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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 984      Session of  
1991

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INTRODUCED BY KING, RYAN, FARGO, HARPER, KRUSZEWSKI, SCHULER,  
HALUSKA, HASAY, LaGROTTA, SEMMEL, TRELLO, SAURMAN, RAYMOND,  
DEMPSEY, BELARDI, PESCI, MICOZZIE, TULLI, JAMES, MELIO,  
JOHNSON, FOX, BROWN, O'BRIEN, GERLACH, SERAFINI, BILLOW,  
ULIANA, CIVERA, ARMSTRONG, E. Z. TAYLOR, DALEY, TELEK AND  
ANDERSON, APRIL 3, 1991

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, APRIL 3, 1991

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the prevention, detection, treatment and follow-up  
2 of cases of hepatitis B among firefighters, paramedics,  
3 emergency medical technicians, ambulance attendants, first  
4 responders and health professionals; and making an  
5 appropriation.

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

8 Section 1. Statewide program.

9 In accordance with adopted standards consistent with accepted  
10 public health practice and the recommendations of the Centers  
11 for Disease Control, the Department of Health shall establish a  
12 Statewide program for the prevention, including inoculations,  
13 screening, diagnosis, treatment, and medical and environmental  
14 follow-up, of cases of hepatitis B for firefighters, paramedics,  
15 emergency medical technicians, ambulance attendants, first  
16 responders and health professionals. A summary of the Statewide  
17 program shall be made public.

1 Section 2. Eligible persons.

2 Every firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician,  
3 ambulance attendant, first responder and health professional  
4 within this Commonwealth determined to be at risk for hepatitis  
5 B according to standards for the Statewide program adopted by  
6 the Department of Health shall be eligible for service under  
7 this act.

8 Section 3. Powers and duties of Department of Health.

9 The Department of Health shall provide financial support to  
10 State, district, county or local governmental or private  
11 agencies, which agree to provide screening, diagnostic,  
12 treatment, educational and follow-up services as required under  
13 the standards established for the Statewide program, for the  
14 establishment of local hepatitis B detection, treatment or  
15 prevention projects.

16 Section 4. Annual report.

17 The Department of Health shall publish an annual report which  
18 shall include, as a minimum, the number of firefighters,  
19 paramedics, emergency medical technicians, ambulance attendants,  
20 first responders and health professionals, as defined in the act  
21 of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45), known as the Emergency Medical  
22 Services Act, found to have hepatitis B.

23 Section 5. Immunity.

24 No person shall be liable for civil damages as a result of an  
25 act, or the omission of an act, committed while rendering  
26 services in good faith and in accordance with the provisions of  
27 this act.

28 Section 6. Appropriation.

29 The sum of \$3,500,000 is hereby appropriated to the  
30 Department of Health for the fiscal year July 1, 1991, to June

- 1 30, 1992, to carry out the provisions of this act.
- 2 Section 7. Effective date.
- 3 This act shall take effect immediately.