as part of the
15 response to fires or vehicle accidents within this
16 Commonwealth.

17 (2) (Reserved).

18 § 7812. Publication and notice.

19 The commissioner shall publish notice of the grant program
20 availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for
21 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin by August 8 for each
22 fiscal year. The commissioner shall post a notice of the grant
23 program and application for the grant program on the Office of
24 the State Fire Commissioner's publicly accessible Internet
25 website. To the greatest extent possible, the commissioner shall
26 utilize a single designated Commonwealth electronic application
27 for the grant programs under this chapter.

28 Section 4 6. Section 7813(a) (7), (a.1), (a.2), ~~(b)(1)~~, (c) <--
29 (2), (d) and (e) introductory paragraph and (2)(i) of Title 35
30 are amended and subsection (a) is amended by adding paragraphs

1 to read:

2 § 7813. Award of grants.

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

5 * * *

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

7 ~~(8) Personnel costs.~~ <--

8 ~~(9) Utility costs.~~

9 ~~(10) Cancer screenings and other preventive health~~
10 ~~measures.~~

11 (8) PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES, INCLUDING CANCER <--
12 SCREENINGS.

13 ~~(11) (9) Mental health awareness and treatment.~~ <--

14 (a.1) Additional uses for [paid] municipal fire companies.--
15 In addition to the authorized uses under subsection (a), the
16 commissioner may establish additional authorized uses of grant
17 funds for [paid] municipal fire companies. Additional authorized
18 uses established under this subsection must be published in the
19 Pennsylvania Bulletin and on the commissioner's publicly
20 accessible Internet website.

21 (a.2) Additional grants.--[Each fire company with not more
22 than 20 members who are certified by the National Board on Fire
23 Service Professional Qualifications or by the International Fire
24 Service Accreditation Congress and are verified by the
25 Pennsylvania State Fire Academy at a minimum level of
26 Firefighter 1 on or before July 1 of the year of the grant
27 application shall be eligible to receive additional grants under
28 a certification bonus point system as administered by the
29 commissioner.] The commissioner, in consultation with the State
30 Fire Advisory Board, may establish a system to award additional

1 funds to fire companies. The commissioner shall submit the
2 guidelines for a system to the Legislative Reference Bureau for
3 publication in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania
4 Bulletin concurrently with the notice required under section
5 7812 (relating to publication and notice). In developing a
6 system, the commissioner shall evaluate the following factors as
7 the factors relate to each eligible fire company on or before
8 July 1 of the year of the grant application:

9 (1) Number and proportion of members who are certified
10 by the National Board on Fire Service Professional
11 Qualifications or by the International Fire Service
12 Accreditation Congress and are verified by the Pennsylvania
13 State Fire Academy at a minimum level of Firefighter 4 I. <--

14 (2) Population served.

15 (3) Number of incidents logged in the Pennsylvania Fire
16 Information Reporting System during the prior 12 months.

17 (4) Land area served.

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

19 (6) Population density within the area served.

20 (7) Unique geographic or other natural features within
21 the area served.

22 (8) Estimated cost of proposed uses authorized under
23 subsection (a).

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

26 ~~(b) Limits.~~ <--

27 ~~(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), grants shall be~~
28 ~~not less than [\$2,500] the higher of \$10,000 or the amount~~
29 ~~received in the 2023-2024 grant cycle and not more than~~
30 ~~[\$20,000] \$40,000 per fire company. A fire company may~~

~~voluntarily agree to accept less than the higher of \$10,000 or the amount received in the 2023-2024 grant cycle if it is unable to utilize the full amount it is eligible to receive.~~

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

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

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

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

1 (2) Be actively participating in the Pennsylvania Fire
2 Information Reporting System under a signed agreement. The
3 commissioner shall develop and publish guidelines specifying
4 the criteria necessary to determine the level of
5 participation in the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting
6 System to remain eligible for grant funds.

7 (3) Have on record with the commissioner up-to-date
8 point of contact information for the fire company or
9 municipality. The contact information shall include a mailing
10 address, a telephone number and an email address and must be
11 submitted to the commissioner before July 31 of the grant
12 year.

