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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 2758** Session of  
2004

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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

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

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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.