

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1178 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY KNOWLES, ECKER, KULIK, SCHLEGEL CULVER, SMITH, DUNBAR, ZIMMERMAN, HAMM, STRUZZI, WHEELAND, CIRESI, GILLEN AND POLINCHOCK, APRIL 14, 2021

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, IN COMMONWEALTH SERVICES, FURTHER <--
3 PROVIDING FOR STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER AND PROVIDING FOR
4 CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS FOR MUNICIPAL FIRE
5 DEPARTMENTS, FOR CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY
6 SERVICE TRAINING CENTERS AND FOR MONEY FOR ONLINE TRAINING
7 FOR FIREFIGHTERS; in grants to fire companies and emergency
8 medical services companies, further providing for award of
9 grants for volunteer fire companies and for award of grants
10 for emergency medical services companies; IN EMERGENCY <--
11 MANAGEMENT SERVICES, PROVIDING FOR TUITION AND LOAN
12 ASSISTANCE FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS AND ESTABLISHING THE ACTIVE
13 VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE ACTIVE
14 VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUND; AND, IN
15 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
16 FOR RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND RETENTION.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. Sections 7813(b)(1) and (3) and 7823(b)(3) of <--
20 Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended
21 to read:

22 SECTION 1. SECTION 7383 OF TITLE 35 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA <--
23 CONSOLIDATED STATUTES IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SUBSECTION TO READ:

1 § 7383. STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER.

2 * * *

3 (D) FIREWORKS EDUCATION.--MONEY TRANSFERRED UNDER 3 PA.C.S.
4 § 1113(A) (7) (RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FUNDS) SHALL BE
5 USED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR FIREWORKS DANGER EDUCATION.

6 SECTION 2. TITLE 35 IS AMENDED BY ADDING SECTIONS TO READ:

7 § 7385.1. CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS FOR MUNICIPAL FIRE
8 DEPARTMENTS.

9 (A) SOURCE.--MONEY TRANSFERRED UNDER 3 PA.C.S. § 1113(A) (6)
10 (RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FUNDS) SHALL BE UTILIZED BY
11 THE COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS.

12 (B) RECIPIENTS.--MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS RECOGNIZED BY
13 THE COMMISSIONER UNDER STANDARDS DEVELOPED THROUGH RULES AND
14 GUIDELINES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE FIRE ADVISORY BOARD
15 MAY BE RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) UPON
16 APPLICATION.

17 (C) PURPOSES.--CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS ADMINISTERED
18 TO RECIPIENTS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED TO:

19 (1) ESTABLISH OR MODERNIZE FACILITIES THAT HOUSE
20 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES OR RESCUE VEHICLES.

21 (2) ACQUIRE OR RENOVATE EXISTING STRUCTURES TO HOUSE
22 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES OR RESCUE VEHICLES OR FOR
23 THE CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION OF FACILITIES.

24 (3) REPAIR OR PURCHASE FIREFIGHTING, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE
25 EQUIPMENT AS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE PROPER AND ADEQUATE
26 TRAINING.

27 (4) TRAIN AND CERTIFY MEMBERS.

28 (5) EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC REGARDING FIRE PREVENTION
29 AND COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION.

30 (6) RECRUIT AND RETAIN, INCLUDING PROVIDING FOR

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAMS AND PROGRAMS FOR MINORS.

(D) RESTRICTIONS.--CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS

ADMINISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED FOR:

(1) OPERATING EXPENSES.

(2) REFINANCING OF RENOVATED STRUCTURES.

(3) REFINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION OF FACILITIES.

(4) APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT OR ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT.

(5) REDUCTION OF DEBT OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS ISSUED PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

(E) APPLICATIONS.--THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

(1) EVERY APPLICATION FOR A CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANT SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE ENTITY MAKING THE APPLICATION ACCOMPANIED WITH EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO SHOW NEED FOR THE GRANT FUNDING.

