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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 349 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, BENHAM, SANCHEZ, MADDEN, GIRAL, GUENST,  
HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, McNEILL, GAYDOS, SCHLOSSBERG, DELLOSO,  
D. WILLIAMS, KINKEAD, N. NELSON, CONKLIN AND INNAMORATO,  
MARCH 13, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 13, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further  
3 providing for definitions; in Commonwealth services, further  
4 providing for definitions relating to intrastate mutual aid  
5 and for definitions relating to Fire and Emergency Medical  
6 Services Loan Program; in volunteer firefighters, further  
7 providing for definitions relating to fire relief  
8 association; in emergency responder mental wellness and  
9 stress management, further providing for definitions; in  
10 grants to fire companies and emergency medical services  
11 companies, further providing for definitions; and, in  
12 incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and  
13 nonprofit emergency medical services agencies, further  
14 providing for definitions.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. Section 7102 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania  
18 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:  
19 § 7102. Definitions.

20 The following words and phrases when used in this part shall  
21 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the  
22 meanings given to them in this section:

1 \* \* \*

2 "Airport fire company." A fire company that does all of the  
3 following:

4 (1) Is associated with an airport.

5 (2) Has a mutual aid agreement with a neighboring  
6 municipality.

7 (3) Has responded to at least 15 fire or rescue  
8 emergency calls annually to neighboring fire companies as  
9 provided in documentation requested by the State Fire  
10 Commissioner.

11 \* \* \*

12 "Emergency medical services company" or "EMS company." A  
13 career, nonprofit or volunteer emergency medical services  
14 agency, as defined in section 8103 (relating to definitions).

15 \* \* \*

16 "Fire company." As follows:

17 (1) A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire company  
18 or a combined volunteer and municipal fire company located in  
19 this Commonwealth.

20 (2) The term includes an airport fire company.

21 "Firefighter." A member of a fire company.

22 "First responder." Any of the following public servants:

23 (1) An emergency medical services provider or EMS  
24 provider, as defined in section 8103 (relating to  
25 definitions).

26 (2) A firefighter.

27 (3) A telecommunicator.

28 \* \* \*

29 "Municipal fire company." A municipal-owned fire department  
30 or other municipal-owned firefighting service.

1 \* \* \*

2 "Telecommunicator." As follows:

3 (1) An individual employed by a public safety answering  
4 point or PSAP, as defined in section 5302 (relating to  
5 definitions), whose primary responsibility is to receive,  
6 process, transmit or dispatch emergency and nonemergency  
7 calls for emergency medical, fire and rescue, law enforcement  
8 or other public safety services via telephone, radio or other  
9 communication device.

10 (2) The term includes a call taker, emergency dispatcher  
11 and supervisor.

12 "Volunteer fire company." As follows:

13 (1) A nonprofit chartered corporation, association or  
14 organization located in this Commonwealth that:

15 (i) Provides fire protection or rescue services.

16 (ii) May offer other voluntary emergency services  
17 within this Commonwealth.

18 (2) Voluntary emergency services provided by a volunteer  
19 fire company may include voluntary ambulance and voluntary  
20 rescue services.

21 "Volunteer rescue service." A nonprofit chartered  
22 corporation, association or organization located in this  
23 Commonwealth that provides rescue services in this Commonwealth.

24 \* \* \*

25 Section 2. The definition of "emergency responder" in  
26 section 7332 of Title 35 is amended to read:

27 § 7332. Definitions.

28 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
29 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
30 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 \* \* \*

2 "Emergency responder." An individual in the public or  
3 private sector who has special skills, qualifications, training,  
4 knowledge or experience, whether or not the person possesses a  
5 license, certificate, permit or other official recognition for  
6 the skills, qualifications, training, knowledge or experience,  
7 that would benefit a participating political subdivision in  
8 responding to an authorized mutual aid request or participating  
9 in an authorized drill or exercise. The term shall include a law  
10 enforcement officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical  
11 services worker, a telecommunicator, a physician, nurse or other  
12 public health worker, an emergency management official, a  
13 coroner or medical examiner, a State-certified hazardous  
14 materials team member, a public works worker, a building  
15 inspector, an architect, an engineer or other design  
16 professional or a person with specialized equipment operations  
17 skills or training or with any other skills needed to provide  
18 aid in a declared emergency.

