

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1178 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY KNOWLES, ECKER, KULIK, SCHLEGEL CULVER, SMITH, DUNBAR, ZIMMERMAN, HAMM, STRUZZI, WHEELAND, CIRESI, GILLEN, POLINCHOCK, TWARDZIK AND T. DAVIS, APRIL 14, 2021

SENATOR STEFANO, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 18, 2022

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania~~ <--  
2 ~~Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, further~~  
3 ~~providing for State Fire Commissioner and providing for~~  
4 ~~capital and operational grants for municipal fire~~  
5 ~~departments, for capital and operational grants for emergency~~  
6 ~~service training centers and for money for online training~~  
7 ~~for firefighters; in grants to fire companies and emergency~~  
8 ~~medical services companies, further providing for award of~~  
9 ~~grants for volunteer fire companies and for award of grants~~  
10 ~~for emergency medical services companies; in emergency~~  
11 ~~management services, providing for tuition and loan~~  
12 ~~assistance for active volunteers and establishing the Active~~  
13 ~~Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program and the Active~~  
14 ~~Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program Fund; and, in~~  
15 ~~emergency medical services system, providing for scholarships~~  
16 ~~for recruitment, training and retention.~~

17 AMENDING TITLE 35 (HEALTH AND SAFETY) OF THE PENNSYLVANIA <--  
18 CONSOLIDATED STATUTES, IN COMMONWEALTH SERVICES, FURTHER  
19 PROVIDING FOR STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER AND FOR CURRICULUM AND  
20 TRAINING AND PROVIDING FOR CAPITAL GRANTS FOR MUNICIPAL FIRE  
21 DEPARTMENTS, FOR CAPITAL GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE  
22 TRAINING CENTERS, FOR MONEY FOR ONLINE TRAINING FOR  
23 FIREFIGHTERS AND FOR MONEY FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO PENNSYLVANIA  
24 BOMB SQUADS; IN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR  
25 FIRE RELIEF FORMULA STUDY; IN GRANTS TO FIRE COMPANIES AND  
26 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR  
27 AWARD OF GRANTS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AND FOR AWARD OF  
28 GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES; IN  
29 INCENTIVES FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS OF FIRE COMPANIES AND  
30 NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCIES, FURTHER  
31 PROVIDING FOR REJECTION AND APPEAL; IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1 SERVICES, PROVIDING FOR TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE FOR  
2 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS AND ESTABLISHING THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER  
3 TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER  
4 TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUND; IN EMERGENCY  
5 MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR  
6 RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND RETENTION; AND ESTABLISHING THE EMS  
7 TRAINING FUND.

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

10 Section 1. Section 7383 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania  
11 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:  
12 § 7383. State Fire Commissioner.

13 \* \* \*

14 ~~(d) Fireworks education. Money transferred under 3 Pa.C.S. <--~~  
15 ~~§ 1113(a)(7) (relating to disposition of certain funds) shall be~~  
16 ~~used by the commissioner for fireworks danger education.~~

17 (D) FIREWORKS SAFETY EDUCATION.--MONEY TRANSFERRED UNDER 3 <--  
18 PA.C.S. § 1113(A)(7) (RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FUNDS)  
19 SHALL BE USED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN  
20 ON THE PRECAUTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN USING FIREWORKS.  
21 THE COMMISSIONER MAY USE UP TO \$50,000 OF THE MONEY TRANSFERRED  
22 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

23 SECTION 2. SECTION 7383.1 OF TITLE 35 IS AMENDED TO READ:

24 § 7383.1. CURRICULUM [AND], TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
25 CERTIFICATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

26 (A) DUTY TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL  
27 ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, DELIVERY AND  
28 MAINTENANCE OF [A SYSTEM OF] FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES  
29 TRAINING AND AN EDUCATION CERTIFICATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

30 (B) TRAINING.--TRAINING SHALL BE LECTURE-BASED, HANDS ON OR  
31 ONLINE. TRAINING MAY BE CONDUCTED AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE  
32 ACADEMY, A COUNTY TRAINING CENTER, A COMMUNITY COLLEGE[, A LOCAL  
33 FIRE STATION OR OTHER APPROPRIATE AREA] OR OTHER APPROVED

1 EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AGENCY. THE TRAINING RECORDS SHALL BE  
2 INCORPORATED INTO THE [TRAIN PA SYSTEM OR ANY OTHER SYSTEM]  
3 TRAINING AND EDUCATION CERTIFICATION MANAGEMENT APPROVED BY THE  
4 COMMISSIONER.

5 (C) CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL  
6 PROVIDE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO  
7 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES A FIRE OR EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING  
8 PROGRAM. THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION CERTIFICATION MANAGEMENT  
9 SYSTEM SHALL INCLUDE A METHOD BY WHICH THE TRAINEE CAN DOWNLOAD  
10 AND PRINT THE CERTIFICATE.

