
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2758

Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY KENNEY, PERZEL, J. TAYLOR, O'BRIEN, BUTKOVITZ,
CRUZ, DONATUCCI, HORSEY, JAMES, KELLER, LEDERER, MANDERINO,
MYERS, OLIVER, RIEGER, WASHINGTON, WATERS, WILLIAMS AND
YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 23, 2004

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 23, 2004

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for fire company reduction
3 and closure provisions for cities of the first class.

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

6 Section 1. Section 2962 of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:
8 § 2962. Limitation on municipal powers.

9 * * *

10 (d.1) Reduction of fire protection in a city of the first
11 class.--A city of the first class shall not reduce or eliminate
12 any ladder or engine company located in a city of the first
13 class without first satisfying each of the following criteria:

14 (1) In the event that the city seeks to reduce or
15 eliminate any engine or ladder company, the city must provide
16 written notice of the proposed reduction or elimination to

1 all firefighters and paramedics assigned to the affected
2 company, to any labor organizations representing affected
3 firefighters and paramedics, and to all citizens served by
4 the affected company. In order to notify the public, the city
5 may place an advertisement in a newspaper of general
6 circulation within the affected area.

7 (2) In the event that the city seeks to reduce or
8 eliminate any engine or ladder company, it must first
9 commission and complete a study of the proposed reduction,
10 which shall include, but not be limited to, detailed
11 projections of the savings to be achieved by the proposed
12 reduction or closure, and analyses of the impact of the
13 proposed reduction on emergency response time, delivery of
14 emergency services to the public, homeowner fire insurance
15 premium coverage implications and safety of firefighters,
16 paramedics and citizens. An independent third party shall
17 conduct the impact study. Once the study has been completed,
18 it shall be made immediately available to labor organization
19 representatives, the Office of the State Fire Commissioner
20 and to any other interested party that requests a copy.

21 (3) No less than 30 days nor more than 45 days after
22 receipt of the study by the labor organization
23 representatives and the Office of the State Fire
24 Commissioner, the city shall hold public hearings in order to
25 receive feedback on the proposed reduction in fire protection
26 services and on the results of the impact study. The city of
27 the first class shall also accept written responses to the
28 findings contained in the impact study.

29 (4) The provisions of this subsection shall be
30 applicable to cities of the first class, notwithstanding the

1 fact that such cities of the first class, after the effective
2 date of this subsection, may have adopted or amended a home
3 rule charter.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.