

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1673

Sponsor: SENATOR REGAN

Printer's No. 2762

1 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 1 through 4, by striking out all of
2 said lines and inserting
3 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
4 Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, further
5 providing for scope of subchapter, for legislative findings
6 and declaration of purpose, for definitions, for assistance
7 to volunteer fire companies, ambulance service and rescue
8 squads, for Volunteer Companies Loan Fund, for powers and
9 duties of office, for disposition and use of proceeds, for
10 Volunteer Company Loan Sinking Fund and investments, for
11 repayment obligations for principal and interest, for
12 temporary financing authorization, for authorization of
13 contracts, reimbursement procedure and amount and for
14 reimbursement procedure and amount, providing for referendum
15 to expand loan assistance and for annual report and
16 distribution of information, further providing for
17 definitions and for State Fire Commissioner, providing for
18 curriculum and training and further providing for
19 Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, for Pennsylvania Volunteer
20 Loan Assistance Program and for Fire Safety Advisory
21 Committee; in volunteer firefighters, further providing for
22 definitions, for statement of purpose, for funds and for
23 audits and providing for fire relief formula study; in grants
24 to fire companies and emergency medical services companies,
25 further providing for definitions, for establishment, for
26 publication and notice, for award of grants, for
27 consolidation incentive, for establishment, for publication
28 and notice and for award of grants, providing for
29 consolidation incentive, further providing for Fire Company
30 Grant Program, for Emergency Medical Services Company Grant
31 Program, for additional funding, for allocation of
32 appropriated funds, for expiration of authority and for
33 special provisions and providing for annual reports; in
34 incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and
35 nonprofit emergency medical services agencies, further
36 providing for definitions, for program authorization, for
37 real property tax credit and for rejection and appeal; and
38 making editorial changes.

1 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 7 through 16; pages 2 through 4,
2 lines 1 through 30; page 5, lines 1 through 4; by striking out
3 all of said lines on said pages and inserting

4 Section 1. The heading of Subchapter E of Chapter 73 of
5 Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, is amended
6 to read:

7 SUBCHAPTER E
8 [VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE SERVICE
9 AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE]
10 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
11 LOAN PROGRAM

12 Section 2. Sections 7361 and 7362(b) of Title 35 are amended
13 to read:

14 § 7361. Scope of subchapter.

15 This subchapter relates to [volunteer fire company, ambulance
16 service and rescue squad assistance] fire companies and
17 emergency medical services companies.

18 § 7362. Legislative findings and declaration of purpose.

19 * * *

20 (b) Purpose.--[It is the purpose of this subchapter to
21 implement section 5 of the act of September 25, 1975 (P.L.296,
22 No.95), entitled "An act authorizing the indebtedness, with the
23 approval of the electors, of ten million dollars for loans to
24 volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance services and
25 volunteer rescue squads for the purpose of establishing or
26 modernizing facilities to house fire fighting apparatus
27 equipment, ambulances, and rescue vehicles, and for purchasing
28 new fire fighting apparatus equipment, ambulances, and rescue
29 vehicles, protective and communications equipment, and any other
30 accessory equipment necessary for the proper performance of such
31 organizations' duties," section 5 of the act of June 30, 1981
32 (P.L.138, No.44), entitled "An act authorizing the indebtedness,
33 with the approval of the electors, of \$15,000,000 for loans to
34 volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance services and
35 volunteer rescue squads for the purpose of establishing or
36 modernizing facilities to house firefighting apparatus
37 equipment, ambulances, and rescue vehicles, and for purchasing
38 firefighting apparatus equipment, ambulances, and rescue
39 vehicles, protective and communications equipment, and any other
40 accessory equipment necessary for the proper performance of such
41 organizations' duties," and section 7378.1(5) (relating to
42 referendum for additional indebtedness), as well as to implement
43 in part section 31.3 of the act of June 29, 2002 (P.L.559,
44 No.89), entitled "An act amending the act of March 4, 1971
45 (P.L.6, No.2), entitled 'An act relating to tax reform and State
46 taxation by codifying and enumerating certain subjects of
47 taxation and imposing taxes thereon; providing procedures for
48 the payment, collection, administration and enforcement thereof;

1 providing for tax credits in certain cases; conferring powers
2 and imposing duties upon the Department of Revenue, certain
3 employers, fiduciaries, individuals, persons, corporations and
4 other entities; prescribing crimes, offenses and penalties,
5 further providing, in sales and use tax, for definitions, for
6 imposition, for exclusions, for licenses, for collection, for
7 bulk and auction sales and for crimes; providing, in local tax
8 situs, for situs of mobile telecommunications services; further
9 providing, in personal income tax, for definitions, for classes
10 of income, for special tax provisions for poverty, for
11 contributions, for bulk and auction sales and transfers; in
12 corporate net income tax, for definitions, for imposition and
13 for interest in unincorporated entities; and in capital stock
14 and franchise tax, for definitions, for imposition, for deposit
15 of proceeds, for interest in unincorporated entities and for
16 applicability and expiration; establishing revenue-neutral
17 reconciliation in utilities gross receipts tax; providing, in
18 public utility realty tax and for surcharge; further providing,
19 in realty transfer tax, for furnishing stamps; in cigarette tax,
20 for incidence and rate, for floor tax, for commissions on sales
21 and for disposition of certain funds; in research and
22 development tax credit, for time limitations and for
23 termination; in inheritance tax, for definitions, for transfers
24 not subject to tax and for estate tax and for estate tax
25 returns; providing for immediate assessment, settlement or
26 collection and for depreciation of certain property in cities of
27 the first class; and making repeals," by providing for loans to
28 volunteer fire, ambulance and rescue companies to protect the
29 lives and property of the citizens of this Commonwealth pursuant
30 to and to execute the above favorable referenda in subsection
31 (a).] The General Assembly has determined that [volunteer] fire
32 companies and emergency medical services companies are most in
33 need of loans [and therefore intends that, to the extent
34 possible, a significant portion of the Volunteer Companies Loan
35 Fund be used to provide loans to volunteer fire companies and
36 that the balance be allocated to provide loans to volunteer
37 ambulance and volunteer rescue companies]. The General Assembly
38 intends that the loans provided under this subchapter be used to
39 replace outmoded or unsafe equipment and buildings of
40 [volunteer] fire companies and [that the loans be provided to
41 volunteer companies which are experiencing a need for equipment
42 or facilities] emergency medical services companies to meet an
43 increasing demand for a higher level of service in the
44 communities which they serve.