11 [(D) PUBLICATION.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL POST A COMPLETE  
12 LISTING OF THE AVAILABLE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING  
13 COURSES ON THE OFFICE'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.]

14 (E) ACCESSIBILITY.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL FACILITATE ACCESS  
15 TO EACH AVAILABLE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING COURSE  
16 THROUGH A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE OR PORTAL. THE  
17 INTERNET WEBSITE OR PORTAL SHALL RECORD FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND  
18 CERTIFICATION. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN OR  
19 PARTICIPATE IN AN EXISTING ELECTRONIC DATABASE OR PORTAL THAT  
20 MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

21 (1) ALLOWS FOR USER REGISTRATION FOR AN INDIVIDUAL  
22 TRAINEE OR AN ACCREDITED PROVIDER.

23 (2) ALLOWS A USER TO REGISTER FOR COURSES OFFERED  
24 THROUGH THE DATABASE OR PORTAL AND IN ANY OTHER FORMAT  
25 AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SECTION.

26 (3) ESTABLISHES A COURSE COMPLETION TRANSCRIPT AND  
27 CERTIFICATE FOR A REGISTERED USER.

28 (4) FACILITATES COMMUNICATION AND ACCESS TO TRAINING  
29 MATERIALS BETWEEN AN ACCREDITED PROVIDER AND A REGISTERED  
30 TRAINEE USING THE DATABASE OR PORTAL.

1 (F) FEES.--THE COMMISSIONER MAY ESTABLISH A FEE OF NO MORE  
2 THAN \$1 PER COURSE ON THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION CERTIFICATION  
3 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, WHICH SHALL BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS  
4 WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER.

5 (G) ANNUAL REPORTS.--

6 (1) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON  
7 THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION CERTIFICATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.  
8 THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

9 (I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS IN THE SYSTEM,  
10 DELINEATED BETWEEN PAID AND VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER.

11 (II) THE NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH  
12 (I) WHO TOOK A COURSE ON THE SYSTEM DURING THE PREVIOUS  
13 YEAR.

14 (III) THE NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH  
15 (I) WHO ARE CERTIFIED AS FIREFIGHTER 1, FIREFIGHTER 2,  
16 FIRE INSTRUCTOR 1 OR FIRE OFFICER 1.

17 (IV) A SUMMARY OF COURSES THAT WERE TAKEN BY  
18 FIREFIGHTERS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I).

19 (V) A SUMMARY OF HOW THE FUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION  
20 WERE EXPENDED.

21 (2) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT  
22 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND BY  
23 OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

24 (I) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
25 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE  
26 SENATE.

27 (II) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
28 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE  
29 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

30 (3) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL POST THE ANNUAL REPORT UNDER

1 PARAGRAPH (1) ON THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S  
2 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

3 Section 2 3. Title 35 is amended by adding sections to read: <--

4 § 7385.1. Capital and operational grants for municipal fire <--  
5 departments.

6 (a) Source.--Money transferred under 3 Pa.C.S. § 1113(a)(6)  
7 (relating to disposition of certain funds) shall be utilized by  
8 the commissioner to administer capital and operational grants. <--

9 (b) Recipients.--Municipal AND COMBINATION fire departments <--  
10 recognized by the commissioner under standards developed through  
11 rules and guidelines in consultation with the State Fire  
12 Advisory Board may be recipients of grants under subsection (a)  
13 upon application.

14 (c) Purposes.--Capital and operational grants administered <--  
15 to recipients under this section shall be used to:

16 (1) Establish or modernize facilities that house  
17 firefighting equipment, ambulances or rescue vehicles.

18 (2) Acquire or renovate existing structures to house  
19 firefighting equipment, ambulances or rescue vehicles or for  
20 the construction or modernization of facilities.

21 (3) Repair or purchase firefighting, ambulance or rescue  
22 equipment as necessary to provide proper and adequate  
23 training.

24 (4) Train and certify members. <--

25 (5) Educate the general public regarding fire prevention  
26 and community risk reduction.

27 (6) Recruit and retain, including providing for  
28 volunteer firefighter length of service award programs and  
29 programs for minors.

30 (d) Restrictions.--Capital and operational grants <--

1 administered under this section may not be used for:

2 (1) Operating expenses.

3 (2) Refinancing of renovated structures.

4 (3) Refinancing the construction or modernization of  
5 facilities.

6 (4) Apparatus equipment, communication equipment or  
7 accessory equipment.

8 (5) Reduction of debt or other obligations issued prior  
9 to the effective date of this section.