(2) APPLICATIONS SHALL BE REVIEWED BY THE APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE UTILIZING CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (B).

(F) AMOUNTS AND CRITERIA.--THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

(1) CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANT AMOUNTS AND THE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING AMOUNTS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSIONER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE FIRE ADVISORY BOARD.

(2) AN ENTITY MAY BE AWARDED A CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANT, IF AVAILABLE, FOR AN APPROVED PROJECT IN LIEU OF APPROVED REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS OR, IF NOT AVAILABLE, SHALL RECEIVE PAYMENTS IN THE FORM OF REIMBURSEMENTS.

(G) USE.--CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS MAY BE USED IN

1 COMBINATION WITH THE FUNDING AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 7813(E)
2 (RELATING TO AWARD OF GRANTS) IF AN APPLICANT IS OFFICIALLY
3 PROCEEDING WITH AN APPROVED PROJECT EVIDENCED BY REQUIRED
4 DOCUMENTATION AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

5 § 7385.2. CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE
6 TRAINING CENTERS.

7 (A) SOURCE.--MONEY TRANSFERRED UNDER 3 PA.C.S. § 1113(A)(5)
8 (RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FUNDS) SHALL BE UTILIZED BY
9 THE COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS.

10 (B) RECIPIENTS.--EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CENTERS
11 RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSIONER UNDER STANDARDS DEVELOPED THROUGH
12 RULES AND GUIDELINES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE FIRE
13 ADVISORY BOARD MAY BE RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS UNDER SUBSECTION (A)
14 UPON APPLICATION.

15 (C) PURPOSES.--CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS ADMINISTERED
16 TO RECIPIENTS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED TO:

17 (1) ESTABLISH OR MODERNIZE FACILITIES THAT HOUSE
18 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES OR RESCUE VEHICLES.

19 (2) ACQUIRE OR RENOVATE EXISTING STRUCTURES TO HOUSE
20 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES OR RESCUE VEHICLES OR FOR
21 THE CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION OF FACILITIES.

22 (3) REPAIR OR PURCHASE FIREFIGHTING, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE
23 EQUIPMENT AS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE PROPER AND ADEQUATE
24 TRAINING.

25 (4) TRAIN AND CERTIFY MEMBERS.

26 (5) EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC REGARDING FIRE PREVENTION
27 AND COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION.

28 (6) RECRUIT AND RETAIN, INCLUDING PROVIDING FOR
29 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAMS AND
30 PROGRAMS FOR MINORS.

1 (D) RESTRICTIONS.--CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS
2 ADMINISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED FOR:

3 (1) OPERATING EXPENSES.

4 (2) REFINANCING OF RENOVATED STRUCTURES.

5 (3) REFINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION OF
6 FACILITIES.

7 (4) APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT OR
8 ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT.

9 (5) REDUCTION OF DEBT OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS ISSUED PRIOR
10 TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

11 (E) APPLICATIONS.--THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

12 (1) EVERY APPLICATION FOR A CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL
13 GRANT SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT
14 OF THE ENTITY MAKING THE APPLICATION ACCOMPANIED WITH
15 EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO SHOW NEED FOR THE GRANT FUNDING.

16 (2) APPLICATIONS SHALL BE REVIEWED BY THE APPLICATION
17 REVIEW COMMITTEE UTILIZING CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER
18 SUBSECTION (B).

19 (F) AMOUNTS AND CRITERIA.--THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

20 (1) CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANT AMOUNTS AND THE
21 CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING AMOUNTS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE
22 COMMISSIONER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE FIRE ADVISORY
23 BOARD.

24 (2) AN ENTITY MAY BE AWARDED A CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL
25 GRANT, IF AVAILABLE, FOR AN APPROVED PROJECT IN LIEU OF
26 APPROVED REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS OR, IF NOT AVAILABLE, SHALL
27 RECEIVE PAYMENTS IN THE FORM OF REIMBURSEMENTS.