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

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

17 (6) Be designated by a municipality, by resolution or
18 ordinance, as a provider of fire or rescue services within
19 the municipality.

20 (7) Demonstrate that:

21 (i) the fire company or volunteer rescue squad
22 receives a certification under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6344
23 (relating to employees having contact with children;
24 adoptive and foster parents) or 6344.2 (relating to
25 volunteers having contact with children) for every member
26 of the fire company or volunteer rescue squad; and

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

1 (e) Construction Savings Account.--A fire company may apply
2 for a grant under subsection (a) for the purpose of constructing
3 [a new] or renovating a facility. The grant shall be deposited
4 into the Construction Savings Account, which is established
5 within the State Treasury. Money in the Construction Savings
6 Account may be withdrawn by application of the fire company. The
7 Construction Savings Account shall be administered by the
8 commissioner. The following shall apply:

9 * * *

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

12 (i) The application shall contain the signatures of
13 two [duly elected] officers of the fire company or
14 municipality.

15 * * *

16 Section ~~5~~ 7. Sections 7814, 7821 and 7822 of Title 35 are <--
17 amended to read:

18 § 7814. Consolidation incentive.

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

1 receipt of such notification, the commissioner shall determine
2 and verify that the consolidated entity is in fact a bona fide
3 consolidated [volunteer] fire company. If the commissioner
4 determines that the consolidated entity is a bona fide
5 consolidated [volunteer] fire company, the commissioner shall
6 reduce the interest rate payable on any outstanding principal
7 balance owed to the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan
8 Fund for loans made under the former Volunteer Fire Company,
9 Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad Assistance Act, or under
10 Subchapter E of Chapter 73, for which the consolidating
11 companies or the consolidated entity may be individually or
12 jointly responsible. The commissioner may promulgate such rules
13 and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions
14 of this section.

15 § 7821. Establishment.

16 The Emergency Medical Services Grant Program is established
17 and shall be administered by the commissioner. Grants provided
18 under this program shall be used to improve and enhance the
19 capabilities of EMS [to provide ambulance, emergency medical,
20 basic life support and advanced life support services.]
21 companies to provide emergency medical services.

22 § 7822. Publication and notice.

23 The commissioner shall publish notice of the grant program
24 availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for
25 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin by August 8 for each
26 fiscal year. To the greatest extent possible, the commissioner
27 shall utilize a single designated Commonwealth electronic
28 application for the grant programs under this chapter.

29 Section ~~6~~ 8. Section 7823(a)(1), (2) and (7), ~~(b)(1)~~ and (c) <--
30 (2) of Title 35 are amended, subsections (a) and (b) are amended

1 by adding paragraphs and the section is amended by adding
2 subsections to read:

3 § 7823. Award of grants.

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

6 (1) Construction and renovation of the EMS company's
7 facilities and purchase or repair of fixtures, furnishings,
8 office equipment and support services necessary to maintain
9 or improve the capability of the services to provide
10 ambulance, emergency medical, squad, quick response, basic
11 life support and advanced life support services.

12 (2) Repair of ambulance, squad or QRS equipment or
13 purchase thereof.

14 * * *

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

16 ~~(8) Personnel costs.~~ <--

17 ~~(9) Utility costs.~~

18 ~~(10) Cancer screenings and other preventive health~~
19 ~~measures.~~

20 (8) PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES, INCLUDING CANCER <--
21 SCREENINGS.

22 ~~(11) (9) Mental health awareness and treatment.~~ <--

23 (a.1) Additional grants.--The commissioner, in consultation
24 with the director, may establish a system to award additional
25 funds to EMS companies. The commissioner shall submit the
26 guidelines for a system to the Legislative Reference Bureau for
27 publication in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania
28 Bulletin concurrently with the notice required under section
29 7812 (relating to publication and notice). In developing a
30 system, the commissioner shall evaluate the following factors as

1 the factors relate to each eligible EMS company on or before
2 July 1 of the year of the grant application:

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

6 (2) Population served.