10 (e) Applications.--The following apply:

11 (1) Every application for a capital and operational <--  
12 grant shall be accompanied by a notarized financial statement  
13 of the entity making the application accompanied with  
14 evidence INFORMATION sufficient to show need for the grant <--  
15 funding.

16 (2) Applications shall be reviewed by the Application  
17 Review Committee utilizing criteria established under  
18 subsection (b).

19 (f) Amounts and criteria.--The following apply:

20 (1) Capital and operational grant amounts and the <--  
21 criteria for determining amounts shall be established by the  
22 commissioner in consultation with the State Fire Advisory  
23 Board.

24 (2) An entity may be awarded a capital and operational <--  
25 grant, if available, for an approved project in lieu of  
26 approved reimbursement payments or, if not available, shall  
27 receive payments in the form of reimbursements.

28 (g) Use.--Capital and operational grants may be used in <--  
29 combination with the funding authorized under section 7813(e)  
30 (relating to award of grants) if an applicant is officially

1 proceeding with an approved project evidenced by required  
2 documentation as determined by the commissioner.

3 (H) ADMINISTRATION.--THE COMMISSIONER MAY USE UP TO \$50,000 <--  
4 OF THE FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER THIS SECTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
5 COSTS.

6 (I) ANNUAL REPORTS.--

7 (1) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON  
8 THE CAPITAL GRANTS ADMINISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION. THE  
9 REPORT SHALL INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

10 (I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR  
11 CAPITAL GRANTS.

12 (II) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS APPROVED AND  
13 THE AMOUNTS FUNDED FOR EACH RECIPIENT.

14 (III) AN ANALYSIS OF HOW THE GRANTS WERE USED BY  
15 EACH RECIPIENT.

16 (2) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT  
17 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND BY  
18 OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

19 (I) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
20 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE  
21 SENATE.

22 (II) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
23 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE  
24 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

25 (3) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL POST THE ANNUAL REPORT UNDER  
26 PARAGRAPH (1) ON THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S  
27 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

28 § 7385.2. Capital and ~~operational~~ grants for emergency service <--  
29 training centers.

30 (a) Source.--Money transferred under 3 Pa.C.S. § 1113(a)(5)

1 (relating to disposition of certain funds) shall be utilized by  
2 the commissioner to administer capital and operational grants. <--

3 (b) Recipients.--Emergency services training centers  
4 recognized by the commissioner under standards developed through  
5 rules and guidelines in consultation with the State Fire  
6 Advisory Board may be recipients of grants under subsection (a)  
7 upon application. A COMMUNITY COLLEGE, COUNTY-OWNED FACILITY, <--  
8 MUNICIPAL OR FIRE-DEPARTMENT-OWNED FACILITY OR NONPROFIT  
9 COUNTYWIDE ASSOCIATION MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT UNDER  
10 SUBSECTION (A). A PRIVATELY OWNED FACILITY SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE  
11 FOR A GRANT UNDER SUBSECTION (A).

12 (c) Purposes.--Capital and operational grants administered <--  
13 to recipients under this section shall be used to:

14 (1) Establish or modernize facilities that house  
15 firefighting equipment, ambulances or rescue vehicles.

16 (2) Acquire or renovate existing structures to house  
17 firefighting equipment, ambulances or rescue vehicles or for  
18 the construction or modernization of facilities.

19 (3) Repair or purchase firefighting, ambulance or rescue  
20 equipment as necessary to provide proper and adequate  
21 training.

22 ~~(4) Train and certify members.~~ <--

23 ~~(5) Educate the general public regarding fire prevention~~  
24 ~~and community risk reduction.~~

25 ~~(6) Recruit and retain, including providing for~~  
26 ~~volunteer firefighter length of service award programs and~~  
27 ~~programs for minors.~~

28 (d) Restrictions.--Capital and operational grants <--  
29 administered under this section may not be used for:

30 (1) Operating expenses.



1           (2) Refinancing of renovated structures.

2           (3) Refinancing the construction or modernization of  
3 facilities.

4           (4) Apparatus equipment, communication equipment or  
5 accessory equipment.

6           (5) Reduction of debt or other obligations issued prior  
7 to the effective date of this section.

8           (e) Applications.--The following apply:

9           (1) Every application for a capital and operational <--  
10 grant shall be accompanied by a notarized financial statement  
11 of the entity making the application accompanied with  
12 evidence INFORMATION sufficient to show need for the grant <--  
13 funding.

14           (2) Applications shall be reviewed by the Application  
15 Review Committee utilizing criteria established under  
16 subsection (b).

17           (f) Amounts and criteria.--The following apply:

18           (1) Capital and operational grant amounts and the <--  
19 criteria for determining amounts shall be established by the  
20 commissioner in consultation with the State Fire Advisory  
21 Board.

