

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL  
No. 1216 Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY STURLA, BISHOP, BRIGGS, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE,  
CARROLL, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DAVIS, ELLIS, FABRIZIO, GEIST,  
GOODMAN, HARKINS, HESS, HUTCHINSON, JOSEPHS, KAVULICH,  
KIRKLAND, KOTIK, KULA, LONGIETTI, MIRABITO, MUNDY, MURPHY,  
MURT, PAYTON, PYLE, READSHAW, SANTARSIERO, SANTONI, K. SMITH  
AND WHITE, MARCH 28, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 28, 2011

AN ACT

1 Establishing a grant program for municipal fire and emergency  
2 services organizations; and providing for grant funding.

3 TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Chapter 1. Preliminary Provisions

5 Section 101. Short title.

6 Section 102. Definitions.

7 Chapter 3. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization

8 Grant Program

9 Section 301. Establishment.

10 Section 302. Guidelines and procedures.

11 Section 303. Award of grants.

12 Chapter 5. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization

13 Grant Program Funding Provisions

14 Section 501. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization

15 Grant Program.

1 Section 502. Allocation of appropriated funds.

2 Chapter 21. Miscellaneous Provisions

3 Section 2101. Expiration of authority.

4 Section 2102. Effective date.

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

7 CHAPTER 1

8 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

9 Section 101. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Municipal  
11 Fire and Emergency Services Organization Grant Act.

12 Section 102. Definitions.

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

16 "Advanced life support." The term shall have the meaning  
17 given to it in the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45), known  
18 as the Emergency Medical Services Act.

19 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

20 "Basic life support services." The term shall have the  
21 meaning given to it in the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45),  
22 known as the Emergency Medical Services Act.

23 "Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.

24 "Facility." A structure or portion thereof intended for the  
25 purpose of storage or protection of firefighting apparatus,  
26 ambulances and rescue vehicles and related equipment and gear.  
27 The term does not include meeting halls, social halls, social  
28 rooms, lounges or any other facility not directly related to  
29 firefighting or the furnishing of ambulance or rescue services.

30 "Grant program." The Municipal Fire and Emergency Services

1 Organization Grant Program established in Chapter 3.

2 "Invalid coach." The term shall have the meaning given to it  
3 in the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45), known as the  
4 Emergency Medical Services Act.

5 "Municipal fire and emergency services organization." A fire  
6 department, ambulance service or rescue squad established,  
7 operated and funded by a municipality within this Commonwealth  
8 that provides fire protection or emergency services. Emergency  
9 services provided by a municipal fire and emergency services  
10 organization may include ambulance and rescue services. The  
11 ambulance services may include basic life support services or  
12 advanced life support and the transportation of patients within  
13 this Commonwealth. The term does not include any corporation,  
14 association or organization that is primarily engaged in the  
15 operation of invalid coaches that are intended for the routine  
16 transport of persons who are convalescent or otherwise  
17 nonambulatory and do not ordinarily require emergency medical  
18 treatment while in transit. The rescue services may include  
19 rescue services in response to fire, vehicle accidents and water  
20 rescue efforts.

21 CHAPTER 3

22 MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

23 GRANT PROGRAM

24 Section 301. Establishment.

25 The Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization Grant  
26 Program is established and shall be administered by the agency  
27 in consultation with the commissioner. Grants provided under  
28 this program shall be used to improve and enhance the  
29 capabilities of municipal fire and emergency services  
30 organizations to provide firefighting, ambulance and rescue

1 services.

2 Section 302. Guidelines and procedures.

3 The agency shall develop guidelines, procedures and all  
4 applications necessary to implement the grant program. The  
5 agency shall submit the guidelines, procedures and applications  
6 to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the  
7 Pennsylvania Bulletin within 30 days of the effective date of  
8 this section.

9 Section 303. Award of grants.

10 (a) Authorization.--The agency may make a grant award to  
11 each eligible municipal fire and emergency services organization  
12 for the following:

13 (1) Construction or renovation of the municipal fire and  
14 emergency services organization's facility and purchase or  
15 repair of fixtures and furnishings necessary to maintain or  
16 improve the capability of the municipal fire and emergency  
17 services organization to provide fire, ambulance and rescue  
18 services.

19 (2) Repair or purchase of firefighting, ambulance or  
20 rescue equipment.

21 (3) Retirement or reduction of debt associated with  
22 paragraph (1) or (2).

23 (4) Training and certification of members.

24 (b) Limits.--

25 (1) Grants shall be not less than \$10,000 and not more  
26 than \$1,000,000 per municipal fire and emergency services  
27 organization.

28 (2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the  
29 total dollar amount of approved applications exceeds the  
30 amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this

1 purpose.

2 (c) Time for filing application and department action.--

3 (1) The agency shall provide written instructions and  
4 guidelines for grants under this chapter to the fire chief  
5 and president of each municipal fire and emergency services  
6 organization in this Commonwealth within 60 days of the  
7 effective date of this section.

8 (2) Municipal fire and emergency services organizations  
9 seeking grants under this chapter shall submit completed  
10 applications to the agency on or before December 31, 2011.  
11 The agency shall act to approve or disapprove the application  
12 by May 1, 2012. Applications that have not been approved or  
13 disapproved by the agency by May 1, 2012, shall be deemed  
14 approved.

15 (d) Eligibility.--To receive grant funds under this chapter,  
16 a municipal fire and emergency services organization shall have  
17 actively responded to one or more fire or rescue emergencies  
18 since July 1, 2009, and must sign an agreement to actively  
19 participate in the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting  
20 System.

## 21 CHAPTER 5

### 22 MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

#### 23 GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING PROVISIONS

24 Section 501. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization  
25 Grant Program.

26 From any amount appropriated in a general appropriations act  
27 to the agency for the Municipal Fire and Emergency Services  
28 Organization Grant Program, \$8,000,000 shall be expended for the  
29 purpose of making grants to eligible municipal fire and  
30 emergency services organizations pursuant to Chapter 3.

1 Section 502. Allocation of appropriated funds.

2 No moneys from the appropriation for municipal fire and  
3 emergency services organization grants shall be used for  
4 expenses or costs incurred by the agency for the administration  
5 of the grant program authorized under Chapter 3.

6 CHAPTER 21

7 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

8 Section 2101. Expiration of authority.

9 The authority of the agency to award grants under Chapter 3  
10 shall expire June 30, 2012.

11 Section 2102. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect immediately.