45 Section 3. The definition of "Volunteer Companies Loan Fund"
46 in section 7363 of Title 35 is amended and the section is
47 amended by adding definitions to read:
48 § 7363. Definitions.

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

1 * * *

2 "Emergency medical services company" or "EMS company." A
3 career, nonprofit or volunteer emergency medical services
4 company.

5 * * *

6 "Fire company." A volunteer fire company.
7 "Fund." The Emergency Services Loan Assistance Fund
8 established under section 7365 (relating to Emergency Services
9 Loan Assistance Fund).

10 "Municipality." A county, city, borough, incorporated town
11 or township.

12 * * *

13 ["Volunteer Companies Loan Fund." The fund established under
14 section 7365 (relating to Volunteer Companies Loan Fund).]

15 Section 4. Sections 7364, 7365, 7366(a)(2) and (3.1) and (b)
16 (2), 7371, 7374, 7376, 7378(d), 7378.2 and 7378.3 of Title 35
17 are amended to read:

18 § 7364. Assistance to [volunteer] fire companies[, ambulance
19 service and rescue squads] and EMS companies.

20 (a) General rule.--The office is authorized, upon
21 application of any [volunteer] fire company[, volunteer
22 ambulance service or volunteer rescue squad] or EMS company, to
23 make loans for the following purposes:

24 (1) Establishing or modernizing facilities that house
25 firefighting equipment, ambulance or rescue vehicles. The
26 amount of a loan for establishing or modernizing facilities
27 made to any one [volunteer] fire company[, ambulance service
28 or rescue squad] or EMS company shall not exceed 50% of the
29 total cost of the facilities or modernization or [\$400,000]
30 \$450,000, whichever is less, and a notarized financial
31 statement filed under subsection (c) shall show that the
32 applicant has available 20% of the total cost of the
33 facilities in unobligated funds. Proceeds of the loan shall
34 be used only for purposes of structure or land acquisition or
35 renovation or construction and shall not be used for payment
36 of fees for design, planning, preparation of applications or
37 any other cost not directly attributable to structure or land
38 acquisition or renovation or construction.

39 (2) Purchasing firefighting apparatus, ambulances or
40 rescue vehicles. The amount of a loan made for purchasing
41 firefighting apparatus to any one [volunteer] fire company
42 shall not exceed [\$200,000] \$250,000 for any single
43 firefighting apparatus equipment or utility or special
44 service vehicle or heavy duty rescue vehicle as defined by
45 regulation or guideline, or 50% of the total cost of the
46 equipment or vehicle, whichever is less, except for loans for
47 aerial apparatus as defined by regulation or guideline, which
48 shall not exceed [\$300,000] \$350,000. The amount of a loan
49 made to any one [volunteer] fire company[, ambulance service
50 or rescue squad] or EMS company for any ambulance or light
51 duty rescue vehicle as defined by regulation or guideline

1 shall not exceed [\$100,000] \$125,000 and for a watercraft
2 rescue vehicle shall not exceed [\$30,000] \$35,000 or 50% of
3 the cost of the ambulance or rescue vehicle, whichever is
4 less, and a notarized financial statement filed under
5 subsection (c) shall show that the applicant has available
6 20% of the total cost of the vehicle in unobligated funds.

7 (3) Purchasing protective, accessory or communication
8 equipment. No [volunteer] fire company[, ambulance service or
9 rescue squad] or EMS company shall receive a loan for
10 protective, accessory or communicative equipment more than
11 once in any five-year period. Each [volunteer] fire company[,
12 ambulance service or rescue squad] or EMS company may apply
13 for a loan for a mobile and portable radio unit for each
14 existing serviceable apparatus equipment, ambulance or rescue
15 vehicle. Radio equipment obtained through loans under this
16 subchapter shall be equipped with a frequency or frequencies
17 licensed by the Federal Communications Commission for
18 firefighting or emergency response purposes. A notarized
19 financial statement shall be filed and loans under this
20 subchapter for the purchase of protective, accessory or
21 communicative equipment shall not exceed [\$20,000] \$25,000.

22 (4) Refinancing debt incurred or contracts entered into
23 after November 4, 1975, and used for the purchase of
24 apparatus equipment or for the construction or modernization
25 of facilities or for modification of apparatus equipment in
26 order to comply with National Fire Protection Association
27 standards.

28 (5) Repair or rehabilitation of apparatus equipment.
29 Where it has been determined that existing apparatus
30 equipment no longer meets the standards of the National Fire
31 Protection Association and the repair or rehabilitation of
32 such equipment will bring it in compliance with National Fire
33 Protection Association standards, loans for the repair or
34 rehabilitation for a single apparatus equipment shall be for
35 at least [\$2,000] \$3,000 but shall not exceed the lesser of
36 [\$70,000] \$80,000 or 80% of the total cost of repair or
37 rehabilitation.

38 (6) Purchasing of used firefighting apparatus,
39 equipment, used ambulances, used rescue vehicles, used
40 communications equipment, used accessory equipment or used
41 protective equipment, except that the used vehicles and
42 equipment shall meet the National Fire Protection Association
43 (NFPA) standards and loans for the purchase of a used single
44 apparatus equipment shall not exceed [\$120,000] \$200,000 or
45 80% of the total cost of the equipment, whichever is less.

46 [(7) Purchasing Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting
47 System (PennFIRS) hardware and software. A volunteer fire
48 company shall be eligible to apply one time only for a loan
49 of not more than \$4,000 or 75% of the cost of such
50 acquisition, whichever is less, and with a term not exceeding
51 five years for the purpose of acquiring the hardware and

1 software necessary to participate in the Pennsylvania Fire
2 Information Reporting System. The office shall develop, at
3 its discretion, such procedures and forms as it may deem
4 necessary to facilitate loans for PennFIRS hardware and
5 software. The loans shall be secured as required by law.]

6 (a.1) Limitation.--Loans under this subchapter may be made
7 for any of the purposes of subsection (a) undertaken by a
8 [volunteer] fire company[, volunteer ambulance service and
9 volunteer rescue squad] or EMS company on or after November 4,
10 1975.

