
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1097 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, FONTANA, VULAKOVICH, COSTA, YUDICHAK,
TEPLITZ, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, BOSCOLA AND MENSCH,
JANUARY 13, 2016

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
JANUARY 13, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in volunteer firefighters, further
3 providing for definitions, for statement of purpose, for
4 funds and for audits.

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

7 Section 1. Section 7412 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:
9 § 7412. Definitions.

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

13 * * *

14 "Length of service award program." A system established to
15 provide tax-deferred income benefits to active volunteer members
16 of a fire service.

17 * * *

18 Section 2. Section 7413 introductory paragraph and (4) of

1 Title 35 are amended and the section is amended by adding a
2 paragraph to read:

3 § 7413. Statement of purpose.

4 The purpose of this subchapter is to encourage individuals to
5 take part in the fire service as volunteer firefighters by
6 establishing criteria and standards for orderly administration
7 and conduct of affairs of firefighters' relief associations to
8 ensure, as far as circumstances will reasonably permit, that
9 funds shall be available for the assistance to and protection of
10 volunteer firefighters and their heirs in order to provide:

11 * * *

12 (4) Safeguards for preserving life, health and safety of
13 volunteer firefighters to ensure their availability to
14 participate in the fire service, including necessary
15 training.

16 * * *

17 (6.1) Financial assistance to recruit and retain
18 volunteer firefighters.

19 * * *

20 Section 3. Section 7416(f)(11) of Title 35 is amended and
21 the subsection is amended by adding paragraphs to read:

22 § 7416. Funds.

23 * * *

24 (f) Use.--Funds of any volunteer firefighters' relief
25 association may be spent:

26 * * *

27 (11) To purchase safeguards for preserving life, health
28 and safety of volunteer firefighters to ensure their
29 availability to participate in the volunteer fire service, including necessary training.

1 * * *

2 (18) To provide financial assistance for activities and
3 materials needed to aid in the recruitment and retention of
4 volunteer firefighters.

5 (19) To establish and pay for length of service award
6 programs.

7 Section 4. Section 7418(b) of Title 35 is amended to read:
8 § 7418. Audits.

9 * * *

10 (b) Findings.--If the Auditor General finds that [any] money
11 received by a volunteer firefighters' relief association has
12 been expended for a purpose other than one authorized by this
13 subchapter, the Auditor General shall immediately notify the
14 Governor and shall decline to approve further requisitions
15 calling for payment to the volunteer firefighters' relief
16 association until the improperly expended amount has been
17 reimbursed to the relief association fund.

18 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.