22           (2) An entity may be awarded a capital and operational <--  
23 grant, if available, for an approved project in lieu of  
24 approved reimbursement payments or, if not available, shall  
25 receive payments in the form of reimbursements.

26           (g) Use.--Capital and operational grants may be used in <--  
27 combination with the funding authorized under section 7813(e)  
28 (relating to award of grants) if an applicant is officially  
29 proceeding with an approved project evidenced by required  
30 documentation as determined by the commissioner.

1 (H) ADMINISTRATION.--THE COMMISSIONER MAY USE UP TO \$50,000 <--  
2 OF THE FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER THIS SECTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
3 COSTS.

4 (I) ANNUAL REPORTS.--

5 (1) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON  
6 THE CAPITAL GRANTS ADMINISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION. THE  
7 REPORT SHALL INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

8 (I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR  
9 CAPITAL GRANTS.

10 (II) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS APPROVED AND  
11 THE AMOUNTS FUNDED FOR EACH RECIPIENT.

12 (III) AN ANALYSIS OF HOW THE GRANTS WERE USED BY  
13 EACH RECIPIENT.

14 (2) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT  
15 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND BY  
16 OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

17 (I) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
18 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE  
19 SENATE.

20 (II) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
21 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE  
22 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

23 (3) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL POST THE ANNUAL REPORT UNDER  
24 PARAGRAPH (1) ON THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S  
25 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

26 § 7388.1. Money for online training for firefighters.

27 Money transferred under 3 Pa.C.S. § 1113(a)(2) (relating to  
28 disposition of certain funds) shall be utilized by the  
29 commissioner for the purposes under section 7388 (relating to  
30 online training for firefighters).

1 ~~Section 3. Sections 7813(b)(3) and 7823(b)(3) of Title 35~~ <--  
2 ~~are amended to read:~~

3 § 7389. MONEY FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO PENNSYLVANIA BOMB SQUADS. <--

4 (A) SOURCE.--MONEY TRANSFERRED UNDER 3 PA.C.S. § 1113(A)  
5 (7.1) (RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FUNDS) SHALL BE  
6 UTILIZED BY THE COMMISSIONER TO PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENTS TO  
7 PENNSYLVANIA BOMB SQUADS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

8 (B) RECIPIENTS.--A PENNSYLVANIA BOMB SQUAD ACCREDITED BY THE  
9 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND CERTIFIED IN HAZARDOUS  
10 DEVICES TRAINING SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A REIMBURSEMENT  
11 UNDER THIS SECTION FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMOVAL,  
12 TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND DESTRUCTION OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS,  
13 DISPLAY FIREWORKS OR COMBUSTIBLES, INCLUDING FOR ANY OF THE  
14 FOLLOWING:

15 (1) ESTABLISHING, EXPANDING OR MODERNIZING FACILITIES  
16 THAT WILL STORE CONSUMER FIREWORKS, DISPLAY FIREWORKS OR  
17 COMBUSTIBLES, INCLUDING UPFRONT COSTS FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY  
18 IMPROVEMENTS OF THE FACILITIES.

19 (2) THE TRANSPORTATION OF FIREWORKS FROM THE PLACE OF  
20 CONFISCATION, TO-AND-FROM STORAGE FACILITIES AND TO THE PLACE  
21 OF DESTRUCTION OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS, DISPLAY FIREWORKS OR  
22 COMBUSTIBLES.

23 (3) PERSONNEL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONFISCATION,  
24 TRANSPORTATION AND DESTRUCTION OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS, DISPLAY  
25 FIREWORKS OR COMBUSTIBLES.

26 (4) EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR THE REMOVAL, TRANSPORTATION,  
27 STORAGE AND DESTRUCTION OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS, DISPLAY  
28 FIREWORKS OR COMBUSTIBLES.

29 (5) THE DESTRUCTION OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS, DISPLAY  
30 FIREWORKS OR COMBUSTIBLES.

1           (6) ANY OTHER COSTS RELATED TO THE REMOVAL,  
2           TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND DESTRUCTION OF CONSUMER  
3           FIREWORKS, DISPLAY FIREWORKS OR COMBUSTIBLES DEEMED  
4           APPROPRIATE BY THE COMMISSIONER.