11 (b) Loans.--Loans made by the office in the amount of
12 [\$30,000] \$50,000 or less shall be for a period of not more than
13 ten years. Loans in excess of [\$30,000] \$50,000 but not in
14 excess of [\$100,000] \$300,000 shall be for a period of not more
15 than 15 years. The payback period of any loan in excess of
16 [\$100,000, except a loan for establishing or modernizing
17 facilities,] \$300,000 shall not exceed 20 years. [The payback
18 period for any loan in excess of \$200,000 for establishing or
19 modernizing facilities shall not exceed 20 years.] Loans shall
20 be subject to the payment of interest at 2% per year and shall
21 be subject to such security as shall be determined by the
22 commissioner. The total amount of interest earned by the
23 investment or reinvestment of all or any part of the principal
24 of any loan shall be returned to the office and transferred to
25 the [Volunteer Companies Loan Fund] Emergency Services Loan
26 Assistance Fund and shall not be credited as payment of
27 principal or interest on the loan. Except as provided in
28 subsection (a) (5) and (7), the minimum amount of any loan shall
29 be [\$10,000] \$25,000.

30 (b.1) Inflation adjustment.--Beginning one year after the
31 effective date of this subsection and biannually thereafter, all
32 loan limits under this section shall increase at the rate of
33 inflation as outlined in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
34 Consumers for the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD
35 area for the most recent 12-month period for which the figures
36 have been reported by the United States Department of Labor,
37 Bureau of Labor Statistics. If the rate of inflation does not
38 increase, all loan limits shall remain the same as they were for
39 the previous year. The office shall transmit notice of loan
40 limit increases to the Legislative Reference Bureau for
41 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

42 (c) Applications.--Every application for a loan shall be
43 accompanied by a notarized financial statement of the
44 [volunteer] fire company[, ambulance service or rescue squad] or
45 EMS company and a financial plan to show the amount of assets
46 and projected revenues for the repayment of the loan, any other
47 obligations of the [volunteer] fire company or EMS company and
48 operating expenses over the period of the loan. Every
49 application shall be accompanied by evidence sufficient to show
50 that all costs except the amount of the loan have been obtained
51 by assets of the [volunteer] fire company or EMS company and

1 other loans or sources of revenue. If a [volunteer] fire
2 company[, ambulance service or rescue squad] or EMS company is
3 unable to meet the 20% requirement of subsection (a), then a
4 political subdivision which is served by the [volunteer] fire
5 company or EMS company may pledge its credit in the amount of
6 funds necessary to satisfy the 20% requirement and, if it does
7 so, shall cosign the application submitted by the [volunteer]
8 fire company or EMS company.

9 (c.1) Application review committee.--The office shall
10 establish an application review committee to review loan
11 applications and recommendations on loan applications under this
12 section. The application review committee shall regularly meet
13 at least quarterly to review loan applications and make
14 recommendations on loan applications to the office. The
15 application review committee shall be chaired by the
16 commissioner or the commissioner's designee and include the
17 following members:

18 (1) The chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency
19 Preparedness Committee of the Senate or the chair's designee.

20 (2) The minority chair of the Veterans Affairs and
21 Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate or the
22 minority chair's designee.

23 (3) The chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency
24 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives or
25 the chair's designee.

26 (4) The minority chair of the Veterans Affairs and
27 Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of
28 Representatives or the minority chair's designee.

29 (5) The director of the Bureau of Emergency Services in
30 the Department of Health or the director's designee.

31 (6) A representative of the Pennsylvania Fire and
32 Emergency Services Institute.

33 (7) A representative of the Firemen's Association of the
34 State of Pennsylvania.

35 (8) A representative of the Ambulance Association of
36 Pennsylvania.

37 (9) A representative of the Pennsylvania Emergency
38 Health Services Council.

39 (d) Use.--Loans shall be used for the acquisition by
40 [volunteer] fire companies or EMS companies of new or used
41 apparatus equipment, new or used ambulances, new or used rescue
42 vehicles, new or used communications equipment, new or used
43 accessory equipment or new or used protective equipment or for
44 the acquisition and renovation of existing structures to house
45 firefighting equipment, ambulance or rescue vehicles or for the
46 construction or modernization of facilities and, except as
47 provided in subsection (a)(4), shall not be used for operating
48 expenses or for the refinancing of renovated structures,
49 refinancing of construction or modernization of facilities,
50 apparatus equipment, communication equipment, accessory
51 equipment, nor, except as provided in subsection (a)(4), shall

1 be made or used to reduce any debt or other obligations issued
2 prior to the effective date of this subchapter.

3 (e) Payment.--Loans made by the office shall be paid from
4 the [Volunteer Companies Loan Fund] fund to the [volunteer] fire
5 companies[, ambulance services and rescue squads] and EMS
6 companies in accordance with guidelines and procedures developed
7 by the office.

8 (f) Deposit.--All payments of interest on the loans and the
9 principal thereof shall be deposited by the office in the
10 [Volunteer Companies Loan Fund] fund.

11 (g) Eligibility.--A [volunteer] fire company[, ambulance
12 service and rescue squad] or EMS company shall be eligible for a
13 loan regardless of legal ownership in whole or in part by any
14 political subdivision of any facilities or apparatus equipment
15 used by the [volunteer] fire company[, volunteer ambulance and
16 volunteer rescue squad] or EMS company. Any equipment or
17 facilities financed may be transferred to a political
18 subdivision served by the [volunteer] fire company[, volunteer
19 ambulance service or volunteer rescue squad] or EMS company
20 subject to such security as shall be determined by the
21 commissioner.

22 (h) Maximum amount.--Notwithstanding any other provision of
23 this section to the contrary, the maximum amount of any loan to
24 a [volunteer] fire company[, volunteer ambulance service and
25 volunteer rescue squad] or EMS company for the purchase of
26 firefighting apparatus, ambulances or rescue vehicles
27 manufactured or assembled in this Commonwealth, may exceed the
28 loan limits set forth in this section by \$20,000.

29 (i) Aggregation of loans.--

30 (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a fire company[, volunteer
31 rescue service or volunteer ambulance service] or EMS company
32 shall not be eligible for more than three loans at one time.

33 (2) If more than one fire company[, volunteer rescue
34 service or volunteer ambulance service] or EMS company merge
35 or consolidate into a single entity, as determined by the
36 commissioner, the entity shall be eligible for not more than
37 ten loans at one time for a period of ten years from the date
38 of the merger or consolidation.

39 § 7365. [Volunteer Companies Loan Fund] Emergency Services Loan
40 Assistance Fund.

