

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1193 Session of  
2024

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO AND PENNYCUICK, MAY 3, 2024

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
MAY 3, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in incentives for municipal volunteers  
3 of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services  
4 agencies, further providing for definitions, for volunteer  
5 service credit program, for service record, for certification  
6 and for duties of State Fire Commissioner.

7 Section 1. The definitions of "active volunteer" and  
8 "volunteer" in section 79A03 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania  
9 Consolidated Statutes are amended and the section is amended by  
10 adding a definition to read:

11 § 79A03. Definitions.

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

15 "Active volunteer." A volunteer for a volunteer fire company  
16 [or], nonprofit emergency medical services agency or volunteer  
17 HAZMAT Team who has complied with the requirements of the  
18 volunteer service credit program and who is certified under  
19 section 79A23 (relating to certification).

20 \* \* \*

1 "HAZMAT Team." As the term "certified hazardous material  
2 response team" is defined in section 103 of the act of December  
3 7, 1990 (P.L.639, No.165), known as the Hazardous Material  
4 Emergency Planning and Response Act.

5 \* \* \*

6 "Volunteer." A member of a volunteer fire company [or], a  
7 nonprofit emergency medical services agency or a volunteer  
8 HAZMAT Team.

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 2. Sections 79A21, 79A22, 79A23(a) and (c) and  
11 79A33(1) of Title 35 are amended to read:

12 § 79A21. Volunteer service credit program.

13 (a) Establishment.--The governing body may establish a  
14 volunteer service credit program that establishes the annual  
15 requirements for the certification of a volunteer in active  
16 service at a volunteer fire company [or], a nonprofit emergency  
17 medical services agency or a volunteer HAZMAT Team.

18 (b) Activities.--The volunteer service credit program shall  
19 consider the following activities in determining credit toward a  
20 certification of active service:

21 (1) The number of emergency calls to which a volunteer  
22 responds.

23 (2) The level of training and participation in formal  
24 training and drills for a volunteer.

25 (3) The total amount of time expended by a volunteer on  
26 administrative and other support services, including  
27 fundraising and facility or equipment maintenance.

28 (4) The involvement in other events or projects that aid  
29 the financial viability, emergency response or operational  
30 readiness of a volunteer fire company [or], a nonprofit

1 emergency medical services agency or a volunteer HAZMAT Team.

2 (c) Guidelines.--The governing body shall, with the advice  
3 of the chief of a volunteer fire company and the supervisor or  
4 chief of a nonprofit emergency medical services agency or the  
5 head of the volunteer HAZMAT Team or their designees, adopt  
6 guidelines, including forms and applications, necessary to  
7 implement this section.

8 (d) Eligibility list.--A notarized list of eligible active  
9 volunteers shall be submitted to the governing body, no later  
10 than 45 days before tax notices are to be distributed, by the  
11 following:

12 (1) The chief of a volunteer fire company, where  
13 applicable.

14 (2) The supervisor or chief of a nonprofit emergency  
15 medical services agency, where applicable.

16 (3) The head of a volunteer HAZMAT Team.

17 (e) Exclusion.--An eligible active volunteer may only  
18 receive a tax credit under this subchapter once for each  
19 governing body.

20 § 79A22. Service record.

21 (a) Log.--The chief of a volunteer fire company [or], the  
22 supervisor or chief of a nonprofit emergency medical services  
23 agency or the head of the volunteer HAZMAT Team or their  
24 designees shall establish and maintain a service log that  
25 documents the activities of each volunteer that qualify for  
26 credit toward active service under the volunteer service credit  
27 program and the calculation of the total credits earned for each  
28 volunteer in the volunteer fire company [or], nonprofit  
29 emergency medical services agency or volunteer HAZMAT Team.

30 (b) Review.--Service logs established and maintained by

1 volunteer fire companies [or], nonprofit emergency medical  
2 services agencies or volunteer HAZMAT Teams shall be subject to  
3 periodic review by the commissioner, the Auditor General, the  
4 governing body where the volunteer fire company [or], nonprofit  
5 emergency medical services agency or volunteer HAZMAT Team is  
6 located and the governing body where the volunteer fire company  
7 [or], nonprofit emergency medical services agency or volunteer  
8 HAZMAT Team provides services.

9 § 79A23. Certification.

10 (a) Self-certification.--The active volunteer shall sign and  
11 submit an application for certification to the chief of the  
12 volunteer fire company [or], the supervisor or chief of the  
13 nonprofit emergency medical services agency or head of the  
14 volunteer HAZMAT Team where the volunteer serves.

15 \* \* \*

16 (c) Local sign-off.--The chief and another officer of the  
17 volunteer fire company [and], the supervisor or chief and  
18 another officer of the nonprofit emergency medical services  
19 agency and the head of the volunteer HAZMAT Team shall sign the  
20 application attesting to the individual's status as an active  
21 volunteer or that the individual can no longer serve as an  
22 active volunteer due to injury. The application shall then be  
23 forwarded to the municipality, as appropriate, for final review  
24 and processing.

25 § 79A33. Duties of State Fire Commissioner.

26 The State Fire Commissioner shall:

27 (1) Establish guidelines for municipalities, volunteer  
28 fire companies [and], nonprofit EMS agencies and volunteer  
29 HAZMAT Teams regarding the tax credit and post the guidelines  
30 online.

1           \* \* \*

2       Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.