28 (G) USE.--CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS MAY BE USED IN
29 COMBINATION WITH THE FUNDING AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 7813(E)
30 (RELATING TO AWARD OF GRANTS) IF AN APPLICANT IS OFFICIALLY

1 PROCEEDING WITH AN APPROVED PROJECT EVIDENCED BY REQUIRED
2 DOCUMENTATION AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

3 § 7388.1. MONEY FOR ONLINE TRAINING FOR FIREFIGHTERS.
4 MONEY TRANSFERRED UNDER 3 PA.C.S. § 1113(A) (2) (RELATING TO
5 DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FUNDS) SHALL BE UTILIZED BY THE
6 COMMISSIONER FOR THE PURPOSES UNDER SECTION 7388 (RELATING TO
7 ONLINE TRAINING FOR FIREFIGHTERS).

8 SECTION 3. SECTIONS 7813(B) (3) AND 7823(B) (3) OF TITLE 35
9 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

10 § 7813. Award of grants.

11 * * *

12 (b) Limits.--

13 ~~(1) [Except as provided in paragraph (3), grants] Grants <--~~
14 ~~shall be not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$15,000 per~~
15 ~~fire company.~~

16 * * *

17 †(3) In a municipality where there are two or more <--
18 volunteer fire companies and if two or more volunteer fire
19 companies consolidated their use of equipment, firefighters
20 and services [within 10 years preceding the date of the <--
21 current year application submission deadline], the <--
22 consolidated entity shall be deemed eligible to receive a
23 grant not to exceed the amount of the combined total for
24 which the individual companies would have been eligible had
25 they not consolidated.† <--

26 * * *

27 § 7823. Award of grants.

28 * * *

29 (b) Limits.--

30 * * *

1 †(3) If two or more EMS companies consolidated their use <--
2 of equipment, personnel and services [within 10 years <--
3 preceding the date of the current year application submission
4 deadline], the consolidated entity shall be deemed eligible <--
5 to receive a grant not to exceed the amount of the combined
6 total for which the individual companies would have been
7 eligible had they not consolidated.† <--

8 * * *

9 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~ <--

10 SECTION 4. TITLE 35 IS AMENDED BY ADDING A CHAPTER TO READ: <--

11 CHAPTER 79B

12 TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

13 SUBCHAPTER

14 A. PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

15 B. ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

16 SUBCHAPTER A

17 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

18 SEC.

19 79B01. DEFINITIONS.

20 § 79B01. DEFINITIONS.

21 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS CHAPTER
22 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
23 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

24 "ACTIVE VOLUNTEER." A VOLUNTEER FOR A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION
25 WHO SATISFIES THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA UNDER SECTION 79B12(A)
26 (RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY), RECEIVES A CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY
27 AND COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM.

28 "AGENCY." THE PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
29 AGENCY.

30 "APPROVED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING." AN EDUCATIONAL

1 INSTITUTION OFFERING A POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM OF EDUCATION
2 LOCATED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH AND APPROVED BY THE AGENCY.

3 "APPROVED PROGRAM OF EDUCATION." A DEGREE-GRANTING OR
4 CERTIFICATE-GRANTING CURRICULUM, COURSE OF STUDY OR TRAINING
5 PROGRAM REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE INTO A SPECIFIC CAREER TO BE
6 PURSUED ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS OR ITS EQUIVALENT AS
7 DETERMINED BY THE AGENCY, AT AN APPROVED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
8 LEARNING.

9 "CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY." A CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE
10 AGENCY UNDER SECTION 79B12 (B) THAT CERTIFIES THAT AN ACTIVE
11 VOLUNTEER SATISFIES THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA UNDER SECTION
12 79B12 (A) .

13 "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY." AS DEFINED IN SECTION
14 8103 (RELATING TO DEFINITIONS) .

15 "FUND." THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE
16 PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 79B21 (A) (RELATING TO
17 ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUND) .

18 "PROGRAM." THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE
19 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 79B11 (RELATING TO
20 ESTABLISHMENT) .

