

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 2550 Session of  
2018

---

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, DeLUCA, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, MURT,  
QUIGLEY, RADER, SACCONI, WALSH AND WATSON, JULY 6, 2018

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, JULY 6, 2018

---

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 35 (Health and Safety) and 74 (Transportation)  
2 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in grants to fire  
3 companies and emergency medical services companies,  
4 establishing the Voluntary Fire Company Physical Improvement  
5 Program and Volunteer Fire Company Physical Improvement Fund;  
6 and, in sustainable mobility options, further providing for  
7 Public Transportation Trust Fund.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Chapter 78 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania  
11 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

12 SUBCHAPTER B.1

13 VOLUNTARY FIRE COMPANY

14 PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

15 Sec.

16 7815. Definitions.

17 7816. Establishment.

18 7817. Award of grants.

19 7818. Volunteer Fire Company Physical Improvement Fund.

20 § 7815. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
2 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
3 context clearly indicates otherwise:

4 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic  
5 Development.

6 "Fund." The Volunteer Fire Company Physical Improvement  
7 Fund.

8 "Program." The Voluntary Fire Company Physical Improvement  
9 Program.

10 § 7816. Establishment.

11 The Volunteer Fire Company Physical Improvement Program is  
12 established and shall be administered by the department. Grants  
13 provided under this program shall be used to provide funding for  
14 physical structure and items needed to create living quarters.

15 § 7817. Award of grants.

16 (a) Authorization.--The department may award a grant to an  
17 eligible volunteer fire company for the construction or  
18 renovation of the volunteer fire company's facility or the  
19 purchase or repair of fixtures and furnishings necessary to  
20 create living quarters for firefighters to live on the premises  
21 of the volunteer fire company.

22 (b) Application process.--The following apply:

23 (1) A volunteer fire company seeking a grant under the  
24 program shall submit a completed application during the  
25 application period to the department on a form specified by  
26 the department.

27 (2) The application period shall remain open for 45 days  
28 each year.

29 (3) The department shall approve or disapprove an  
30 application within 60 days after the close of the application

1 period.

2 (4) An application which has not been approved or  
3 disapproved by the department within 60 days after the close  
4 of the application period shall be deemed approved.

5 (c) Eligibility.--A volunteer fire company shall be  
6 ineligible to receive a grant under the program if the volunteer  
7 fire company provided living quarters for volunteer firefighters  
8 in the two years prior to the date when the department received  
9 the volunteer fire company's application under subsection (b).

10 (d) Company duties.--No later than one year from the date a  
11 grant under the program is awarded to a volunteer fire company,  
12 the volunteer fire company shall recruit individuals to be  
13 volunteer firefighters by providing the individuals with living  
14 quarters on the volunteer fire company's premises in exchange  
15 for fire coverage service.

16 § 7818. Volunteer Fire Company Physical Improvement Fund.

17 (a) Establishment.--There is established within the State  
18 Treasury a special fund to be known as the Volunteer Fire  
19 Company Physical Improvement Fund.

20 (b) Deposits.--The following shall be deposited into the  
21 fund:

22 (1) 0.1% of the amount collected under Article II of the  
23 act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform  
24 Code of 1971. Revenues under this paragraph shall be  
25 deposited into the fund by the 20th day of each month for the  
26 preceding month.

27 (2) Transfers or appropriations into the fund.

28 (c) Appropriation.--Amounts in the fund are appropriated on  
29 a continuing basis to the department for the purpose of  
30 administering this subchapter.

1 Section 2. Section 1506(c)(1) of Title 74 is amended to  
2 read:

3 § 1506. Fund.

4 \* \* \*

5 (c) Other deposits.--The following shall be deposited into  
6 the fund annually:

7 (1) [4.4%] 4.3% of the amount collected under Article II  
8 of the Tax Reform Code. Revenues under this paragraph shall  
9 be deposited into the fund by the 20th day of each month for  
10 the preceding month. The amount deposited under this  
11 paragraph is estimated to be equivalent to the money  
12 available to the department from the following sources:

13 (i) The Supplemental Public Transportation Account  
14 established under former section 1310.1 (relating to  
15 supplemental public transportation assistance funding).

16 (ii) The amount appropriated annually by the  
17 Commonwealth from the General Fund for mass transit  
18 programs pursuant to a General Appropriations Act.

19 \* \* \*

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.