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

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 director.

20 (b) Limits.--

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

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

27 ~~(ii) Not less than the higher of the amount received~~
28 ~~in the 2023-2024 grant cycle or \$10,000 and not more than~~
29 ~~\$40,000 per EMS company whose highest level of licensure~~
30 ~~is to operate an ALS ambulance, intermediate ALS~~

1 ~~ambulance or BLS ambulance service.~~

2 ~~(1.1) An EMS company may voluntarily agree to accept~~
3 ~~less than the higher of \$10,000 or the amount received in the~~
4 ~~2023-2024 grant cycle if the EMS company is unable to utilize~~
5 ~~the full amount it is eligible to receive.~~

6 * * *

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

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

10 * * *

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

20 (i) The commissioner may extend the application
21 period for up to 45 additional days for individual EMS
22 companies, upon request, if the EMS company demonstrates
23 hardship or undue burden that prevents the EMS company
24 from applying within the 45-day application period. An
25 extension under this paragraph must be requested within
26 30 days of the date of the end of the application period.

27 (ii) The commissioner shall have sole discretion to
28 determine whether an EMS company has demonstrated
29 hardship or undue burden.

30 (d) Construction Savings Account.--An EMS company may apply

1 for a grant under subsection (a) for the purpose of constructing
2 a new facility. The grant shall be deposited into the
3 Construction Savings Account, which is established within the
4 State Treasury. Money in the Construction Savings Account may be
5 withdrawn by application of the EMS company. The Construction
6 Savings Account shall be administered by the director. The
7 following shall apply:

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

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

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

15 (ii) The EMS company shall indicate on the
16 application how the money is going to be used under
17 subsection (a).

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

20 Section 7 9. Subchapter C.1 of Chapter 78 AND SECTION 7832.2 <--
21 of Title 35 ~~is~~ ARE repealed: <--

22 [SUBCHAPTER C.1
23 COVID-19 CRISIS FIRE COMPANY AND
24 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

25 Sec.

26 7827.1. Establishment.

27 7827.2. Publication and notice.

28 7827.3. Award of grants.

29 § 7827.1. Establishment.

30 The COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical

1 Services Grant Program is established and shall be administered
2 by the agency. Grants provided under the program shall be used
3 by fire companies and EMS companies to provide services during
4 the novel coronavirus pandemic as identified in the proclamation
5 of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020,
6 published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of
7 the state of disaster emergency.

8 § 7827.2. Publication and notice.

9 The agency shall transmit notice of the COVID-19 Crisis Fire
10 Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program
11 availability to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication
12 in the Pennsylvania Bulletin within 30 days of the effective
13 date of this section.

14 § 7827.3. Award of grants.

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

18 (1) Each eligible fire company that received a grant
19 award in fiscal year 2019-2020 under section 7813 (relating
20 to award of grants) for the purposes under section 7813(a)
21 and (a.1).

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

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

29 (4) An EMS company that did not apply for or receive a
30 grant award in fiscal year 2019-2020 under section 7823 and

1 that applies for a grant under this subchapter for the
2 purposes under section 7823(a).

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

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

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

8 (c) Application not required.--

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

12 (2) A fire company under subsection (a)(2) and an EMS
13 company under subsection (a)(4) must file an application for
14 a grant under this subchapter.]

15 Section 8. Sections 7831 and 7832 of Title 35 are amended to <--
16 read:

17 ~~§ 7831. Fire Company Grant Program.~~

18 ~~(a) Expenditure. The sum of \$22,000,000 of the amount~~
19 ~~appropriated to the commissioner for fire company grants under~~
20 ~~section 1799 E of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176),~~
21 ~~known as The Fiscal Code, shall be expended for the purpose of~~
22 ~~making grants to eligible fire companies under Subchapter B~~
23 ~~(relating to fire company grant program).~~

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

30 ~~§ 7832. Emergency Medical Services Company Grant Program.~~

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

7 ~~(b) Transfer.~~

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

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

18 Section 9. Sections 7832.1 and 7832.2 of Title 35 are
19 repealed:

20 ~~§ 7832.1. Additional funding.~~

21 In addition to sums transferred from the State Gaming Fund
22 and under section 2413(a)(1) of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6,
23 No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, the sum of
24 \$5,000,000 shall be transferred annually from the Property Tax
25 Relief Reserve Fund to the Fire Company Grant Program for the
26 purpose of making grants to eligible fire companies under this
27 subchapter.

