

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 44 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY TALLMAN, BROOKS, FARRY, GIBBONS, KNOWLES, KORTZ, MCCARTER, R. MILLER, PICKETT, DONATUCCI AND MURT, JANUARY 24, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 2, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the National Fire Protection Association to consider
2 economic impact, to include additional active firefighters
3 and to allow for more fire department AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL <--
4 SERVICES input.

5 WHEREAS, Volunteer emergency services organizations are
6 experiencing ever-increasing financial burdens; and

7 WHEREAS, The increasing financial burden and costs are having
8 an adverse and serious negative impact upon maintaining and
9 providing adequate emergency services response capabilities for
10 communities across this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, Volunteer emergency services organizations can no
12 longer realistically afford to be expected to exist and provide
13 services at financial losses; and

14 WHEREAS, The emergency services in this Commonwealth are
15 being tasked to provide even greater levels of service with very
16 limited resources; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Fire Protection Association provides

1 uniform standards for firefighting equipment ~~and apparatus,~~ <--

2 APPARATUS AND AMBULANCES; and

3 WHEREAS, The association last updated these standards on  
4 January 1, 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, Many of the updated standards that have been  
6 implemented have increased the cost that Pennsylvania's fire AND <--  
7 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) companies have to bear; and

8 WHEREAS, Some of the additional standards for apparatus  
9 include a black box recorder as well as an electronic vehicle  
10 stability control device; and

11 WHEREAS, THE ASSOCIATION IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING NFPA 1917, <--  
12 "STANDARD FOR AUTOMOTIVE AMBULANCES, PART I," WHICH HAS  
13 GENERATED CONCERN AMONG THE EMS COMMUNITY, CITING A POTENTIAL  
14 INCREASE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE COST OF AN  
15 AMBULANCE; AND

16 WHEREAS, NFPA 1917 IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME EFFECTIVE FOR NEW  
17 AMBULANCES PURCHASED OR UNDER CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE ON OR AFTER  
18 JANUARY 1, 2013; AND

19 WHEREAS, THE ASSOCIATION REACHED OUT TO THE EMS COMMUNITY AND  
20 CREATED A NEW TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF MORE EMS MEMBERS  
21 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS FOR REVIEWING NFPA 1917; AND

22 WHEREAS, The association ~~has produced a Pennsylvania Fire~~ <--  
23 ~~Needs Assessment report in 2001, 2005 and 2011, highlighting the~~  
24 ~~needs which remain in Pennsylvania's fire departments, such as~~

25 ~~the existing shortfalls~~ CONTINUES TO CONSIDER STANDARDS for <--  
26 self-contained breathing apparatus, personal protective  
27 equipment, training ~~and fire stations and apparatus,~~ FIRE <--  
28 STATIONS, APPARATUS AND AMBULANCES; and

29 WHEREAS, Recognizing ~~these continuing needs~~ THE CONCERNS OF <--  
30 OUR EMERGENCY PROVIDERS should cause the association to strongly

1 consider the economic impact their proposed changes may have on  
2 the ~~firefighting~~ FIRE AND EMS community; therefore be it <--  
3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the  
4 National Fire Protection Association to strongly consider the  
5 economic impact of ~~the changes in the Pennsylvania Fire Needs~~ <--  
6 ~~Assessment report of 2011, or any proposed changes to~~  
7 firefighting equipment ~~and apparatus~~, APPARATUS AND AMBULANCE <--  
8 standards; and be it further  
9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the  
10 association to include additional active firefighters AND EMS <--  
11 PERSONNEL on the association's various committees and its board  
12 of directors; and be it further  
13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the  
14 association to allow for more input from fire departments AND <--  
15 EMS COMPANIES from across the United States, especially rural  
16 fire departments AND EMS COMPANIES; and be it further <--  
17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
18 the National Fire Protection Association at 1 Batterymarch Park,  
19 Quincy, Massachusetts 02169-7471.