

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 94

Session of  
2005

INTRODUCED BY LOGAN, KASUNIC, COSTA, STOUT, KITCHEN, ERICKSON,  
LAVALLE, MUSTO, RAFFERTY, FUMO, ORIE, TARTAGLIONE, O'PAKE,  
BOSCOLA AND STACK, JANUARY 31, 2005

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
JANUARY 31, 2005

AN ACT

1 Requiring certain departments and institutions of the  
2 Commonwealth to establish fire response plans and conduct  
3 fire drills.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the State  
8 Facility Fire Response Plan Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Auditor General." The Auditor General of the Commonwealth.

14 "Covered building." A building located in a State facility  
15 that provides residential housing for persons admitted or  
16 enrolled in the State facility.

17 "Educational institution." Any institution that provides

1 instruction at the elementary, secondary or postsecondary level.

2 "Fire response plan" or "plan." A document prepared by a  
3 State facility for each covered building for the purpose of  
4 assisting fire company personnel in the event of a fire  
5 emergency.

6 "State facility" or "facility." Any institution owned and  
7 operated by the Department of Public Welfare, the State System  
8 of Higher Education or the Department of Military and Veterans  
9 Affairs and any educational institution owned and operated by  
10 the Department of Education or the Department of Military and  
11 Veterans Affairs.

12 Section 3. Fire response plan.

13 (a) Preparation of plan.--A State facility shall prepare a  
14 fire response plan in accordance with the guidelines established  
15 by the State Fire Commissioner. The fire response plan shall  
16 include the required information for every covered building.

17 (b) Retention and dissemination of plan.--

18 (1) A copy of the current year's plan shall be retained  
19 by the facility for a period of five years.

20 (2) The facility shall file a copy of the current year's  
21 plan with the State Fire Commissioner and the Auditor  
22 General.

23 (3) The facility shall distribute a copy of the current  
24 year's plan to every local fire department that provides fire  
25 protection for the facility.

26 (c) Contents of plan.--A fire response plan shall include,  
27 but not be limited to, the following:

28 (1) Detailed floor plans for every covered building,  
29 which shall indicate the location of all:

30 (i) Electrical panels.

1 (ii) Fire hydrants.

2 (iii) Other fire suppression equipment, including  
3 sprinkler systems.

4 (iv) Sleeping quarters for residents and staff of  
5 the State facility.

6 (2) Types, locations and amounts of any chemicals stored  
7 within the State facility building or any adjacent or nearby  
8 structures or buildings under the control of the facility.

9 For the purposes of this paragraph, "chemicals" includes  
10 substances utilized for the maintenance of the facility.

11 (3) Locations in covered buildings where resident  
12 evacuation assistance is required during a fire emergency.

13 (4) Any other information that the State facility  
14 determines would assist local fire companies in an emergency  
15 response to a fire at a covered building.

16 (d) Annual updates.--A facility shall annually update the  
17 plan to address any changes, modifications or alterations made  
18 to a covered building regarding information listed under  
19 subsection (c) and any additional information required pursuant  
20 to section 5 (relating to State Fire Commissioner).

21 Section 4. Fire drill cooperation.

22 (a) Periodic drills.--A facility shall request that local  
23 fire companies periodically participate in fire drills to  
24 identify and review any unique fire response concerns for each  
25 covered building.

26 (b) Cooperation.--A facility shall cooperate with the local  
27 fire company in the scheduling of fire drills.

28 Section 5. State Fire Commissioner.

29 The State Fire Commissioner shall establish guidelines  
30 regarding the content and form of a fire response plan within 60

1 days of the effective date of this act and shall make such  
2 guidelines available to State facilities through electronic  
3 means.

4 Section 6. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect in 30 days.