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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1038 Session of  
2013

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MATZIE AND SIMS, MARCH 20, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 20, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Establishing a grant program for municipal fire and emergency  
2 services organizations; and providing for grant funding.

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4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 CHAPTER 1

7 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

8 Section 101. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Municipal  
10 Fire and Emergency Services Organization Grant Act.

11 Section 102. Definitions.

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

15 "Advanced emergency medical services." The term shall have  
16 the meaning given to it in 35 Pa.C.S. § 8103 (relating to  
17 definitions).

18 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

19 "Basic emergency medical services." The term shall have the  
20 meaning given to it in 35 Pa.C.S. § 8103 (relating to  
21 definitions).

22 "Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.

23 "Facility." A structure or portion of a structure intended  
24 for the purpose of storage or protection of firefighting  
25 apparatus, ambulances and rescue vehicles and related equipment  
26 and gear. The term does not include meeting halls, social halls,  
27 social rooms, lounges or any other facility not directly related  
28 to firefighting or the furnishing of ambulance or rescue  
29 services.

30 "Grant program." The Municipal Fire and Emergency Services

1 Organization Grant Program established in Chapter 3.

2 "Municipal fire and emergency services organization." A fire  
3 department, ambulance service or rescue squad established,  
4 operated and funded by a municipality within this Commonwealth  
5 that provides fire protection or emergency services. Emergency  
6 services provided by a municipal fire and emergency services  
7 organization may include ambulance and rescue services. The  
8 ambulance services may include basic emergency medical services  
9 or advanced emergency medical services and the transportation of  
10 patients within this Commonwealth. The term does not include any  
11 corporation, association or organization that is primarily  
12 intended for the routine transport of persons who are  
13 convalescent or otherwise nonambulatory and do not ordinarily  
14 require emergency medical treatment while in transit. The rescue  
15 services may include rescue services in response to fire,  
16 vehicle accidents and water rescue efforts.

17 CHAPTER 3

18 MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

19 GRANT PROGRAM

20 Section 301. Establishment.

21 The Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization Grant  
22 Program is established and shall be administered by the agency  
23 in consultation with the commissioner. Grants provided under  
24 this program shall be used to improve and enhance the  
25 capabilities of municipal fire and emergency services  
26 organizations to provide firefighting, ambulance and rescue  
27 services.

28 Section 302. Guidelines and procedures.

29 The agency shall develop guidelines, procedures and all  
30 applications necessary to implement the grant program. The

1 agency shall submit the guidelines, procedures and applications  
2 to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the  
3 Pennsylvania Bulletin within 30 days of the effective date of  
4 this section.

5 Section 303. Award of grants.

6 (a) Authorization.--The agency may make a grant award to  
7 each eligible municipal fire and emergency services organization  
8 for the following:

9 (1) Construction or renovation of the municipal fire and  
10 emergency services organization's facility and purchase or  
11 repair of fixtures and furnishings necessary to maintain or  
12 improve the capability of the municipal fire and emergency  
13 services organization to provide fire, ambulance and rescue  
14 services.

15 (2) Repair or purchase of firefighting, ambulance or  
16 rescue equipment.

17 (3) Retirement or reduction of debt associated with  
18 paragraph (1) or (2).

19 (4) Training and certification of members.

20 (b) Limits.--

21 (1) Grants shall be not less than \$10,000 and not more  
22 than \$1,000,000 per municipal fire and emergency services  
23 organization.

24 (2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the  
25 total dollar amount of approved applications exceeds the  
26 amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this  
27 purpose.

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

29 (1) The agency shall provide written instructions and  
30 guidelines for grants under this chapter to the fire chief

1 and president of each municipal fire and emergency services  
2 organization in this Commonwealth within 60 days of the  
3 effective date of this section.

4 (2) Municipal fire and emergency services organizations  
5 seeking grants under this chapter shall submit completed  
6 applications to the agency on or before December 31, 2013.

7 The agency shall act to approve or disapprove the application  
8 by May 1, 2014. Applications that have not been approved or  
9 disapproved by the agency by May 1, 2014, shall be deemed  
10 approved.

11 (d) Eligibility.--To receive grant funds under this chapter,  
12 a municipal fire and emergency services organization shall have  
13 actively responded to one or more fire or rescue emergencies  
14 since July 1, 2011, and must sign an agreement to actively  
15 participate in the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting  
16 System.

## 17 CHAPTER 5

### 18 MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

#### 19 GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING PROVISIONS

20 Section 501. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization  
21 Grant Program.

22 From any amount appropriated in a general appropriations act  
23 to the agency for the Municipal Fire and Emergency Services  
24 Organization Grant Program, \$8,000,000 shall be expended for the  
25 purpose of making grants to eligible municipal fire and  
26 emergency services organizations pursuant to Chapter 3.

27 Section 502. Allocation of appropriated funds.

28 No moneys from the appropriation for municipal fire and  
29 emergency services organization grants shall be used for  
30 expenses or costs incurred by the agency for the administration

1 of the grant program authorized under Chapter 3.

2 CHAPTER 21

3 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

4 Section 2101. Expiration of authority.

5 The authority of the agency to award grants under Chapter 3  
6 shall expire June 30, 2014.

7 Section 2102. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect immediately.