

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 804 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, HENNESSEY, HOHENSTEIN, A. DAVIS, KULIK, SANCHEZ, STRUZZI, D. WILLIAMS, MADDEN, RYAN, HILL-EVANS, COOK, FREEMAN, ROZZI, DeLUCA, GALLOWAY, WEBSTER, THOMAS, DELLOSO, SAINATO, PISCIOTTANO, GILLEN, MALAGARI AND BURNS, MARCH 8, 2021

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated~~ <--
2 ~~Statutes, in fees, providing for exemption of active first~~
3 ~~responders from fees.~~

4 AMENDING TITLE 75 (VEHICLES) OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED <--
5 STATUTES, IN FEES, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTION OF
6 PERSONS, ENTITIES AND VEHICLES FROM FEES.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 ~~Section 1. Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated~~ <--

10 ~~Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:~~

11 ~~§ 1901.1. Exemption of active first responders from fees.~~

12 ~~(a) General rule. No fees may be charged under sections~~
13 ~~1305 (relating to application for registration) and 1309~~
14 ~~(relating to renewal of registration) to an active volunteer~~
15 ~~first responder certified under subsection (b) for a vehicle~~
16 ~~owned by the active volunteer first responder for the purpose of~~
17 ~~responding to emergencies.~~

18 ~~(b) Certification. To receive an exemption under subsection~~

1 ~~(a), an individual shall apply for certification as an active~~
2 ~~volunteer first responder. To obtain certification under this~~
3 ~~subsection:~~

4 ~~(1) An applicant shall submit a signed application to~~
5 ~~the executive officer of the first response organization.~~

6 ~~(2) The executive officer and another officer of the~~
7 ~~first response organization shall:~~

8 ~~(i) Sign the application attesting to the~~
9 ~~individual's status as an active volunteer first~~
10 ~~responder.~~

11 ~~(ii) Forward the application to the department for~~
12 ~~final review and approval and include vehicle information~~
13 ~~for the vehicle used by the active volunteer first~~
14 ~~responder to respond to emergencies.~~

15 ~~(3) In reviewing an application for certification, the~~
16 ~~department shall consider the following factors:~~

17 ~~(i) The number of emergency calls to which the~~
18 ~~volunteer responds.~~

19 ~~(ii) The level of training and participation in~~
20 ~~formal training and drills of the volunteer.~~

21 ~~(iii) The total amount of time expended by the~~
22 ~~volunteer on administrative and other support services,~~
23 ~~including fundraising and facility or equipment~~
24 ~~maintenance.~~

25 ~~(iv) The involvement of the volunteer in other~~
26 ~~events or projects that aid the financial viability,~~
27 ~~emergency response or operational readiness of a~~
28 ~~volunteer fire company or a nonprofit emergency medical~~
29 ~~services agency.~~

30 ~~(c) Guidelines. The department shall adopt guidelines,~~

1 ~~including forms and applications, necessary to implement this~~
2 ~~section.~~

3 ~~(d) Definitions. As used in this section, the following~~
4 ~~words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this~~
5 ~~subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

6 ~~"Active volunteer first responder." A member of a first~~
7 ~~response organization who does not receive compensation for the~~
8 ~~member's services.~~

9 ~~"Emergency medical services agency." As defined in 35~~
10 ~~Pa.C.S. § 8103 (relating to definitions).~~

11 ~~"Executive officer." The chief or president of the first~~
12 ~~response organization that a qualified applicant serves.~~

13 ~~"First response organization." Any of the following:~~

14 ~~(1) An emergency medical services agency.~~

15 ~~(2) A volunteer fire company.~~

16 ~~(3) A volunteer rescue company.~~

17 ~~"Volunteer fire company." As defined in 35 Pa.C.S. § 7802~~
18 ~~(relating to definitions).~~

19 ~~"Volunteer rescue company." As defined in 35 Pa.C.S. § 7802.~~

20 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 90 days.~~

21 SECTION 1. SECTION 1901(C) AND (D) (2) OF TITLE 75 OF THE <--

22 PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES ARE AMENDED TO READ:

23 § 1901. EXEMPTION OF PERSONS, ENTITIES AND VEHICLES FROM FEES.

