

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 792

Sponsor: SENATOR ROBINSON

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1 Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 1 and 2

2 7203. Joint State Government Commission study.

3 Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 8 and 9

4 "Commission." The Joint State Government Commission.

5 Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 24 and 25

6 "PEMA." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

7 Amend Bill, page 4, by inserting between lines 18 and 19

8 "Sponsoring agency." A municipality that has an agreement
9 with the agency to be the sponsor of an urban search and rescue
10 task force.

11 Amend Bill, page 5, by inserting between lines 1 and 2

12 § 7203. Joint State Government Commission study.

13 (a) Duty.--The commission shall conduct a comprehensive
14 study and assessment on the need, readiness and state of
15 operations of Pennsylvania Task Force 1 and the Commonwealth's
16 urban search and rescue capabilities and identify
17 vulnerabilities, gaps in the system and areas of necessary and
18 appropriate improvement.

19 (b) Advisory board.--The commission shall establish an
20 advisory board to conduct the study under this section. The
21 board shall consist of the following members or their designee:

22 (1) The Director of PEMA.

23 (2) The Adjutant General.

24 (3) The State Fire Commissioner.

25 (4) The Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police.

26 (5) The Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources.

27 (6) The Secretary of Environmental Protection.

28 (7) The Secretary of Health.

29 (8) The Secretary of Transportation.

30 (9) The Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and
31 Boat Commission.

32 (10) The Commander of the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol.

33 (11) The FEMA Region 3 Representative.

34 (12) The President, or a designee of the President, of

1 the International Association of Fire Fighters in a fire
2 company in a city that is a sponsoring agency under section
3 7386(a)(1)(v)(A) (relating to State Fire Advisory Board).

4 (13) The President, or a designee of the President, of
5 the International Association of Fire Fighters in a fire
6 company in a city of the first class.

7 (13.1) One emergency management coordinator each from
8 western, eastern and central Pennsylvania.

9 (14) A representative of the National Emergency Number
10 Association.

11 (15) A representative of the Association of Public-
12 Safety Communications Officials.

13 (16) A representative of the Pennsylvania Association of
14 Hazardous Materials Technicians.

15 (17) A representative of the Pennsylvania State
16 Association of Boroughs.

17 (18) A representative of the executive board of the
18 Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

19 (19) A representative of the Municipal League.

20 (20) A representative of the executive board of the
21 Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners.

22 (21) The President or a designee of Pennsylvania Task
23 Force 1.

24 (22) A representative of the Pennsylvania Fire Advisory
25 Board.

26 (23) A representative of the Pennsylvania Career Fire
27 Chiefs Association.

28 (24) A representative of the Pennsylvania Fire and
29 Emergency Services Institute.

30 (25) A representative of the Ambulance Association of
31 Pennsylvania.

32 (26) One director in each of the regional task forces,
33 which must be located in western Pennsylvania, central
34 Pennsylvania and eastern Pennsylvania.

35 (27) A representative of the County Commissioners
36 Association of Pennsylvania.

37 (28) The President, or a designee of the President, from
38 the Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters Association.

39 (c) Conduct and assessment.--The commission shall:

40 (1) Conduct the study by reviewing the following:

41 (i) Strategies developed and utilized by agencies
42 and businesses throughout this Commonwealth for dealing
43 with disaster emergencies under the all-hazards
44 preparedness standards provided by NIMS.

45 (ii) Security measures and response plans in place
46 for critical emergency management and response for
47 infrastructure such as bridges, roads, power stations,
48 airports, dockyards and other critical infrastructure.

49 (iii) In consultation with PEMA, the overall
50 emergency response system plan for this Commonwealth in
51 accordance with NIMS standards and guidelines.

1 (iv) The level of training required and competency
2 among Pennsylvania Task Force 1 staff, including current
3 operations conducted by Pennsylvania Task Force 1.

4 (v) The current capabilities of Pennsylvania Task
5 Force 1 and the Commonwealth's regional task forces
6 related to extraction from damaged or collapsed
7 structures in this Commonwealth.

8 (vi) The status of protocols and capabilities of
9 emergency medical services care provided by and to task
10 forces for entrapped survivors, task force personnel and
11 others. The assessment shall include canine search
12 capability, readiness and care.

13 (vii) Pennsylvania Task Force 1's reconnaissance
14 capabilities regarding damage assessment, mission
15 readiness and resource needs.