28 **§ 7832.2. COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical**
29 **Services Grant Program.**

30 The following shall apply to any appropriation from money

<--

1 received by the Commonwealth under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief,
2 and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136, 134 Stat. 281)
3 for purposes of making grants under Subchapter C.1 (relating to
4 COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services
5 Grant Program):

6 (1) The sum of \$44,000,000 of the amount appropriated
7 shall be expended for the purpose of making grants to
8 eligible fire companies.

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

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

16 Section 10. Title 35 is amended by adding a section to read: <--
17 ~~§ 7832.3. Hazardous materials and specialty funding.~~

18 ~~The sum of \$1,200,000 shall be transferred annually from the~~
19 ~~Property Tax Relief Reserve Fund to the Hazardous Materials Team~~
20 ~~and Specialty Team Grant Program for the purpose of making~~
21 ~~grants to eligible entities under section 7852 (relating to~~
22 ~~hazardous materials team and specialty team competitive grants).~~

23 Section ~~11~~ 10. Section 7833 of Title 35 is amended BY ADDING <--
24 A SUBSECTION to read:

25 § 7833. Allocation of appropriated funds.

26 ~~(a) Administration.~~ <--

27 ~~(1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), no money~~
28 ~~from the appropriation for grants shall be used for expenses~~
29 ~~or costs incurred by the commissioner for the administration~~
30 ~~of the grant programs authorized under Subchapters B-~~

1 ~~(relating to fire company grant program) [and], C (relating~~
2 ~~to emergency medical services grant program) and F (relating~~
3 ~~to Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant~~
4 ~~Program).~~

5 ~~(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the commissioner may~~
6 ~~use not more than [\$800,000] \$1,200,000 of any unencumbered~~
7 ~~funds remaining in the fund for administrative costs for~~
8 ~~grant program implementation under this chapter.~~

9 ~~[(b) Grant allocation. Unless otherwise expressly stated,~~
10 ~~money appropriated to the commissioner for purposes of fire~~
11 ~~company and EMS company grants shall be allocated as follows:~~

12 ~~(1) Eighty eight percent of the amount appropriated~~
13 ~~shall be used for making grants to eligible fire companies~~
14 ~~under Subchapter B.~~

15 ~~(2) Twelve percent of the amount appropriated shall be~~
16 ~~used for making grants to eligible EMS companies under~~
17 ~~Subchapter C.]~~

18 * * *

<--

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

22 (1) 50% of the amount shall be used for the purpose of
23 making grants under section 7385.1 (relating to capital
24 grants for municipal fire departments).

25 (2) 50% of the amount shall be used for the purpose of
26 making grants under section 7385.2 (relating to capital
27 grants for emergency service training centers).

28 ~~Section 12. Subchapter E of Chapter 78 of Title 35 is~~
29 ~~repealed:~~

<--

30 SECTION 11. SUBCHAPTER E OF CHAPTER 78 AND SECTIONS 7892 AND <--

1 7893 OF TITLE 35 ARE REPEALED:

2 [SUBCHAPTER E

3 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

4 COVID-19 RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

5 Sec.

6 7841. Establishment.

7 7842. Award of grants.

8 7843. Funding and costs.

9 7844. Report.

10 § 7841. Establishment.

11 The Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant
12 Program is established and shall be administered by the Office
13 of the State Fire Commissioner in consultation with the
14 Department of Health. Grants provided under the Emergency
15 Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program shall be used
16 by EMS companies to provide services in response to the novel
17 coronavirus pandemic.