5           (C) RESTRICTIONS.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ONLY PROVIDE A  
6           REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION WHEN RECEIPTS ARE PROVIDED FOR  
7           THE ACTUAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMOVAL, TRANSPORTATION,  
8           STORAGE AND DESTRUCTION OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS, DISPLAY FIREWORKS  
9           OR COMBUSTIBLES AND EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

10           (1) THE PENNSYLVANIA BOMB SQUAD MAKES A GOOD FAITH  
11           EFFORT TO RECOVER ANY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMOVAL,  
12           TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND DESTRUCTION OF CONSUMER  
13           FIREWORKS, DISPLAY FIREWORKS OR COMBUSTIBLES UNDER 3 PA.C.S.  
14           § 1115(B) (RELATING TO REMOVAL, STORAGE AND DESTRUCTION) FROM  
15           THE OWNER OF THE CONSUMER FIREWORKS AND IS UNABLE TO RECOVER  
16           THE FULL OR PARTIAL AMOUNT OF THE COSTS.

17           (2) THE COSTS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT,  
18           EXPANSION OR MODERNIZATION OF FACILITIES THAT WILL STORE  
19           CONSUMER FIREWORKS, DISPLAY FIREWORKS OR COMBUSTIBLES.

20           (D) APPLICATIONS.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL DEVELOP AN  
21           APPLICATION FORM FOR THE REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENTS UNDER THIS  
22           SECTION.

23           (E) AMOUNTS AND CRITERIA.--REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNTS FOR ACTUAL  
24           COSTS AND THE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE AMOUNTS UNDER THIS  
25           SECTION SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

26           (F) ADMINISTRATION.--THE COMMISSIONER MAY USE UP TO 3% OF  
27           THE MONEY TRANSFERRED UNDER 3 PA.C.S. § 1113(A) (7.1) FOR  
28           ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

29           SECTION 4. SECTIONS 7419.1(A) (6) INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH,  
30           7813(B) (1) AND (3), 7823(B) (3) AND 79A24(A) OF TITLE 35 ARE

1 AMENDED TO READ:

2 § 7419.1. FIRE RELIEF FORMULA STUDY.

3 (A) STUDY.--THE STATE FIRE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL HAVE THE  
4 FOLLOWING DUTIES:

5 \* \* \*

6 (6) NO LATER THAN [NOVEMBER 30, 2022] DECEMBER 31, 2023,  
7 ISSUE A REPORT ON THE BOARD'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
8 REGARDING THE FIRE RELIEF FUNDING FORMULA AND FIRE RELIEF  
9 SERVICES TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

10 \* \* \*

11 § 7813. Award of grants.

12 \* \* \*

13 (b) Limits.--

14 (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3), GRANTS SHALL BE <--  
15 NOT LESS THAN \$2,500 AND NOT MORE THAN [\$15,000] \$20,000 PER  
16 FIRE COMPANY.

17 \* \* \*

18 (3) In a municipality where there are two or more  
19 volunteer fire companies and if two or more volunteer fire  
20 companies consolidated their use of equipment, firefighters  
21 and services ~~†within [10] 20 years preceding the date of the <--~~  
22 current year application submission deadline†, the <--  
23 consolidated entity shall be deemed eligible to receive a  
24 grant not to exceed the amount of the combined total for  
25 which the individual companies would have been eligible had  
26 they not consolidated.

27 \* \* \*

28 § 7823. Award of grants.

29 \* \* \*

30 (b) Limits.--

1 \* \* \*

2 (3) If two or more EMS companies consolidated their use  
3 of equipment, personnel and services ~~f~~within [10] 20 years <--  
4 preceding the date of the current year application submission  
5 deadline~~+~~, the consolidated entity shall be deemed eligible <--  
6 to receive a grant not to exceed the amount of the combined  
7 total for which the individual companies would have been  
8 eligible had they not consolidated.

9 \* \* \*

10 § 79A24. REJECTION AND APPEAL. <--

11 (A) GENERAL RULE.--A GOVERNING BODY THAT ESTABLISHES A TAX  
12 CREDIT UNDER THIS CHAPTER SHALL ADOPT, BY ORDINANCE OR  
13 RESOLUTION, A PROCESS FOR REJECTING A CLAIM BY AN ACTIVE  
14 VOLUNTEER WHO DOES NOT SATISFY ALL OF THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED  
15 UNDER THIS CHAPTER FOR EACH TYPE OF TAX CREDIT PROVIDED UNDER  
16 THIS CHAPTER.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 4 5. Title 35 is amended by adding a chapter to <--  
19 read:

20 CHAPTER 79B

21 TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

22 Subchapter

23 A. Preliminary Provisions

24 B. Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program

25 SUBCHAPTER A

26 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

27 Sec.

28 79B01. Definitions.

29 § 79B01. Definitions.

30 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Active volunteer." A volunteer for a volunteer organization  
4 who satisfies the eligibility criteria under section 79B12(a)  
5 (relating to eligibility), receives a certificate of eligibility  
6 and complies with the requirements of the program.

7 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
8 Agency.

9 "Approved institution of higher learning." An educational  
10 institution offering a postsecondary program of education  
11 located in this Commonwealth and approved by the agency.