24 * * *

25 (C) PROCESSING FEE IN LIEU OF REGISTRATION FEE.--NO
26 REGISTRATION FEE SHALL BE CHARGED FOR VEHICLES REGISTERED BY ANY
27 OF THE FOLLOWING BUT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CHARGE A FEE OF \$10 TO
28 COVER THE COSTS OF PROCESSING FOR ISSUING OR RENEWING THE
29 REGISTRATION:

30 (1) HOSPITAL.

- 1 (2) HUMANE SOCIETY.
- 2 (3) NONPROFIT YOUTH CENTER.
- 3 (4) AMERICAN RED CROSS.
- 4 (5) CHURCH.
- 5 (6) GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA.
- 6 (7) BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.
- 7 (8) SALVATION ARMY.
- 8 (9) DULY CHARTERED POSTS OF NATIONAL VETERANS'
- 9 ORGANIZATIONS.

- 10 (10) YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.
- 11 (11) YOUNG MEN'S HEBREW ASSOCIATION.
- 12 (12) YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.
- 13 (13) YOUNG WOMEN'S HEBREW ASSOCIATION.
- 14 (14) JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER.
- 15 (15) NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS OF MUSICAL MARCHING GROUPS
- 16 OF YOUTHS.

17 (16) ANY PERSON WHO IS RETIRED AND RECEIVING SOCIAL
18 SECURITY OR OTHER PENSION AND WHOSE TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME DOES
19 NOT EXCEED \$19,200. UNLESS THE RETIRED PERSON IS PHYSICALLY
20 OR MENTALLY INCAPABLE OF DRIVING THE VEHICLE, THE RETIRED
21 PERSON SHALL BE THE PRINCIPAL DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE BUT MAY
22 FROM TIME TO TIME AUTHORIZE ANOTHER PERSON TO DRIVE THE
23 VEHICLE IN HIS OR HER STEAD.

24 (17) ANY VETERAN WHO LOST A LIMB OR EYE OR WHO BECAME
25 PARTIALLY PARALYZED WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
26 UNITED STATES.

27 (18) A PERSON WHO, AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF
28 THE UNITED STATES, WAS CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY DURING WORLD WAR
29 I, WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN EMERGENCY, THE VIETNAM CONFLICT
30 OR IN A FUTURE ARMED CONFLICT FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF

1 DEFENSE AUTHORIZES A CAMPAIGN MEDAL.

2 (19) ANY PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL
3 MEDAL OF HONOR.

4 (20) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CARE FOR OR OTHERWISE
5 PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY OR THE INFIRM.

6 (21) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PRINCIPALLY SERVE
7 MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED OR DISABLED PERSONS.

8 (22) NONPROFIT MOBILE AVIATION MUSEUM.

9 (23) NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS THAT PROVIDE AMBULANCE OR
10 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

11 (24) AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDER WHO DOES NOT
12 RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR THE VOLUNTEER'S SERVICE TO AN
13 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY, A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
14 OR A VOLUNTEER RESCUE SERVICE. THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIRST
15 RESPONDER SHALL BE THE PRINCIPAL DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE BUT
16 MAY FROM TIME TO TIME AUTHORIZE ANOTHER PERSON TO DRIVE THE
17 VEHICLE IN HIS OR HER STEAD. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS
18 PARAGRAPH, THE TERMS "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY,"
19 "VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY" AND "VOLUNTEER RESCUE SERVICE" SHALL
20 HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN 35 PA.C.S. § 7363
21 (RELATING TO DEFINITIONS).

22 (D) LIMITATIONS.--

23 * * *

24 (2) ONLY ONE PASSENGER CAR OR TRUCK WITH A REGISTERED
25 GROSS WEIGHT OF NOT MORE THAN 9,000 POUNDS MAY BE REGISTERED
26 TO ANY PERSON UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (B) (4) AND
27 SUBSECTION (C) (16), (17), (18) [AND], (19) AND (24).

28 * * *

29 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 90 DAYS.