21 "QUALIFIED APPLICANT." AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER WHO QUALIFIES FOR
22 TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE UNDER SUBCHAPTER B (RELATING TO
23 ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) .

24 "TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE." REIMBURSEMENT PROVIDED BY THE
25 AGENCY FOR TUITION OR LOANS UNDER THE PROGRAM OR IN A FORM OF
26 LOAN FORGIVENESS .

27 "VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY." A NONPROFIT CHARTERED CORPORATION,
28 ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION LOCATED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH THAT
29 PROVIDES FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES AND MAY OFFER OTHER VOLUNTARY
30 EMERGENCY SERVICES WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

1 "VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION." A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR
2 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY.

3 SUBCHAPTER B

4 ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
5 SEC.

6 79B11. ESTABLISHMENT.

7 79B12. ELIGIBILITY.

8 79B13. TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE.

9 79B14. PROMISSORY NOTE.

10 79B15. AMOUNT OF TUITION OR LOAN PAYMENTS.

11 79B16. LIMITATION ON TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE.

12 79B17. RECOUPMENT OF TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.

13 79B18. SERVICE RECORDS.

14 79B19. VERIFICATION OF ACTIVE VOLUNTEER STATUS.

15 79B20. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

16 79B21. ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

17 FUND.

18 79B22. REGULATIONS.

19 § 79B11. ESTABLISHMENT.

20 THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS
21 ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE AGENCY TO PROVIDE TUITION OR LOAN
22 ASSISTANCE TO ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS WITH VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS WHO
23 ARE STUDENTS AT APPROVED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

24 § 79B12. ELIGIBILITY.

25 (A) CRITERIA.--UPON SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE
26 IN THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGENCY'S REGULATIONS,
27 RULES OR GUIDELINES UNDER SECTION 79B22 (RELATING TO
28 REGULATIONS), AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE TUITION
29 OR LOAN ASSISTANCE IF THE INDIVIDUAL SATISFIES ALL OF THE
30 FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1 (1) IS A RESIDENT OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

2 (2) IS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER.

3 (3) HAS PARTICIPATED IN NOT LESS THAN 30% OR, IF THE
4 INDIVIDUAL WAS ENROLLED AS A STUDENT IN A HIGH SCHOOL OR IN
5 AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AT AN APPROVED INSTITUTION
6 OF HIGHER LEARNING WITHIN THE ONE-YEAR PERIOD BEFORE THE
7 INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO THE AGENCY FOR TUITION
8 OR LOAN ASSISTANCE, NOT LESS THAN 15% OF A VOLUNTEER
9 ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE ONE-YEAR PERIOD BEFORE
10 THE INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO THE AGENCY FOR
11 TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE. THE ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE, BUT
12 NOT BE LIMITED TO, TRAINING, DRILLS, EMERGENCY RESPONSE
13 CALLS, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT, FUNDRAISING OR
14 OTHER EVENTS AND PROJECTS THAT AID THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF
15 THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION.

16 (4) HAS ENROLLED AS A STUDENT IN AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF
17 EDUCATION AT AN APPROVED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING AFTER
18 THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

19 (5) ACCEPTS AN OBLIGATION TO SERVE AS AN ACTIVE
20 VOLUNTEER WITH A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR
21 PRIOR TO ENROLLING IN AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AND AT
22 LEAST FIVE YEARS AFTER COMPLETING AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF
23 EDUCATION.

24 (6) HAS SIGNED A PROMISSORY NOTE OBLIGATING THE
25 INDIVIDUAL TO REPAY THE FULL AMOUNT OF TUITION OR LOAN
26 ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BY THE INDIVIDUAL IF THE INDIVIDUAL FAILS
27 TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM.

28 (7) IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION
29 FOR WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL IS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER.

30 (B) CERTIFICATE.--THE AGENCY SHALL ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF

1 ELIGIBILITY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO SATISFIES THE ELIGIBILITY
2 CRITERIA UNDER SUBSECTION (A).