12 "Approved program of education." A degree-granting or  
13 certificate-granting curriculum, course of study or training  
14 program required for entrance into a specific career to be  
15 pursued on a full-time or part-time basis or its equivalent as  
16 determined by the agency, at an approved institution of higher  
17 learning.

18 "Certificate of eligibility." A certificate issued by the  
19 agency under section 79B12(b) that certifies that an active  
20 volunteer satisfies the eligibility criteria under section  
21 79B12(a).

22 "Emergency medical services agency." As defined in section  
23 8103 (relating to definitions).

24 "Fund." The Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance  
25 Program Fund established under section 79B21(a) (relating to  
26 Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program Fund).

27 "Program." The Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance  
28 Program established under section 79B11 (relating to  
29 establishment).

30 "Qualified applicant." An active volunteer who qualifies for

1 tuition or loan assistance under Subchapter B (relating to  
2 Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program).

3 "Tuition or loan assistance." Reimbursement provided by the  
4 agency for tuition or loans under the program or in a form of  
5 loan forgiveness.

6 "Volunteer fire company." A nonprofit chartered corporation,  
7 association or organization located in this Commonwealth that  
8 provides fire protection services and may offer other voluntary  
9 emergency services within this Commonwealth.

10 "Volunteer organization." A volunteer fire company or  
11 emergency medical services agency.

12 SUBCHAPTER B

13 ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

14 Sec.

15 79B11. Establishment.

16 79B12. Eligibility.

17 79B13. Tuition or loan assistance.

18 79B14. Promissory note.

19 79B15. Amount of tuition or loan payments.

20 79B16. Limitation on tuition or loan assistance.

21 79B17. Recoupment of tuition or loan assistance payments.

22 79B18. Service records.

23 79B19. Verification of active volunteer status.

24 79B20. Administrative costs.

25 79B21. Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program

26 Fund.

27 79B22. Regulations.

28 § 79B11. Establishment.

29 The Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program is  
30 established within the agency to provide tuition or loan



1 assistance to active volunteers with volunteer organizations who  
2 are students at approved institutions of higher learning.

3 § 79B12. Eligibility.

4 (a) Criteria.--Upon submitting an application to participate  
5 in the program in accordance with the agency's regulations,  
6 rules or guidelines under section 79B22 (relating to  
7 regulations), an individual shall be eligible to receive tuition  
8 or loan assistance if the individual satisfies all of the  
9 following eligibility criteria:

10 (1) Is a resident of this Commonwealth.

11 (2) Is an active volunteer.

12 (3) Has participated in not less than 30% or, if the  
13 individual was enrolled as a student in a high school or in  
14 an approved program of education at an approved institution  
15 of higher learning within the one-year period before the  
16 individual submitted an application to the agency for tuition  
17 or loan assistance, not less than 15% of a volunteer  
18 organization's activities within the one-year period before  
19 the individual submitted an application to the agency for  
20 tuition or loan assistance. The activities may include, but  
21 not be limited to, training, drills, emergency response  
22 calls, administrative and operational support, fundraising or  
23 other events and projects that aid the financial viability of  
24 the volunteer organization.

25 (4) Has enrolled as a student in an approved program of  
26 education at an approved institution of higher learning after  
27 the effective date of this section.

28 (5) Accepts an obligation to serve as an active  
29 volunteer with a volunteer organization for at least one year  
30 prior to enrolling in an approved program of education and at

1 least five years after completing an approved program of  
2 education.

3 (6) Has signed a promissory note obligating the  
4 individual to repay the full amount of tuition or loan  
5 assistance received by the individual if the individual fails  
6 to satisfy the requirements under the program.

7 (7) Is in good standing with the volunteer organization  
8 for which the individual is an active volunteer.

9 (b) Certificate.--The agency shall issue a certificate of  
10 eligibility to an individual who satisfies the eligibility  
11 criteria under subsection (a).

12 § 79B13. Tuition or loan assistance.

13 From money appropriated for the program, tuition or loan  
14 assistance shall be provided to eligible students to pursue  
15 approved programs of education on or after the effective date of  
16 this section.

17 § 79B14. Promissory note.

18 Before participating in the program, an individual must sign  
19 a promissory note obligating the individual to repay the full  
20 amount of the tuition or loan assistance received by the  
21 individual if the individual fails to satisfy the requirements  
22 under the program as specified under section 79B17 (relating to  
23 recoupment of tuition or loan assistance payments).

24 § 79B15. Amount of tuition or loan payments.

25 (a) Full-time students.--Payments of tuition or loan  
26 assistance to a full-time student shall be \$1,000 per academic  
27 year.

28 (b) Part-time students.--Payments of tuition or loan  
29 assistance to a part-time student shall not exceed \$500 for an  
30 academic year.