18 § 7842. Award of grants.

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

21 (b) Notification.--The Office of the State Fire Commissioner
22 shall notify in writing each EMS company, as defined under
23 section 7802 (relating to definitions), of the availability of
24 grants from the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery
25 Grant Program for the purposes under section 7823(a) (relating
26 to award of grants).

27 (c) Certification.--The Office of the State Fire
28 Commissioner shall include with the written notification under
29 subsection (b) a form for each eligible EMS company to certify
30 that a grant received under this subchapter shall be used for

1 the purposes under section 7823(a) and provide a deadline by
2 which an EMS company must return the certification form.

3 (d) Amount.--Grants shall be awarded under this subchapter
4 in an amount equal to the total amount of funds appropriated
5 under section 7843 (relating to funding and costs) less the
6 amount used under section 7843(b) divided by the total number of
7 EMS companies that returned the certification under subsection
8 (c).

9 (e) Report.--No later than July 30, 2022, each EMS company
10 receiving a grant award under this subchapter shall report to
11 the Office of the State Fire Commissioner how it will use the
12 grant money awarded under subsection (d).

13 § 7843. Funding and costs.

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

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

25 § 7844. Report.

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

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

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

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

5 (4) The total amount of the grant received by each EMS
6 company.

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

9 (b) Submission.--The commissioner shall submit the report by
10 September 1, 2022, to all of the following:

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

13 (2) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs
14 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of
15 Representatives.

16 (3) The chair and minority chair of the Appropriations
17 Committee of the Senate.

18 (4) The chair and minority chair of the Appropriations
19 Committee of the House of Representatives.

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

23 ~~Section 13. Chapter 78 of Title 35 is amended by adding a~~ <--
24 ~~subchapter to read:~~

25 ~~SUBCHAPTER F~~

26 ~~HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM AND SPECIALTY~~

27 ~~TEAM GRANT PROGRAM~~

28 ~~Sec.~~

29 ~~7851. Establishment.~~

30 ~~7852. Hazardous materials team and specialty team competitive~~

1 ~~grants.~~

2 ~~§ 7851. Establishment.~~

3 ~~The Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant Program~~
4 ~~is established and shall be administered by the Office of the~~
5 ~~State Fire Commissioner.~~

6 ~~§ 7852. Hazardous materials team and specialty team competitive~~
7 ~~grants.~~

8 ~~(a) Awards. The commissioner shall use money transferred~~
9 ~~under section 7832.3 (relating to hazardous materials and~~
10 ~~specialty funding) to establish a grant program for hazardous~~
11 ~~materials teams and specialty teams.~~

12 ~~(b) Eligibility. An eligible grant recipient under this~~
13 ~~section shall meet all of the following:~~

14 ~~(1) Be assigned an FDID number.~~

15 ~~(2) Report incidents in the fire incident reporting~~
16 ~~system.~~

17 ~~(3) Have a letter of recommendation from the emergency~~
18 ~~management coordinator of the host county affirming that the~~
19 ~~team is a deployable resource.~~

20 ~~(c) Uses. The commissioner shall establish authorized uses~~
21 ~~of grant funds under this section. Additional uses established~~
22 ~~under this section shall be transmitted to the Legislative~~
23 ~~Reference Bureau for publication in the next available issue of~~
24 ~~the Pennsylvania Bulletin and on the commissioner's publicly~~
25 ~~accessible Internet website.~~

26 ~~(d) Guidelines. The commissioner shall develop guidelines~~
27 ~~for the grant program, including for the issuance and revocation~~
28 ~~of FDID numbers for eligible applicants of the grant program,~~
29 ~~and shall transmit the guidelines to the Legislative Reference~~
30 ~~Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the~~

1 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

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

3 ~~§ 7891. Expiration of authority.~~

4 ~~The authority of the commissioner to award grants under~~
5 ~~Subchapters B (relating to fire company grant program) [and] C~~
6 ~~(relating to emergency medical services grant program) and F~~
7 ~~(relating to Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant~~
8 ~~Program) shall expire [June 30, 2024] December 31, 2029.~~