3 § 79B13. TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE.

4 FROM MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM, TUITION OR LOAN
5 ASSISTANCE SHALL BE PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TO PURSUE
6 APPROVED PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF
7 THIS SECTION.

8 § 79B14. PROMISSORY NOTE.

9 BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST SIGN
10 A PROMISSORY NOTE OBLIGATING THE INDIVIDUAL TO REPAY THE FULL
11 AMOUNT OF THE TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BY THE
12 INDIVIDUAL IF THE INDIVIDUAL FAILS TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS
13 UNDER THE PROGRAM AS SPECIFIED UNDER SECTION 79B17 (RELATING TO
14 RECOUPMENT OF TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS).

15 § 79B15. AMOUNT OF TUITION OR LOAN PAYMENTS.

16 (A) FULL-TIME STUDENTS.--PAYMENTS OF TUITION OR LOAN
17 ASSISTANCE TO A FULL-TIME STUDENT SHALL BE \$1,000 PER ACADEMIC
18 YEAR.

19 (B) PART-TIME STUDENTS.--PAYMENTS OF TUITION OR LOAN
20 ASSISTANCE TO A PART-TIME STUDENT SHALL NOT EXCEED \$500 FOR AN
21 ACADEMIC YEAR.

22 (C) FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.--TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE
23 SHALL BE GRANTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

24 § 79B16. LIMITATION ON TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE.

25 AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT MAY NOT RECEIVE TUITION OR LOAN
26 ASSISTANCE FOR A TOTAL OF MORE THAN FIVE ACADEMIC YEARS OR AN
27 EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF TIME AS DETERMINED BY THE AGENCY. TUITION
28 OR LOAN ASSISTANCE MUST BE USED WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF
29 GRADUATION.

30 § 79B17. RECOUPMENT OF TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.

1 (A) NONCOMPLIANCE.--AN INDIVIDUAL WHO FAILS TO SATISFY THE
2 REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE LIABLE TO THE
3 COMMONWEALTH FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF TUITION OR LOAN ASSISTANCE
4 RECEIVED BY THE INDIVIDUAL, UNLESS THE FAILURE AND INABILITY TO
5 DO SO IS A RESULT OF AN INJURY WHILE RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY
6 AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER THAT PREVENTS THE INDIVIDUAL FROM
7 COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM. THE
8 PROMISSORY NOTE UNDER SECTION 79B14 (RELATING TO PROMISSORY
9 NOTE) SHALL BE REPAID BY THE INDIVIDUAL UPON DEMAND BY THE
10 AGENCY ON A SCHEDULE AS THE AGENCY MAY DETERMINE.

11 (B) NOTICE.--A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION SHALL NOTIFY THE
12 AGENCY IF AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FAILS TO SATISFY THE VOLUNTEER
13 REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM.

14 § 79B18. SERVICE RECORDS.

15 (A) LOGS.--FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE
16 REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE CHIEF OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE
17 COMPANY OR THE SUPERVISOR OR CHIEF OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
18 SERVICES AGENCY OR THEIR DESIGNEES SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN
19 A SERVICE LOG THAT DOCUMENTS THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY AN ACTIVE
20 VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING A CALCULATION
21 OF THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER CONDUCTS ACTIVITIES
22 WITH THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION.

23 (B) REVIEW.--SERVICE LOGS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) SHALL BE
24 SUBJECT TO PERIODIC REVIEW BY THE AGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
25 AUDITOR GENERAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE
26 REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER.

27 § 79B19. VERIFICATION OF ACTIVE VOLUNTEER STATUS.