1 (c) First come, first served.--Tuition or loan assistance  
2 shall be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

3 § 79B16. Limitation on tuition or loan assistance.

4 An eligible student may not receive tuition or loan  
5 assistance for a total of more than five academic years or an  
6 equivalent amount of time as determined by the agency. Tuition  
7 or loan assistance must be used within seven years of  
8 graduation.

9 § 79B17. Recoupment of tuition or loan assistance payments.

10 (a) Noncompliance.--An individual who fails to satisfy the  
11 requirements under the program shall be liable to the  
12 Commonwealth for the full amount of tuition or loan assistance  
13 received by the individual, unless the failure and inability to  
14 do so is a result of an injury while responding to an emergency  
15 as an active volunteer that prevents the individual from  
16 complying with the requirements under the program. The  
17 promissory note under section 79B14 (relating to promissory  
18 note) shall be repaid by the individual upon demand by the  
19 agency on a schedule as the agency may determine.

20 (b) Notice.--A volunteer organization shall notify the  
21 agency if an active volunteer fails to satisfy the volunteer  
22 requirements under the program.

23 § 79B18. Service records.

24 (a) Logs.--For the purpose of ensuring compliance with the  
25 requirements under the program, the chief of a volunteer fire  
26 company or the supervisor or chief of an emergency medical  
27 services agency or their designees shall establish and maintain  
28 a service log that documents the services provided by an active  
29 volunteer participating in the program, including a calculation  
30 of the amount of time the active volunteer conducts activities

1 with the volunteer organization.

2 (b) Review.--Service logs under subsection (a) shall be  
3 subject to periodic review by the agency and the Department of  
4 Auditor General for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the  
5 requirements under this subchapter.

6 § 79B19. Verification of active volunteer status.

7 (a) Self-certification.--An individual shall sign and submit  
8 an application to the chief of a volunteer fire company or the  
9 supervisor or chief of the emergency medical services agency to  
10 attest that the individual is an active volunteer.

11 (b) Injured volunteer.--Notwithstanding the volunteer  
12 requirements under the program, an individual who was injured  
13 while responding to an emergency as an active volunteer who can  
14 no longer serve as an active volunteer because of the injury and  
15 who would otherwise be eligible for the program shall be  
16 eligible to participate in the program for five years from the  
17 date of the injury if able to do so or under subsection (a) or  
18 (b), as appropriate.

19 (c) Local sign-off.--The chief and another officer of the  
20 volunteer fire company and the supervisor or chief and another  
21 officer of the emergency medical services agency shall sign the  
22 application attesting that the individual is an active volunteer  
23 under subsection (a) or that the individual can no longer serve  
24 as an active volunteer due to injury under subsection (b). The  
25 application shall then be forwarded to the agency for final  
26 review and processing.

27 § 79B20. Administrative costs.

28 The administrative costs of the program for the fiscal year  
29 beginning July 1, 2022, and each fiscal year thereafter shall  
30 not exceed 3.5% of the total amount of money appropriated to the

1 agency to implement the program.

2 § 79B21. Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program  
3 Fund.

4 (a) Establishment.--The Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan  
5 Assistance Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing  
6 restricted receipts account in the State Treasury.

7 (b) Appropriation.--Money deposited or transferred into the  
8 fund, including any accrued interest, is appropriated to the  
9 agency on a continuing basis to implement the program.

10 (c) Administrative actions.--An administrative action may  
11 not prevent the deposit or transfer of money into the fund.

12 (d) Use.--Money in the fund may only be used to implement  
13 the program. Money in the fund may not be diverted for any other  
14 purpose by administrative action.

15 § 79B22. Regulations.

16 The agency shall promulgate regulations and establish rules  
17 or guidelines to administer this subchapter.

18 Section 5 6. Title 35 is amended by adding a section to <--  
19 read:

20 § 8112.1. Scholarships for recruitment, training and retention.

21 (a) Utilization.--Except as provided under subsection (d),  
22 money transferred under 3 Pa.C.S. § 1113(a)(4) (relating to  
23 disposition of certain funds) shall be utilized by the  
24 department's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services to:

25 (1) Issue scholarships to EMS providers who complete EMS  
26 training provided by an approved entity under section 8105(b)  
27 (6) (relating to duties of department).

28 (2) Reimburse EMS agencies for recruitment and retention  
29 costs, which are to be determined by the department's Bureau  
30 of Emergency Medical Services.