19 \* \* \*

20 Section 3. The definitions of "emergency medical services  
21 company" or "EMS company," "fire company," "volunteer fire  
22 company" and "volunteer rescue service" in section 7363 of Title  
23 35, amended February 10, 2022 (P.L.41, No.10), are amended to  
24 read:

25 § 7363. Definitions.

26 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
27 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
28 context clearly indicates otherwise:

29 \* \* \*

30 ["Emergency medical services company" or "EMS company." A

1 career, nonprofit or volunteer emergency medical services  
2 company.]

3 \* \* \*

4 ["Fire company." A volunteer nonprofit chartered fire  
5 company or municipal-owned fire company or department.]

6 \* \* \*

7 ["Volunteer fire company." Any nonprofit chartered  
8 corporation, association or organization located in this  
9 Commonwealth which provides fire protection services and other  
10 voluntary emergency services within this Commonwealth. Voluntary  
11 emergency services provided by a volunteer fire company may  
12 include voluntary ambulance and voluntary rescue services.

13 "Volunteer rescue service." Any nonprofit chartered  
14 corporation, association or organization located in this  
15 Commonwealth which provides rescue services in this  
16 Commonwealth.]

17 Section 4. The definitions of "fire company" and "volunteer  
18 fire company" in section 7412 of Title 35 are amended to read:

19 § 7412. Definitions.

20 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
21 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
22 context clearly indicates otherwise:

23 \* \* \*

24 ["Fire company." A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire  
25 company or a combined volunteer and municipal fire company  
26 located in this Commonwealth.]

27 \* \* \*

28 ["Volunteer fire company." As defined in section 7802  
29 (relating to definitions).]

30 \* \* \*

1 Section 5. The definition of "emergency responder" in  
2 section 75A01 of Title 35 is amended to read:

3 § 75A01. Definitions.

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

7 \* \* \*

8 "Emergency responder." Any of the following:

9 (1) A current or former [certified emergency medical  
10 services provider, current or former member of an emergency  
11 medical services agency, fire company or rescue company]  
12 first responder.

13 (2) A peace officer.

14 (3) A [911 dispatcher] telecommunicator.

15 (4) A coroner or medical examiner who responds in an  
16 official capacity to an emergency.

17 (5) A corrections officer.

18 \* \* \*

19 Section 6. The definitions of "airport fire company,"  
20 "emergency medical services company" or "EMS company," "fire  
21 company," "volunteer fire company" and "volunteer rescue  
22 company" in section 7802 of Title 35 are amended to read:

23 § 7802. Definitions.

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

27 \* \* \*

28 ["Airport fire company." A fire company that does all of the  
29 following:

30 (1) Is associated with an airport.

1 (2) Has a mutual aid agreement with a neighboring  
2 municipality.

3 (3) Has responded to at least 15 fire or rescue  
4 emergency calls annually to neighboring fire companies as  
5 provided in documentation requested by the State Fire  
6 Commissioner.]

7 \* \* \*

8 ["Emergency medical services company" or "EMS company." A  
9 career or volunteer emergency medical services company.]

10 \* \* \*

11 ["Fire company." A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire  
12 company or a combined volunteer and municipal fire company  
13 located in this Commonwealth. The term includes an airport fire  
14 company.]

15 \* \* \*

16 ["Volunteer fire company." A nonprofit chartered  
17 corporation, association or organization located in this  
18 Commonwealth which provides fire protection or rescue services  
19 and which may offer other voluntary emergency services within  
20 this Commonwealth. Voluntary emergency services provided by a  
21 volunteer fire company may include voluntary ambulance and  
22 voluntary rescue services.

23 "Volunteer rescue company." A nonprofit chartered  
24 corporation, association or organization located in this  
25 Commonwealth that provides rescue services as part of the  
26 response to fires or vehicle accidents within this  
27 Commonwealth.]

28 Section 7. The definition of "volunteer fire company" in  
29 section 79A03 of Title 35 is amended to read:

30 § 79A03. Definitions.

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

4 \* \* \*

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

10 \* \* \*

11 Section 8. This act shall take effect in 60 days.