

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL**No. 592** Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY ORIE, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, O'PAKE, D. WHITE, BROWNE,
PIPPY, KITCHEN AND RHOADES, MARCH 20, 2007

SENATOR BAKER, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AS
AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

AN ACT

1 Providing for grants to public schools to purchase advanced
2 emergency alerting devices; and making an appropriation.

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

5 Section 1. Legislative findings and purpose.

6 The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) The United States Department of Homeland Security
8 has endorsed the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric
9 Association (NOAA) All Hazards Radio network as the nation's
10 emergency warning system.

11 (2) Through the NOAA All Hazards Radio network, civil
12 emergency messages such as 911 Call Outages, Radiological
13 Hazard Warnings, Shelter in Place Warnings, Evacuation
14 Immediate Warnings, Civil Emergency Warnings, Local Area
15 Emergency Warnings, Law Enforcement Warnings, AMBER Alerts
16 and weather emergency information is broadcast.

17 (3) NOAA has the capability to send a warning to 98% of

1 the population in the United States of an impending disaster
2 on a county-by-county basis.

3 (4) Currently, only 10% of the population can receive
4 the NOAA All Hazards Radio network warnings.

5 (5) Radio receivers that meet the Consumer Electronic
6 Association's (CEA) standard, Receiver Performance
7 Specification for Public Alert Receivers (CEA-2009), are made
8 to a higher level of reliability and performance and will
9 receive broadcasts from the NOAA All Hazards Radio network
10 reliably and flawlessly.

11 (6) Radio receivers which meet the CEA-2009 technical
12 specifications for advanced emergency alerting devices bear
13 the logo "Public Alert."

14 (7) A device bearing the logo "Public Alert" is defined
15 as a consumer electronics product providing direct access to
16 commercial-free, government emergency information 24 hours
17 per day with the ability to automatically prompt users with
18 audio and visual cues.

19 (8) Without a reliable advanced emergency alerting
20 device, school personnel have no direct means from which to
21 learn of a local, regional or national emergency or disaster,
22 impeding their ability to secure the safety of our children.

23 (9) The use of the advanced emergency alerting devices
24 in school buildings by school personnel will ensure that all
25 alert messages are immediately received and that steps can be
26 taken to address the emergency and protect our children.

27 (10) The General Assembly finds that providing
28 assistance to school districts in purchasing CEA Certified
29 Public Alert radio devices will help ensure the safety of our
30 children.

1 Section 2. Grants.

2 The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is authorized to
3 make grants to school districts for the purchase of at least
4 one, but not more than eight, CEA Certified Public Alert radio
5 receivers for use in each school district. The amount of the
6 grant to an individual school district shall not exceed \$350.

7 Section 3. Terms of grants.

8 The recipient of a grant shall enter into an agreement with
9 the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The agreement
10 shall include, but not be limited to, the following terms and
11 conditions:

12 (1) The radio receiver or receivers purchased with grant
13 funds must meet the public alert technical specifications for
14 advanced emergency alerting devices, CEA-2009 or its
15 successor and bear the CEA public alert certification logo.

16 ~~(2) The radio receiver or receivers purchased with grant~~ <—
17 ~~funds must be purchased from a company which maintains its~~
18 ~~corporate headquarters in Pennsylvania.~~

19 ~~(3)~~ (2) At least one radio receiver must be placed in <—
20 the school district's administrative offices where it can be
21 continually monitored.

22 ~~(4)~~ (3) All radio receivers placed in school buildings <—
23 must be located in such an area that messages can be
24 continually monitored.

25 ~~(5)~~ (4) All radio receivers must use the battery backup <—
26 feature for use in case of a power outage.

27 ~~(6)~~ (5) Recipient school districts must maintain and <—
28 test the advanced emergency alerting device in accordance
29 with the manufacturer's operational guidelines.

30 Section 4. Public awareness program.

1 The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency shall, with
2 assistance from the Department of Health, Department of Aging,
3 Department of Education and the Department of Public Welfare,
4 provide information on the availability and benefits of radio
5 receivers that meet the public alert certification standards and
6 bear the public alert logo. Such information shall be provided
7 to:

8 (1) Hospitals, long-term care facilities and other
9 facilities licensed by the Department of Health.

10 (2) Senior citizen centers.

11 (3) Day care centers licensed by the Department of
12 Public Welfare.

13 (4) Public, nonpublic, private academic, charter,
14 approved private, chartered for the deaf and blind schools
15 located in this Commonwealth.

16 Section 5. Appropriation.

17 The sum of \$200,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
18 is hereby appropriated to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management
19 Agency to carry out the provisions of this act. No more than
20 \$25,000 shall be expended for the public awareness program.

21 Section 6. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect ~~in 60 days~~ JULY 1, 2008, OR IN 60
23 DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LATER.

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