41 (a) General rule.--There is created a special fund in the
42 Treasury Department to be known as the [Volunteer Companies Loan
43 Fund] Emergency Services Loan Assistance Fund to which shall be
44 credited all appropriations made by the General Assembly other
45 than appropriations for expenses of administering this
46 subchapter or grants from other sources to the office as well as
47 repayment of principal and interest on loans made under this
48 subchapter.

49 (b) Requisition.--Upon approval of the loan, the
50 commissioner shall routinely requisition from the [Volunteer
51 Companies Loan Fund] fund such amounts as shall be allocated by

1 the office for loans to [volunteer] fire companies or EMS
2 companies. When and as the amounts so allocated as loans to
3 [volunteer] fire companies or EMS companies are repaid pursuant
4 to the terms of the agreements made and entered into with the
5 office, the office shall pay such amounts into the [Volunteer
6 Companies Loan Fund] fund, it being the intent of this
7 subchapter that the [Volunteer Companies Loan Fund] fund shall
8 operate as a revolving fund whereby all appropriations and
9 payments made thereto may be applied and reapplied to the
10 purposes of this subchapter.

11 (c) Administration.--[Each fiscal year, the State Fire
12 Commissioner may use an amount up to \$250,000 from the Volunteer
13 Companies Loan Fund for the administrative cost of implementing
14 the loan program under this subchapter.] The commissioner may
15 use up to the 2% in interest payments for administrative costs
16 on an annual basis.

17 § 7366. Powers and duties of office.

18 (a) Mandatory.--The office has the following duties:

19 * * *

20 (2) To accept grants from the Federal Government and any
21 other individual, agency or government for use in the
22 [Volunteer Companies Loan Fund] fund.

23 * * *

24 (3.1) To establish criteria to determine need for
25 firefighting apparatus, ambulances and rescue vehicles and to
26 establish guidelines and procedures for [volunteer] fire
27 companies or EMS companies to show just cause to determine
28 that need.

29 * * *

30 (b) Discretionary.--The office has the following powers:

31 * * *

32 (2) To specify priority of liens against any facilities,
33 apparatus equipment, ambulances, rescue vehicles or any
34 equipment purchased by [volunteer] fire companies using funds
35 loaned under this subchapter to pay all or any part of the
36 purchase price, as the office may require by established
37 guidelines and procedures. The commissioner may specify the
38 type of liens or collateral authorized as security under this
39 paragraph.

40 * * *

41 § 7371. Disposition and use of proceeds.

42 (a) General rule.--The proceeds realized from the sale of
43 bonds under this subchapter shall be paid into the [Volunteer
44 Companies Loan Fund] fund and are specifically dedicated to the
45 purposes of the referenda of November 4, 1975, November 3, 1981,
46 November 6, 1990, and November 5, 2002, and the referendum
47 specified under section 7378.4 (relating to referendum to expand
48 loan assistance), as implemented by this subchapter. The moneys
49 shall be paid by the State Treasurer periodically to those
50 agencies or authorities authorized to expend the moneys at such
51 times and in such amounts as may be necessary to satisfy the

1 funding needs of the agency or authority.

2 (b) Investing.--Pending their application to the purposes
3 authorized, moneys held or deposited by the State Treasurer may
4 be invested or reinvested as are other funds in the custody of
5 the State Treasurer in the manner provided by law. All earnings
6 received from the investment or deposit of such funds shall be
7 paid into the State treasury to the credit of the [Volunteer
8 Companies Loan Fund] fund.

9 § 7374. [Volunteer Company Loan Sinking Fund] Emergency
10 Services Loan Assistance Sinking Fund and
11 investments.

12 All bonds issued under this subchapter shall be redeemed at
13 maturity and all interest due from time to time on such bonds
14 shall be paid from the [Volunteer Company Loan Sinking Fund]
15 Emergency Services Loan Assistance Sinking Fund, which is hereby
16 created. For the specific purpose of redeeming bonds issued
17 under this subchapter at maturity and paying all interest
18 thereon in accordance with the information received from the
19 Governor, the General Assembly shall appropriate moneys to the
20 [Volunteer Company Loan Sinking Fund] Emergency Services Loan
21 Assistance Sinking Fund for the payment of interest on such
22 bonds and the principal thereof at maturity. All moneys paid
23 into the [Volunteer Company Loan Sinking Fund] Emergency
24 Services Loan Assistance Sinking Fund and all of such moneys not
25 necessary to pay accruing interest shall be invested by the
26 Board of Finance and Revenue in such securities as are provided
27 by law for the investment of the sinking funds of the
28 Commonwealth.

29 § 7376. Repayment obligations for principal and interest.

30 The General Assembly shall appropriate an amount equal to
31 moneys received from the office under section 7365 (relating to
32 [Volunteer Companies Loan Fund] Emergency Services Loan
33 Assistance Fund) and such other moneys as may be necessary to
34 meet repayment obligations for principal and interest into the
35 [Volunteer Company Loan Sinking Fund] Emergency Services Loan
36 Assistance Sinking Fund.

37 § 7378. Temporary financing authorization.

38 * * *

39 (d) Proceeds.--The proceeds of all such temporary borrowings
40 shall be paid into the [Volunteer Companies Loan Fund] fund.

41 § 7378.2. Authorization of contracts, reimbursement procedure
42 and amount.

43 The following shall apply:

44 (1) The Secretary of General Services is authorized to
45 enter into contracts with local [volunteer fire, ambulance
46 and rescue companies] fire companies or emergency medical
47 services companies to provide services necessary to
48 extinguish fires or perform any other allied services on
49 State-owned property.

50 (2) The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to
51 enter into contracts with local [volunteer] fire[, ambulance

1 and rescue] companies or emergency medical services companies
2 to provide services necessary to extinguish fires or perform
3 any other allied services on limited access highways, other
4 than the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

5 § 7378.3. Reimbursement procedure and amount.

6 The following shall apply:

7 (1) A contract between the Secretary of General Services
8 or the Secretary of Transportation and a local [volunteer]
9 fire[, ambulance and rescue] company or emergency medical
10 services company shall provide that the Department of General
11 Services or the Department of Transportation shall, monthly,
12 upon receipt of proper proof, reimburse each contracted
13 [volunteer] fire[, ambulance and rescue] company or emergency
14 medical services company attending and providing fire control
15 or other allied services on State-owned property or limited
16 access highways, as the case may be, a minimum amount of \$50
17 for each verified fire or emergency call and the cost of any
18 special extinguishing agents utilized, which the [volunteer]
19 fire[, ambulance and rescue] company or emergency medical
20 services company made in the preceding month as certified by
21 the person in charge at the particular State-owned property
22 or by an individual or individuals designated by the
23 Secretary of Transportation to verify services rendered on
24 limited access highways.