16 (viii) PEMA's protocols and communications
17 capabilities between Pennsylvania Task Force 1, this
18 Commonwealth's current regional task forces and local
19 emergency response personnel, such as fire companies, EMS
20 agencies and State and local law enforcement, as well as
21 Federal, State and local governments regarding their
22 emergency operations.

23 (ix) The current protocols, capabilities or needs
24 for hazardous material surveys, extraction and cleanup.

25 (x) Pennsylvania Task Force 1's and this
26 Commonwealth's regional task forces' capabilities
27 regarding structural stabilization as well as shoring and
28 cribbing operations to damaged buildings.

29 (xi) The current protocols and capabilities of
30 Pennsylvania Task Force 1's aquatic and aerial
31 operations.

32 (2) Review, assess, inventory and catalog equipment
33 possessed by Pennsylvania Task Force 1 and each other
34 regional task force in this Commonwealth.

35 (3) Conduct a monetary assessment to identify and
36 quantify the funding impacts of Pennsylvania Task Force 1 and
37 the regional task force system, as well as the funding impact
38 and needs of creating an additional FEMA Level 1 through 4
39 task force in this Commonwealth.

40 (d) Urban search and rescue.--The commission shall examine
41 each of the component parts of the urban search and rescue
42 system in this Commonwealth, including Pennsylvania Task Force
43 1, according to the policies and procedures of the National
44 Urban Search and Rescue Response System. The Joint State
45 Government Commission shall examine the capability of the
46 current urban search and rescue system in this Commonwealth to
47 meet the challenges that the current system faces.

48 (e) Report and recommendations.--In developing a report as
49 required under this section, the commission shall identify gaps
50 in the system and develop recommendations to address the gaps.
51 The information shall include the identification of resources

1 necessary to address gaps and shall include the identification
2 of areas or regions in this Commonwealth that lack resources in
3 accordance with the policies and procedures of the National
4 Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

5 (f) Time.--The Joint State Government Commission shall
6 submit to the General Assembly a report of its findings and
7 recommendations by November 30, 2024, or 180 days after the
8 effective date of this subsection, whichever is later.

9 Amend Bill, page 8, line 3, by striking out "inside or
10 outside this Commonwealth"

11 Amend Bill, page 8, lines 7 through 22, by striking out all
12 of said lines and inserting

13 (a) Establishment.--

14 (1) The agency shall establish urban search and rescue
15 task forces, including:

16 (i) At least one urban search and rescue task force
17 that:

18 (A) is organized by the Commonwealth within a
19 regional counterterrorism task force covering a
20 county of the first class pursuant to a contract with
21 a sponsoring agency; and

22 (B) meets or exceeds the minimum requirements of
23 a Type 1 urban search and rescue task force as
24 designated by FEMA in the NIMS guidelines, as
25 certified by the agency.

26 (ii) No more than one urban search and rescue task
27 force that:

28 (A) is organized within the Commonwealth within
29 a regional counterterrorism task force pursuant to a
30 contract with a sponsoring agency; and

31 (B) provides comprehensive urban search and
32 rescue services to all areas of this Commonwealth as
33 deemed necessary by the agency.

34 (iii) At least one urban search and rescue task
35 force that:

36 (A) is organized by the Commonwealth within a
37 regional counterterrorism task force covering a
38 county of the second class; and

39 (B) by January 1, 2026, or 18 months after the
40 agency contracts with a sponsoring agency, whichever
41 is later, meets or exceeds the minimum requirements
42 of a Type 3 urban search and rescue task force as
43 designated by FEMA in the NIMS guidelines, as
44 certified by the agency.

45 (2) The provisions of paragraph (1)(i) may be satisfied
46 by the operation of an urban search and rescue task force
47 established by the Federal Government.

1 (3) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to
2 require an urban search and rescue task force to be
3 established in any regional counterterrorism task force.

4 Amend Bill, page 10, lines 1 through 9, by striking out all
5 of said lines and inserting

6 (g) Funding, grants and donations.--

7 (1) In addition to money that is provided to a task
8 force under section 7216 (relating to grant program) or the
9 authority of section 1508 of the act of April 9, 1929
10 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, the urban search
11 and rescue task force may be eligible to receive grants,
12 donations of equipment and supplies and other funds from any
13 source.

14 (2) As an agent of the Commonwealth, an urban search and
15 rescue task force or regional counterterrorism task force is
16 entitled to tax-exempt status from the Federal Government.

17 Amend Bill, page 14, line 12, by inserting after "of"

18 "disaster mortuary response team,"

19 Amend Bill, page 14, by inserting between lines 13 and 14

20 (i.1) 35 Pa.C.S. § 7203.