

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 787 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY SWANGER, BARRAR, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA,
GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GROVE, HORNAMAN, JOSEPHS, KILLION,
MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLER, MURPHY, MURT, PETRI, RAPP,
READSHAW, ROSS, TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH AND YOUNGBLOOD,
FEBRUARY 23, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for volunteer quick response
3 services grant program.

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

6 Section 1. Chapter 78 heading of Title 35 of the
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, added November 23, 2010
8 (P.L.1181, No.118), is amended to read:

9 CHAPTER 78

10 GRANTS TO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES, L

11 VOLUNTEER QUICK RESPONSE SERVICES

12 AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

13 Section 2. Section 7801 of Title 35, added November 23, 2010
14 (P.L.1181, No.118), is amended to read:

15 § 7801. Scope of chapter.

16 This chapter relates to grants to volunteer fire companies, L

1 volunteer quick response services and volunteer ambulance
2 services.

3 Section 3. Section 7802 of Title 35, added November 23, 2010
4 (P.L.1181, No.118), is amended by adding a definition to read:

5 § 7802. Definitions.

6 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
7 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
8 context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 * * *

10 "Volunteer quick response service." Any nonprofit chartered
11 corporation, association or organization located in this
12 Commonwealth which is recognized by the Pennsylvania Department
13 of Health and which is regularly engaged in responding to
14 emergencies and providing emergency medical services pending the
15 arrival of ambulance service personnel.

16 * * *

17 Section 4. Sections 7831 and 7833 of Title 35, added
18 November 23, 2010 (P.L.1181, No.118), are amended to read:

19 § 7831. Volunteer Fire Company Grant Program and Volunteer
20 Quick Response Service Program.

21 The sum of \$22,000,000 of the amount appropriated to the
22 agency for volunteer company grants under section 225 of the act
23 of March 20, 2003 (P.L.463, No.1A), known as the General
24 Appropriation Act of 2003, shall be expended for the purpose of
25 making grants to eligible volunteer fire companies under
26 Subchapter B (relating to volunteer fire company grant program)
27 and to eligible volunteer quick response services under
28 Subchapter E (relating to volunteer quick response service grant
29 program).

30 § 7833. Allocation of appropriated funds.

1 (a) Prohibition.--No money from the appropriation for
2 volunteer company grants shall be used for expenses or costs
3 incurred by the agency for the administration of the grant
4 programs authorized under Subchapters B (relating to volunteer
5 fire company grant program) [and] C (relating to volunteer
6 ambulance service grant program) and E (relating to volunteer
7 quick response service grant program).

8 (b) Grant allocation.--Unless otherwise expressly stated,
9 money appropriated to the agency for purposes of volunteer
10 company grants shall be allocated as follows:

11 (1) Eighty-eight percent of the amount appropriated
12 shall be used for making grants to eligible volunteer fire
13 companies under Subchapter B and to eligible volunteer quick
14 response services under Subchapter E.

15 (2) Twelve percent of the amount appropriated shall be
16 used for making grants to eligible volunteer ambulance
17 companies under Subchapter C.

18 Section 5. Chapter 78 of Title 35 is amended by adding a
19 subchapter to read:

20 SUBCHAPTER D.1

21 VOLUNTEER QUICK RESPONSE

22 SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM

23 Sec.

24 7839.1. Establishment.

25 7839.2. Publication and notice.

26 7839.3. Award of grants.

27 § 7839.1. Establishment.

28 The Volunteer Quick Response Service Grant Program is hereby
29 established and shall be administered by the agency. Grants
30 provided under this program shall be used to improve and enhance

1 the capabilities of the volunteer quick response services to
2 provide quick response services.

3 § 7839.2. Publication and notice.

4 The agency shall submit notice of the grant program
5 availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for
6 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin:

7 (1) within 30 days of the effective date of this section
8 for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2011, and July 1,
9 2012; and

10 (2) by August 8 for fiscal years beginning after June
11 30, 2013.

12 § 7839.3. Award of grants.

13 (a) Authorization.--The agency is hereby authorized to make
14 a grant award to each eligible volunteer quick response service
15 for the following:

16 (1) Construction and renovation of the volunteer quick
17 response service's facility and purchase or repair of
18 fixtures, furnishings, office equipment and support services
19 necessary to maintain or improve the capability of the quick
20 response service to provide quick response services.

21 (2) Repair of ambulance equipment or purchase thereof.

22 (3) Debt reduction associated with paragraph (1) or (2).

23 (4) Training and certification of members.

24 (b) Limits.--

25 (1) Grants shall be not less than \$2,500 and not more
26 than \$10,000 per volunteer quick response service.

27 (2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the
28 total dollar amount of approved applications exceeds the
29 amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this
30 purpose.

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

8 (c) Time for filing application and department action.--

9 (1) Within 30 days of the effective date of this
10 paragraph for the fiscal years commencing July 1, 2011, and
11 July 1, 2012, and by September 1 of each year thereafter, the
12 agency shall provide written instructions for grants under
13 this chapter to the president of every volunteer quick
14 response service in this Commonwealth.

15 (2) Within 45 days of the effective date of this
16 paragraph for the fiscal years commencing July 1, 2011, and
17 July 1, 2012, and by September 8 of each year, the agency
18 shall provide applications to the president of every
19 volunteer quick response service. The application for the
20 fiscal years commencing July 1, 2011, and July 1, 2012, shall
21 be a combined application. Volunteer ambulance services
22 seeking grants under this subchapter shall submit completed
23 applications to the agency. The application period shall
24 remain open for 45 days each year. The agency shall act to
25 approve or disapprove applications within 60 days of the
26 application submission deadline each year. Applications which
27 have not been approved or disapproved by the agency within 60
28 days after the close of the application period each year
29 shall be deemed approved.

30 Section 6. Sections 7841 and 7842 of Title 35, added

1 November 23, 2010 (P.L.1181, No.118), are amended to read:

2 § 7841. Expiration of authority.

3 The authority of the agency to award grants under Subchapters
4 B (relating to volunteer fire company grant program) [and] C
5 (relating to volunteer ambulance service grant program) and
6 (D.1) (relating to volunteer quick response service grant
7 program) shall expire June 30, 2012.

8 § 7842. Special provisions.

9 (a) Claim.--An applicant for a grant under this chapter who
10 failed to return a signed agreement for the preceding year shall
11 not be permitted to apply for a grant in the current year unless
12 the applicant has provided the commissioner with a reasonable
13 written explanation as to why it did not claim its grant.

14 (b) Delinquency.--An applicant for a grant under this
15 chapter who is delinquent in loan payments to the Pennsylvania
16 Volunteer Loan Assistance Program established under the act of
17 July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, No.208), known as the Volunteer Fire
18 Company, Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad Assistance Act,
19 shall agree to use its grant funds to pay any arrears to the
20 Commonwealth or it will not be qualified to receive a grant. Any
21 organization agreeing to this arrangement who fails to make the
22 payment to the Commonwealth shall be disqualified from applying
23 to the grant program for a period of three years.

24 (c) Demonstration.--An applicant for a grant under this
25 chapter must demonstrate that it complied with all of the terms
26 of its grant agreement in the previous year regarding the use of
27 the grant money it received in previous years or it shall not be
28 eligible to receive a grant in the current year.

29 (d) Approval.--An applicant shall not be approved for a
30 grant to be used for purposes other than those stated in section

1 7813(a) (relating to award of grants) [or] 7823(a) (relating to
2 award of grants) or 7839.3(a) (relating to award of grants).

3 Section 7. This act shall take effect immediately.