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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 675 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY HANNA, BROWNLEE, FREEMAN, KINSEY, GODSHALL, ROZZI,  
HARHAI, READSHAW, BOBACK, CONKLIN, KAVULICH, D. COSTA AND  
MURT, MARCH 3, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 3, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for emergency services  
3 provider reimbursement.

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

6 Section 1. Chapter 73 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

8 SUBCHAPTER G

9 EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT

10 Sec.

11 7390. Definitions.

12 7391. Reimbursement for emergency services responses.

13 7392. Certain municipalities exempt.

14 7393. Approval of response.

15 § 7390. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall

17 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Department." The Department of Conservation and Natural  
3 Resources of the Commonwealth.

4 "Emergency communication center." An officially recognized  
5 and approved Federal, State, county or municipal operation whose  
6 purpose is to do all of the following:

7 (1) Receive emergency calls.

8 (2) Determine the appropriate agency, equipment and  
9 vehicles required to respond to emergency calls.

10 (3) Dispatch the appropriate agency, equipment and  
11 emergency vehicle or vehicles to the location of the  
12 emergency situation, incident or event.

13 "Emergency services provider." A municipal, public, private  
14 or nonprofit service whose purpose is to respond to emergency  
15 situations, incidents and events and provide emergency or  
16 nonemergency assistance and service to the public. The term  
17 includes all of the following:

18 (1) A hazardous materials response unit, fire service,  
19 ambulance, heavy and light rescue squad unit, quick response  
20 unit and other related emergency units used in the normal  
21 operation of an emergency service.

22 (2) A volunteer emergency service.

23 "Emergency situation, incident or event." Any of the  
24 following:

25 (1) A disaster.

26 (2) Nonemergency calls for medical assistance.

27 (3) Any other situation, incident or event that does or  
28 may present a potential danger and threat to the health and  
29 safety of members of the public.

30 "Municipal emergency services department." A fire

1 department, ambulance service or rescue squad established,  
2 operated and funded by a municipality.

3 "Officially recognized dispatch." Any of the following:

4 (1) The dispatch of a volunteer emergency services  
5 organization by an officially recognized and approved  
6 emergency communication center.

7 (2) A response to a special call or request from the  
8 Pennsylvania State Police or local police whether the call or  
9 request comes through an emergency communication center or  
10 not.

11 "State-owned land." Land that is owned or leased by or under  
12 the control of the Department of Conservation and Natural  
13 Resources.

14 "Volunteer ambulance service." The term shall have the same  
15 meaning given to it in section 7363 (relating to definitions).

16 "Volunteer fire company." The term shall have the same  
17 meaning given to it in section 7363 (relating to definitions).

18 "Volunteer hazardous material response team." A nonprofit  
19 chartered corporation, association or organization located in  
20 this Commonwealth whose members are specially trained to respond  
21 to accidents or situations where hazardous or toxic materials  
22 are released into the environment.

23 "Volunteer rescue service organization." The term shall have  
24 the same meaning given to it in section 7363 (relating to  
25 definitions).

26 "Volunteer rescue squad." A nonprofit chartered corporation,  
27 association or organization located in this Commonwealth which  
28 provides rescue service in this Commonwealth.

29 § 7391. Reimbursement for emergency services responses.

30 (a) General rule.--The department shall pay to an emergency

1 services provider \$225 each time that the department requests  
2 emergency services on State-owned land from the emergency  
3 services provider and the emergency services provider responds  
4 to the request.

5 (b) Procedures.--The department shall develop the following:

6 (1) procedures regarding requests to emergency services  
7 providers for emergency services on State-owned land; and

8 (2) notwithstanding subsection (c), procedures regarding  
9 payment under subsection (a).

10 (c) Payment.--The department shall reimburse an emergency  
11 services provider under subsection (a) by making payment as  
12 follows:

13 (1) To the volunteer emergency service organization that  
14 responded.

15 (2) To the municipality, if a municipal emergency  
16 services department that serves one municipality responded.

17 (3) To the municipal emergency services department, if a  
18 municipal emergency services department that serves more than  
19 one municipality responded.

20 § 7392. Certain municipalities exempt.

21 This chapter shall not apply to an agreement for the  
22 provision of emergency services entered into between the  
23 department and an emergency services provider on or before the  
24 effective date of this section.

25 § 7393. Approval of response.

26 (a) Prerequisite.--A volunteer emergency services  
27 organization that responds to a request to provide emergency  
28 services on State-owned land from the Pennsylvania State Police  
29 or local police that has not come through an officially  
30 recognized and approved emergency communication center must be

1 approved by an officially recognized emergency communication  
2 center prior to responding to the special call or request.

3 (b) Duties of emergency communication center.--Upon  
4 notification by a volunteer rescue services organization of a  
5 request for dispatch on State-owned land, the emergency  
6 communication center shall:

7 (1) Approve the response.

8 (2) Assign a dispatch number to the volunteer emergency  
9 services organization.

10 (3) Contact the municipal emergency services department,  
11 organization or person making the request to confirm the  
12 request.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.