9 ~~Section 13. Sections 7892 and 7893 of Title 35 are repealed:~~

10 [~~§ 7892. Expiration of authority relating to COVID-19 Crisis~~
11 ~~Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant~~
12 ~~Program.~~]

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

17 [~~§ 7893. Expiration of authority relating to Emergency Medical~~
18 ~~Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program.~~]

19 ~~The authority of the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to~~
20 ~~award grants under Subchapter E (relating to Emergency Medical~~
21 ~~Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program) shall expire June 30,~~
22 ~~2022.]~~

23 ~~Section 14 12. Sections 7894(a) and (d) and 7895(a) 7895(A) <--~~
24 ~~INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH, (4), (5) AND (6) of Title 35 are amended~~
25 ~~to read:~~

26 § 7894. Special provisions.

27 (a) Claim.--An applicant for a grant under this chapter who
28 failed to return a signed agreement for the preceding year shall
29 not be permitted to apply for a grant in the current year unless
30 the applicant has provided the commissioner with a reasonable

1 written explanation as to why it did not claim its grant prior
2 to the beginning of the application period.

3 * * *

4 ~~(d) Approval. An applicant shall not be approved for a~~ <--
5 ~~grant to be used for purposes other than those stated in section~~
6 ~~7813(a) (relating to award of grants) [or], 7823(a) (relating to~~
7 ~~award of grants) or 7852(c) (relating to hazardous materials~~
8 ~~team and specialty team competitive grants).~~

9 § 7895. Annual reports.

10 (a) Contents.--The commissioner shall prepare an annual
11 report on the Fire Company Grant Program ~~[and],~~ the Emergency <--
12 Medical Services Grant Program ~~and the Hazardous Materials Team~~ <--
13 ~~and Specialty Team Grant Program.~~ The annual report shall
14 include all of the following information:

15 ~~(1) The total number of fire companies [and], EMS~~ <--
16 ~~companies, hazardous materials teams and specialty teams that~~
17 ~~were notified of the grant programs.~~

18 ~~(2) The total number of fire companies [and], EMS~~
19 ~~companies, hazardous materials teams and specialty teams that~~
20 ~~submitted applications for the grant programs.~~

21 ~~(3) The total number of fire companies [and], EMS~~
22 ~~companies, hazardous materials teams and specialty teams that~~
23 ~~were approved for grants.~~

24 * * *

25 (4) An analysis of how the grants to fire companies and
26 EMS companies were used for facilities, equipment, debt
27 reduction, training and certification, the education of the
28 general public, construction savings accounts and recruitment
29 and retention, including length of service award programs, as
30 delineated by county and municipality.

1 [(5) A list of the fire companies as delineated by
2 county that received additional grants under section
3 7813(a.2) (relating to award of grants).]

4 (6) A list of the different entities that received
5 grants, including ~~hazardous materials teams, specialty teams,~~ <--
6 ~~combined fire companies,~~ municipal fire companies, volunteer
7 fire companies[, municipal emergency medical services
8 companies and volunteer] and EMS companies.

9 ~~(7) A list of the different reasons why grants were not <--
10 issued to fire companies [and], EMS companies, hazardous
11 materials teams and specialty teams, including, but not
12 limited to, the following:~~

13 ~~(i) Failure to submit applications for the grant
14 programs.~~

15 ~~(ii) Failure to run calls for emergencies.~~

16 ~~(iii) Delinquencies and bankruptcies.~~

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

20 * * * <--

21 Section 15 13. This act shall take effect as follows: <--

22 ~~(1) The addition of 35 Pa.C.S. § 7852 shall take effect <--
23 in 180 days.~~

24 (1) THE AMENDMENT OF 35 PA.C.S. § 7364(A) AND (B) SHALL <--
25 TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.

26 (2) THE ADDITION OF 35 PA.C.S. § 7383.1(B.1) SHALL TAKE
27 EFFECT IN SIX MONTHS.

28 ~~(2)~~ (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect <--
29 immediately.