25 (2) A contract between the Department of General
26 Services or the Department of Transportation and [a local
27 volunteer ambulance or rescue] an emergency medical services
28 company shall also provide that the ambulance or rescue
29 company request reimbursement from collectible insurance
30 proceeds available as a result of the fire or emergency
31 situation for which the [ambulance or rescue] emergency
32 medical services company provided allied services. Proceeds
33 payable to the [ambulance or rescue] emergency medical
34 services company shall be deducted from the reimbursement for
35 services provided pursuant to a contract entered into under
36 this subchapter. Prior to payment for services rendered, the
37 [local volunteer ambulance or rescue] emergency medical
38 services company shall provide proof that they requested
39 reimbursement from collectible insurance proceeds.

40 (3) A false alarm on State-owned property to which a
41 [volunteer] fire[, ambulance or rescue] company or emergency
42 medical services company responds shall constitute a fire or
43 emergency call and shall be reimbursed at a rate set by the
44 contract with the Secretary of General Services, but shall
45 not be less than \$25 for each occurrence.

46 Section 5. Title 35 is amended by adding sections to read:

47 § 7378.4. Referendum to expand loan assistance.

48 (a) Referendum.--The question of expanding the use of the
49 indebtedness authorized under sections 7367 (relating to
50 authority to borrow) and 7378.1 (relating to referendum for
51 additional indebtedness) for volunteer loan assistance under

1 this subchapter to include municipal fire departments or fire
2 companies and emergency medical services companies for the
3 purpose of establishing and modernizing facilities to house
4 apparatus equipment, ambulances and rescue vehicles, protective
5 and communications equipment and any other accessory equipment
6 necessary for the proper performance of such organizations'
7 duties, shall be submitted to the electorate at the next
8 primary, municipal or general election held after November 3,
9 2020.

10 (b) Certification.--The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
11 certify the question to the county boards of election.

12 (c) Question to the electorate.--The question shall be in
13 substantially the following form:

14 Do you favor expanding the use of the indebtedness
15 authorized under the referendum for loans to volunteer
16 fire companies, volunteer ambulance services and
17 volunteer rescue squads under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7378.1
18 (relating to referendum for additional indebtedness) to
19 include loans to municipal fire departments or companies
20 that provide services through paid personnel and
21 emergency medical services companies for the purpose of
22 establishing and modernizing facilities to house
23 apparatus equipment, ambulances and rescue vehicles,
24 protective and communications equipment and any other
25 accessory equipment necessary for the proper performance
26 of the duties of the fire companies and emergency medical
27 services companies?

28 (d) Election procedure.--The referendum under this section
29 shall be conducted in accordance with the act of June 3, 1937
30 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code.

31 (e) Construction.--This section shall not be construed as
32 authorizing any additional borrowing for loan assistance to fire
33 companies or emergency medical services companies.
34 § 7378.5. Annual report and distribution of information.

35 (a) Annual report.--

36 (1) The office shall produce an annual report, which
37 shall include all of the following information:

38 (i) How much money is in the fund at the beginning
39 of each fiscal year and the balance in the fund at the
40 end of each fiscal year.

41 (ii) How many loan applications were received by the
42 office.

43 (iii) How many loans were issued under the
44 Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan
45 Assistance Program.

46 (iv) The fire companies and EMS companies to which
47 the loans were issued by the office.

48 (v) The total amount of loans issued by the office.

49 (vi) The number and amount of loans for facilities,
50 apparatus and equipment.

51 (2) The report shall be posted on the office's publicly

1 accessible Internet website and sent to all of the following:

2 (i) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans
3 Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the
4 Senate.

5 (ii) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans
6 Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House
7 of Representatives.

8 (b) Distribution.--The office shall annually distribute
9 information on the fund to all fire companies and emergency
10 medical services companies in this Commonwealth, including
11 notice of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Medical Services
12 Loan Assistance Program and the amounts that can be borrowed
13 under the program.

14 Section 6. Sections 7382 and 7383 of Title 35 are amended to
15 read:

16 § 7382. Definitions.

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

20 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

21 "Board." The State Fire Advisory Board.

22 "Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.

23 ["Committee." The Fire Safety Advisory Committee.]

24 § 7383. State Fire Commissioner.

25 (a) State Fire Commissioner.--There shall be a State Fire
26 Commissioner, who[, through the Lieutenant Governor,] shall
27 report to the Governor on all matters concerning fire [safety]
28 services in this Commonwealth. The Office of the State Fire
29 Commissioner shall be within the agency for administrative
30 purposes only, and the commissioner shall not report to the
31 director of the agency. The commissioner shall have the power
32 and duty to:

33 [(1) Coordinate the activities of State and local
34 community interests engaged in fire prevention and control
35 activities.

36 (2) Serve as a focal point for information relative to
37 fires, property damage, injuries and the loss of life.

38 (3) Disseminate, through periodic reports, information
39 about fire prevention efforts and fire control techniques.

40 (4) Develop and participate in a program of public
41 information and education designed to create a public
42 awareness of the incidence and the ravages of fire and
43 methods the individual can take to prevent fires and minimize
44 loss when they occur.

45 (5) Serve as a central point to support local efforts
46 and interests in all matters pertinent to fire prevention and
47 control.

48 (b) Transfer.--The commissioner shall use, employ and
49 expend, in connection with the functions, powers and duties
50 enumerated in subsection (a) for the position of the
51 commissioner, contract obligations, if any, records, files,

1 property, supplies and equipment now being used or held in
2 connection with such functions, powers and duties and the
3 unexpended balance of appropriations, allocations, Federal
4 grants and other funds available or to be made available for use
5 in connection with such functions, powers and duties as
6 previously were vested in the agency by Reorganization Plan No.5
7 of 1981 (P.L.612).]

8 (1) Serve as the primary representative for fire
9 services in this Commonwealth. The commissioner shall work
10 with Federal agencies to ensure coordination at the State and
11 local levels.

12 (2) Serve as chair of the board.

13 (3) Develop curriculum and provide and assist in the
14 coordination of fire, rescue and emergency services training,
15 including online training and issue certifications.

16 (4) Administer the State Fire Academy.

17 (5) Collect data, provide analysis and periodic reports
18 and serve as a focal point for information relative to fires,
19 property damage, injuries to the public and firefighters and
20 the loss of life.

21 (6) Conduct after-action reports on significant
22 incidents that involve firefighter deaths and significant
23 injuries.

24 (7) Administer grant and loan programs for fire,
25 ambulance and rescue organizations in accordance with this
26 title or as otherwise provided by law, including assistance
27 for firefighter relief associations, the Pennsylvania Fire
28 and Emergency Medical Services Loan Assistance Program, fire
29 and emergency medical services loan assistance, fire and
30 emergency medical services grants and money received by the
31 Office of State Fire Commissioner from the Unconventional Gas
32 Well Fund.

33 (8) Assist with Statewide recruitment and retention
34 efforts.

35 (9) Hire regional technical advisors to assist fire
36 companies with grant and loan assistance, mergers,
37 consolidation and regionalization and promote best practices
38 for systems improvements.

39 (10) Promote public education and community risk
40 reduction efforts.

41 (11) Administer a fire equipment distributor
42 certification program as provided by law.

43 (c) Qualifications and appointment.--The commissioner shall
44 be a person who, by reason of training, experience and
45 attainment, is qualified to coordinate [fire prevention and
46 control activities. The commissioner shall be appointed by the
47 Governor after consultation with the fire service community. The
48 commissioner shall act as the Commonwealth's primary
49 representative with the Statewide fire service community.]
50 services. The commissioner shall have served as a chief officer
51 or administrative officer in a career, combination or volunteer

1 fire company. The commissioner shall be appointed by the
2 Governor subject to the consent of a majority of the members
3 elected to the Senate.

4 Section 7. Title 35 is amended by adding a section to read:
5 § 7383.1. Curriculum and training.

6 (a) Duty to establish guidelines.--The commissioner shall
7 establish guidelines for the development, delivery and
8 maintenance of a system of fire and emergency services training.

9 (b) Training.--Training shall be lecture-based, hands on or
10 online. Training may be conducted at the Pennsylvania State Fire
11 Academy, a county training center, a community college, a local
12 fire station or other appropriate area. The training shall be
13 incorporated into the Train PA system or any other system
14 approved by the commissioner.

15 (c) Certificate of completion.--The commissioner shall
16 provide a certificate of completion to an individual who
17 successfully completes a fire or emergency services training
18 program.

19 (d) Publication.--The commissioner shall post a complete
20 listing of the available fire and emergency services training
21 courses on the office's publicly accessible Internet website.

22 Section 8. Sections 7384(a), (b) and (d), 7385 heading, (a)
23 and (c) and 7386 of Title 35 are amended to read:

24 § 7384. Pennsylvania State Fire Academy.

25 (a) Creation.--There is created the Pennsylvania State Fire
26 Academy, which shall be under the operational control of the
27 commissioner. The commissioner shall administratively provide
28 for the erection or construction, the furnishing, the staffing
29 and the equipping of buildings and structures through the
30 Department of General Services and for the leasing thereof by
31 the Commonwealth for the use and support of the Pennsylvania
32 State Fire Academy. [The Pennsylvania State Firemen's Training
33 School and the powers and duties of the Department of Education
34 and the Public Service Institute Board pertaining to the
35 Pennsylvania State Firemen's Training School, which were
36 transferred to the agency under Reorganization Plan No.6 of 1981
37 (P.L.613) and which are set forth in Subchapter D (relating to
38 State Firemen's Training School), are hereby transferred to and
39 vested in the commissioner.

40 (b) Transfer.--There are transferred to the commissioner, to
41 be used, employed and expended in connection with the functions,
42 powers and duties enumerated in subsection (a), personnel,
43 contract obligations, if any, records, files, property, supplies
44 and equipment now being used or held in connection with such
45 functions, powers and duties and the unexpended balance of
46 appropriations, allocations, Federal grants and other funds
47 available or to be made available for use in connection with
48 such functions, powers and duties as previously were vested in
49 the Department of Education and the Public Service Institute
50 Board under Subchapter D, and transferred to the agency by
51 Reorganization Plan No.6 of 1981 (P.L.613).]

1 * * *

2 (d) Firefighter training and certification.--A Statewide
3 firefighter training program shall be implemented by the
4 commissioner. [to educate the fire service community about the
5 importance of firefighter health and safety. This program shall
6 include measures designed to increase the mobility of training
7 courses throughout this Commonwealth, to enhance firefighter
8 accessibility to training course offerings and to improve and
9 expand training for and response capability to emergencies with
10 emphasis on hazardous materials incidents.] The program shall
11 also include [implementation of] a firefighter certification
12 program in accordance with [parameters developed by the
13 commissioner consistent with] established standards. The
14 acquisition of physical resources to enhance Statewide
15 capability shall be coordinated by the commissioner.

16 * * *

17 § 7385. Pennsylvania [Volunteer] Fire and Emergency Medical
18 Services Loan Assistance Program.

19 (a) Creation.--There shall be a loan assistance program,
20 which shall be implemented by the commissioner, for [volunteer
21 agencies, known as the Pennsylvania Volunteer Loan Assistance
22 Program,] fire companies and emergency medical services
23 companies, known as the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Medical
24 Services Loan Assistance Program, which shall make loans under
25 Subchapter E (relating to [volunteer fire company, ambulance
26 service and rescue squad assistance). The Pennsylvania Volunteer
27 Loan Assistance Program and the powers and duties previously
28 vested in the Department of Community Affairs, which were
29 transferred to the agency under Reorganization Plan No.7 of 1981
30 (P.L.615) and which are set forth under Subchapter E, are hereby
31 transferred to and vested in the commissioner.] Fire and
32 Emergency Medical Services Loan Assistance Program).

33 * * *

34 [(c) Regulations.--The Volunteer Loan Assistance Program
35 regulations found in 4 Pa. Code Ch. 113 (relating to volunteer
36 fire company, ambulance service and rescue squad assistance) are
37 hereby transferred to the commissioner from the agency. The
38 commissioner shall fully implement and administer those
39 regulations on or before January 12, 1996. The commissioner may
40 be substituted for the agency throughout the regulations and the
41 regulations may be renumbered and published in the Pennsylvania
42 Bulletin as final regulations without those regulatory changes
43 being subject to the provisions of the act of June 25, 1982
44 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act.]

45 § 7386. State Fire [Safety] Advisory [Committee] Board.

46 (a) Creation.--

47 (1) There is created the State Fire [Safety] Advisory
48 [Committee] Board to assist the commissioner. The [committee]
49 board shall consist of [nine] the following members[, as
50 follows:

51 (i) The director of the agency, ex officio.

1 (ii) The commissioner, who shall serve as chairman.
2 (iii) Two paid firefighters to be appointed by the
3 Governor from a list of at least six nominees submitted
4 by the Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters
5 Association.

6 (iv) One member of the public to be appointed by the
7 Governor.

8 (v) Four volunteer firefighters, one each to be
9 appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, the
10 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
11 of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House
12 of Representatives.];

13 (i) The commissioner, who shall serve as
14 chairperson.

15 (ii) The President of the Pennsylvania Professional
16 Firefighters Association or a designee.

17 (iii) The President of the Pennsylvania Career Fire
18 Chiefs Association or a designee.

19 (iv) The President of the Pennsylvania Fire and
20 Emergency Services Institute or a designee.

21 (v) Ten firefighters appointed by the Governor, to
22 whom the following shall apply:

23 (A) One member shall be the President, or
24 designee of the President, of the International
25 Association of Firefighters in a fire company in a
26 city of the first class, second class or third class
27 with a population of at least 115,000 based on the
28 most recent census, so long as the fire company is
29 not a member of the Pennsylvania Professional
30 Firefighters Association.

31 (B) Except for the member under clause (A), the
32 following apply:

33 (I) One member shall be a certified fire
34 service instructor.

35 (II) Members shall be:

36 (a) current members of a fire company or
37 currently serving or have served within the
38 past five years as a chief officer or
39 administrative officer of a fire company; and

40 (b) certified as Firefighter I or its
41 equivalent.

42 (III) One member shall be selected from each
43 of the following regions:

44 (a) Region 1 - Crawford, Erie, Forest,
45 Venango and Warren Counties.

46 (b) Region 2 - Allegheny, Armstrong,
47 Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene,
48 Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset,
49 Washington and Westmoreland Counties.

50 (c) Region 3 - Cameron, Clarion,
51 Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson and McKean

1 Counties.

2 (d) Region 4 - Bedford, Blair, Centre,
3 Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and
4 Snyder Counties.

5 (e) Region 5 - Bradford, Clinton,
6 Lycoming, Potter, Sullivan, Tioga and Union
7 Counties.

8 (f) Region 6 - Adams, Cumberland,
9 Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry
10 and York Counties.

11 (g) Region 7 - Berks, Columbia, Luzerne,
12 Montour, Northumberland, Schuylkill and
13 Wyoming Counties.

14 (h) Region 8 - Carbon, Lackawanna,
15 Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Pike,
16 Susquehanna and Wayne Counties.

17 (i) Region 9 - Bucks, Chester, Delaware,
18 Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties.

19 (2) Members of the [committee] board shall serve at the
20 pleasure of their appointing authority. [The committee shall
21 advise the commissioner on matters pertaining to the
22 operation of the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy and any
23 other matters as the commissioner may request.]

24 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
25 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the
26 Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
27 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the
28 House of Representatives, or their designees, shall serve as
29 nonvoting members of the board.

30 (4) The Governor may appoint the following as nonvoting
31 members of the board:

32 (i) The director of the agency.

33 (ii) The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical
34 Services of the Department of Health.

35 (iii) Representatives of the following:

36 (A) The Pennsylvania Association of Hazardous
37 Materials Technicians.

38 (B) The Pennsylvania Association of Fire
39 Equipment Distributors.

40 (C) The County Commissioners Association of
41 Pennsylvania.

42 (D) The Pennsylvania Municipal League.

43 (E) The Pennsylvania State Association of
44 Township Commissioners.

45 (F) The Pennsylvania State Association of
46 Township Supervisors.

47 (G) The Pennsylvania State Association of
48 Boroughs.

49 (H) The Pennsylvania Association of Councils of
50 Governments.

51 (I) Trade associations.

1 (J) Fire equipment and apparatus vendors.

2 (K) Members of the public.

3 (5) Members of the board initially appointed by the
4 Governor under paragraph (1)(v) shall serve an initial term
5 of two years as designated by the Governor at the time of
6 appointment. Upon the expiration of the initial term of
7 office of each member of the board as appointed under
8 paragraph (1)(v), the member shall hold office for a term of
9 four years and may continue to hold office for a period of
10 time not to exceed six months or until a successor is
11 appointed and qualified, whichever occurs first. Upon the
12 death, resignation or removal from office of any person so
13 appointed, the Governor shall appoint a competent person to
14 serve for the unexpired term.

15 (6) Upon the completion of a member's term who was
16 appointed under paragraph (1)(v)(A), the Governor shall not
17 appoint the succeeding member from the same class of city as
18 the previous two outgoing members.

19 (b) Expenses.--Members of the [committee] board shall
20 receive reimbursement for reasonable travel[, hotel] and other
21 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties
22 in accordance with Commonwealth regulations.

23 (c) Meetings.--The board shall meet at least quarterly or at
24 the times and places as called upon by the commissioner. All
25 meetings of the board shall comply with 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7
26 (relating to open meetings).

27 (d) Duties.--The board shall advise the commissioner on
28 matters pertaining to the following:

29 (1) Legislation.

30 (2) Innovative programming.

31 (3) Standards of cover for municipalities.

32 (4) Operation of the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy.

33 (5) Any other matters as the commissioner may request or
34 as directed by the General Assembly.

35 Section 9. The heading of Subchapter B of Chapter 74 of
36 Title 35 is amended to read:

37 SUBCHAPTER B

38 FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

39 Section 10. The definition of "volunteer firefighters"
40 relief association" in section 7412 of Title 35 is amended and
41 the section is amended by adding definitions to read:
42 § 7412. Definitions.

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

46 "Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.

47 "Fire company." A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire
48 company or a combined volunteer and municipal fire company
49 located in this Commonwealth.

50 * * *

51 "Length of service award program." A system established by a

1 volunteer fire company or volunteer firefighters' relief
2 association to provide tax-deferred income benefits to active
3 volunteer members of a fire service.

4 "Volunteer fire company." As defined in section 7802
5 (relating to definitions).