28 (A) SELF-CERTIFICATION.--AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL SIGN AND SUBMIT
29 AN APPLICATION TO THE CHIEF OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR THE
30 SUPERVISOR OR CHIEF OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY TO

1 ATTEST THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER.

2 (B) INJURED VOLUNTEER.--NOTWITHSTANDING THE VOLUNTEER
3 REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS INJURED
4 WHILE RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER WHO CAN
5 NO LONGER SERVE AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER BECAUSE OF THE INJURY AND
6 WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE
7 ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM FOR FIVE YEARS FROM THE
8 DATE OF THE INJURY IF ABLE TO DO SO OR UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OR
9 (B), AS APPROPRIATE.

10 (C) LOCAL SIGN-OFF.--THE CHIEF AND ANOTHER OFFICER OF THE
11 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AND THE SUPERVISOR OR CHIEF AND ANOTHER
12 OFFICER OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY SHALL SIGN THE
13 APPLICATION ATTESTING THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER
14 UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OR THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CAN NO LONGER SERVE
15 AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER DUE TO INJURY UNDER SUBSECTION (B). THE
16 APPLICATION SHALL THEN BE FORWARDED TO THE AGENCY FOR FINAL
17 REVIEW AND PROCESSING.

18 § 79B20. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

19 THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
20 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER SHALL
21 NOT EXCEED 3.5% OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE
22 AGENCY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

23 § 79B21. ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
24 FUND.

25 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER TUITION AND LOAN
26 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUND IS ESTABLISHED AS A NONLAPSING
27 RESTRICTED RECEIPTS ACCOUNT IN THE STATE TREASURY.

28 (B) APPROPRIATION.--MONEY DEPOSITED OR TRANSFERRED INTO THE
29 FUND, INCLUDING ANY ACCRUED INTEREST, IS APPROPRIATED TO THE
30 AGENCY ON A CONTINUING BASIS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

1 (C) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.--AN ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION MAY
2 NOT PREVENT THE DEPOSIT OR TRANSFER OF MONEY INTO THE FUND.

3 (D) USE.--MONEY IN THE FUND MAY ONLY BE USED TO IMPLEMENT
4 THE PROGRAM. MONEY IN THE FUND MAY NOT BE DIVERTED FOR ANY OTHER
5 PURPOSE BY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.

6 § 79B22. REGULATIONS.

7 THE AGENCY SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS AND ESTABLISH RULES
8 OR GUIDELINES TO ADMINISTER THIS SUBCHAPTER.

9 SECTION 5. TITLE 35 IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:
10 § 8112.1. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND RETENTION.

11 (A) UTILIZATION.--EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (D),
12 MONEY TRANSFERRED UNDER 3 PA.C.S. § 1113(A)(4) (RELATING TO
13 DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FUNDS) SHALL BE UTILIZED BY THE
14 DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO:

15 (1) ISSUE SCHOLARSHIPS TO EMS PROVIDERS WHO COMPLETE EMS
16 TRAINING PROVIDED BY AN APPROVED ENTITY UNDER SECTION 8105(B)
17 (6) (RELATING TO DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT).

18 (2) REIMBURSE EMS AGENCIES FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
19 COSTS, WHICH ARE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU
20 OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

21 (B) APPLICATION.--AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION
22 FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO THE DEPARTMENT ON A FORM APPROVED BY THE
23 DEPARTMENT.

24 (C) FORM.--THE SCHOLARSHIPS SHALL BE IN THE FORM OF:

25 (1) REIMBURSEMENT TO EMS PROVIDERS UPON SUCCESSFUL
26 COMPLETION OF EMS TRAINING BY AN APPROVED PROVIDER.

27 (2) REIMBURSEMENT TO AN EMS AGENCY FOR RECRUITMENT AND
28 RETENTION COSTS, WHICH ARE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE
29 DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

30 (D) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.--A PORTION OF THE MONEY

1 TRANSFERRED UNDER 3 PA.C.S. § 1113(A)(4) MAY BE USED BY THE
2 BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

3 SECTION 6. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS FOLLOWS:

4 (1) THE AMENDMENT OF 35 PA.C.S. §§ 7813(B)(3) AND
5 7823(B)(3) SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.

6 (2) THE REMAINDER OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT
7 IMMEDIATELY.