1           (3) MAKE AVAILABLE A PILOT PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL  
 2 STUDENTS WITH INSTRUCTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN  
 3 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THIS COMMONWEALTH AND  
 4 SCHOOL ENTITIES OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS, OR BOTH, TO INCREASE  
 5 THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CAPABLE OF BECOMING EMS PROVIDERS.  
 6 THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
 7 SECTION 7 OF THE ACT OF OCTOBER 24, 2012 (P.L.1209, NO.151),  
 8 KNOWN AS THE CHILD LABOR ACT. THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

9           (I) THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF THE  
 10 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL ACCEPT PROPOSALS FROM  
 11 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THIS COMMONWEALTH FOR  
 12 THE PILOT PROGRAM. FROM THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED, THE  
 13 BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
 14 HEALTH SHALL SELECT THREE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
 15 EDUCATION TO OFFER A PILOT PROGRAM. THE BUREAU EMERGENCY  
 16 MEDICAL SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO THE  
 17 GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE, SHALL SELECT ONE INSTITUTION  
 18 OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM EACH EASTERN, CENTRAL AND  
 19 WESTERN REGION OF THIS COMMONWEALTH. NOTHING IN THIS  
 20 PARAGRAPH SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT AN INSTITUTION  
 21 OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM INCORPORATING FIRE INSTRUCTION  
 22 INTO THE PILOT PROGRAM.

23           (II) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SELECTED BY  
 24 THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF THE  
 25 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) SHALL OPERATE  
 26 THE PILOT PROGRAM BY ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A  
 27 SCHOOL ENTITY OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR BOTH, FOR THE  
 28 PROVISION OF INSTRUCTION TO STUDENTS WHO ARE IN AT LEAST  
 29 THE NINTH GRADE.

30           (III) THE EMS TRAINING FUND IS ESTABLISHED IN THE

1 STATE TREASURY. THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
2 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MAY ACCEPT MONETARY DONATIONS  
3 AND OTHER MONEY FOR DEPOSIT INTO THE EMS TRAINING FUND  
4 FROM A PERSON, BUSINESS, FOUNDATION, TAX-EXEMPT  
5 ORGANIZATION UNDER SECTION 501(C) (3) OF THE INTERNAL  
6 REVENUE CODE OF 1986 (PUBLIC LAW 99-514, 26 U.S.C. §  
7 501(C) (3)) OR GOVERNMENT ENTITY ON BEHALF OF THE  
8 COMMONWEALTH.

9 (IV) THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF THE  
10 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL DISBURSE NO LESS THAN \$50,000  
11 FROM THE EMS TRAINING FUND TO EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
12 EDUCATION OPERATING THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR EACH YEAR OF  
13 THE PILOT PROGRAM. AFTER THE FOURTH YEAR OF OPERATION OF  
14 THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
15 SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MAY NOT DISBURSE  
16 MONEY FROM THE EMS TRAINING FUND.

17 (V) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ANY MONEY  
18 APPROPRIATED, TRANSFERRED OR DONATED FOR THE PILOT  
19 PROGRAM INTO THE EMS TRAINING FUND, AND INTEREST EARNED  
20 ON THE MONEY IN THE EMS TRAINING FUND SHALL REMAIN IN THE  
21 EMS TRAINING FUND.

22 (VI) AFTER THE FOURTH YEAR OF OPERATION OF THE PILOT  
23 PROGRAM, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ANY REMAINING  
24 MONEY IN THE EMS TRAINING FUND INTO THE GENERAL FUND.

25 (b) Application.--An individual shall submit an application  
26 for a scholarship to the department on a form approved by the  
27 department.

28 (c) Form.--The scholarships shall be in the form of:

29 (1) reimbursement to EMS providers upon successful  
30 completion of EMS training by an approved provider.

1 (2) reimbursement to an EMS agency for recruitment and  
2 retention costs, which are to be determined by the  
3 department's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

4 (d) Administrative costs.--A portion of the NO MORE THAN 2% <--  
5 OF THE money transferred under 3 Pa.C.S. § 1113(a) (4) may be  
6 used by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services for  
7 administrative costs.

8 (E) ANNUAL REPORTS.-- <--

9 (1) THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF THE  
10 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE  
11 SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) (1) AND THE PILOT PROGRAM  
12 UNDER SUBSECTION (A) (3). THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE ALL OF THE  
13 FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

14 (I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS  
15 RECEIVED.

16 (II) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS  
17 APPROVED AND THE AMOUNTS FUNDED FOR EACH RECIPIENT.

18 (III) AN ANALYSIS OF THE CLASSES TAKEN AND THE  
19 LEVELS OF EDUCATION OBTAINED THROUGH THE SCHOLARSHIPS.

20 (IV) THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE  
21 PILOT PROGRAM.

22 (V) THE APPLICATIONS APPROVED FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM.

23 (VI) THE NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SERVED BY  
24 THE PILOT PROGRAM.

25 (2) THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF THE  
26 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL SUBMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT UNDER  
27 PARAGRAPH (1) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND BY OCTOBER 1  
28 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

29 (I) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
30 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE



