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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 2783** Session of  
1990

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INTRODUCED BY McNALLY, DeLUCA, MERRY, PESCI, KOSINSKI, MORRIS,  
PISTELLA, NAHILL, BILLOW, VEON, McHALE AND JOHNSON,  
JUNE 28, 1990

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, JUNE 28, 1990

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AN ACT

1 Providing for emergency service responders' preference for civil  
2 service purposes.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Emergency  
7 Service Responders' Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Emergency." A sudden and unexpected incident calling for  
13 immediate action.

14 "Emergency service responder." A member of a volunteer  
15 service organization who has responded to emergency situations  
16 for more than one year. The term includes, but is not limited  
17 to, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, police and fire

1 police.

2 Section 3. Credits in civil service examinations.

3 When any emergency service responder takes any civil service  
4 appointment or promotional examination for a public position  
5 under the Commonwealth or under any political subdivision, he  
6 shall be given credit in the manner provided in this act for the  
7 discipline and experience represented by his emergency service  
8 responder training and for the public spirit demonstrated by his  
9 volunteered service for the preservation of his community and  
10 State.

11 Section 4. Additional points in grading civil service  
12 examinations.

13 (a) Commonwealth examinations.--Whenever any emergency  
14 service responder successfully passes a civil service  
15 appointment or promotional examination for a public position  
16 under the Commonwealth or any political subdivision and thus  
17 establishes that he possesses the qualifications required by law  
18 for appointment to or promotion in such public position, the  
19 person's examination shall be marked or graded an additional  
20 five points above the mark or grade credited for the  
21 examination. The total mark or grade thus obtained shall  
22 represent the final mark or grade of the emergency service  
23 responder and shall determine his standing on any eligible or  
24 promotional list certified or furnished to the appointing or  
25 promoting power.

26 (b) Municipal examinations.--Whenever any emergency service  
27 responder takes any examination for appointment or promotion in  
28 the civil service of any of the various municipal agencies  
29 within this Commonwealth, as required by any existing law or any  
30 law that may hereafter be enacted, the person's examination

1 shall be marked or graded 7.5% perfect before the quality or  
2 contents of the examination are considered. When the examination  
3 of the person is completed and graded, such grading or  
4 percentage as the examination merits shall be added to the 7.5%,  
5 and the total mark or grade shall represent the final grade or  
6 classification of the person and shall determine his or her  
7 order of standing on the eligible list.

8 Section 5. Preference in appointment or promotion.

9 (a) Name on civil service list.--Whenever any emergency  
10 service responder possesses the requisite qualifications and his  
11 name appears on any eligible or promotional list certified or  
12 furnished as the result of any such civil service examination,  
13 the appointing or promoting power in making an appointment or  
14 promotion to a public position shall give preference to the  
15 emergency service responder notwithstanding that his name does  
16 not stand highest on the eligible or promotional list.

17 (b) Name not on civil service list.--In making an  
18 appointment or promotion to public office where a civil service  
19 examination is required, the appointing or promoting power may  
20 give preference to any emergency service responder who has  
21 passed the required examination for appointment or promotion to  
22 such position and possesses the requisite qualifications,  
23 although his name does not appear on the eligible or promotional  
24 list certified or furnished to the appointing or promoting  
25 power.

26 Section 6. Proof of certification.

27 Proof of certification or letter of authority and proof of  
28 active service as an emergency service responder must be  
29 included with the application for a Commonwealth or municipal  
30 civil service appointment or promotional examination.

1 Section 7. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect in 60 days.