6 * * *

7 "Volunteer firefighters' relief association." An
8 organization formed primarily to afford financial protection to
9 volunteer firefighters against the consequences of misfortune
10 suffered as a result of their participation in the fire service.
11 The organization may contain within its membership the members
12 of one or more [fire companies] volunteer fire companies or fire
13 companies that are a combination of a volunteer fire company and
14 a municipal fire company, and may serve secondary purposes, as
15 set forth in this subchapter, but only if adequate provisions
16 have been first made to serve the primary purpose.

17 Section 11. Section 7413 introductory paragraph, (1) and (4)
18 of Title 35 are amended and the section is amended by adding a
19 paragraph to read:

20 § 7413. Statement of purpose.

21 The purpose of this subchapter is to encourage individuals to
22 take part in the fire service as volunteer firefighters by
23 establishing criteria and standards for orderly administration
24 and conduct of affairs of firefighters' relief associations to
25 ensure, as far as circumstances will reasonably permit, that
26 funds shall be available for the assistance to and protection of
27 volunteer firefighters and their heirs in order to provide:

28 (1) Financial assistance to volunteer firefighters who
29 may suffer physical or mental injury or misfortune by reason
30 of their participation in the fire service.

31 * * *

32 (4) Safeguards for preserving life, health and safety of
33 volunteer firefighters to ensure their availability to
34 participate in the fire service, including necessary
35 training.

36 * * *

37 (6.1) Financial assistance to recruit and retain
38 volunteer firefighters.

39 * * *

40 Section 12. Section 7416(a) and (f)(11), (13) and (14) of
41 Title 35 are amended and subsection (f) is amended by adding
42 paragraphs to read:

43 § 7416. Funds.

44 (a) General rule.--A volunteer firefighters' relief
45 association may solicit and receive gifts and contributions from
46 any source, including municipal corporations, but shall not have
47 the right to receive any portion of the money distributed to
48 political subdivisions of this Commonwealth under Chapter 7 of
49 the act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1005, No.205), known as the
50 Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, unless
51 and until the governing body of at least one political

1 subdivision shall have certified to the [Auditor General]
2 commissioner that the association is a bona fide volunteer
3 firefighters' relief association, affiliated with a fire company
4 which affords protection against fire to all or a portion of the
5 political subdivision. This section shall include any non-fire-
6 company-affiliated relief association in existence and receiving
7 funds as provided for under this subchapter prior to November
8 23, 2010.

9 * * *

10 (f) Use.--Funds of any volunteer firefighters' relief
11 association may be spent:

12 * * *

13 (11) To purchase safeguards for preserving life, health
14 and safety of volunteer firefighters to ensure their
15 availability to participate in the volunteer fire service,
16 including necessary training.

17 * * *

18 (13) To maintain comprehensive health, physical fitness
19 and physical monitoring programs that provide for physical
20 fitness activities, nutrition education and supplies and
21 instruction and health and fitness evaluation and monitoring,
22 provided that the programs have been approved by the nearest
23 State-licensed health care facility which is authorized to
24 provide that service.

25 (14) To purchase exercise and fitness equipment for use
26 by volunteer firefighters[, except that expenditures for
27 exercise and fitness equipment shall not exceed \$2,000 in any
28 two-year period].

29 * * *

30 (19) To provide financial assistance for activities and
31 materials needed to aid in the recruitment and retention of
32 volunteer firefighters.

33 (20) To establish and pay for length of service award
34 programs.

35 (21) To pay for facilities for storage of emergency
36 vehicles and equipment, training and meetings.

37 (22) To pay for vehicles used for emergency response.

38 (23) To purchase equipment used for emergency response.

39 (24) To defray the cost of obtaining or renewing a
40 commercial driver's licenses under 75 Pa.C.S. Ch. 16
41 (relating to commercial drivers) for volunteer firefighters
42 who are residents of this Commonwealth to operate fire or
43 emergency vehicles registered to fire companies or
44 municipalities.

45 (25) To pay for stipends to volunteer firefighters, not
46 to exceed \$1,500 per year.

47 Section 13. Section 7418 of Title 35 is amended to read:
48 § 7418. Audits.

49 (a) General rule.--

50 (1) The Office of Auditor General shall have the power
51 and its duty shall be to audit the accounts and records of

1 every volunteer firefighters' relief association receiving
2 money under Chapter 7 of the act of December 18, 1984
3 (P.L.1005, No.205), known as the Municipal Pension Plan
4 Funding Standard and Recovery Act, as far as may be necessary
5 to satisfy the Auditor General that the money received was or
6 is being expended for no purpose other than that authorized
7 by this subchapter. Copies of all audits shall be furnished
8 to the Governor.

9 (2) The commissioner, in consultation with the Fire
10 Advisory Committee, shall establish and publish annually, on
11 the Office of the State Fire Commissioner's publicly
12 accessible Internet website, eligible uses of the money in
13 accordance with this subchapter.

14 (3) The commissioner may receive inquiries from the fire
15 services on eligible uses of money and, in consultation with
16 the Fire Advisory Committee, make a determination on the
17 eligible use of money on the equipment or service that is the
18 subject of the inquiry.

19 (4) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the commissioner
20 shall maintain authority relating to the eligible uses of
21 money received.

22 (b) Findings.--If the Auditor General finds that [any] money
23 received by a volunteer firefighters' relief association has
24 been expended for a purpose other than one authorized by this
25 subchapter, the commissioner, upon receiving notice of the
26 findings from the Auditor General, shall [immediately notify the
27 Governor and shall] decline to approve [further requisitions
28 calling for] payment to the volunteer firefighters' relief
29 association until the improperly expended amount has been
30 reimbursed to the relief association fund.

31 Section 14. Title 35 is amended by adding a section to read:
32 § 7419.1. Fire relief formula study.

33 (a) Study.--The Fire Advisory Committee shall have the
34 following duties:

35 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations
36 regarding the fire relief funding formula and fire relief
37 services in this Commonwealth.

38 (2) Hold public meetings regarding the fire relief
39 funding formula and fire relief services in different regions
40 of this Commonwealth.

41 (3) Consult with and utilize experts to assist the
42 committee in carrying out its duties under this section.

43 (4) Receive input from interested parties and take into
44 consideration the diverse nature of fire services in this
45 Commonwealth.

46 (5) Draft proposed legislation based on the committee's
47 findings and recommendations regarding the fire relief
48 funding formula and fire relief services.

49 (6) No later than November 30, 2022, issue a report on
50 the committee's findings and recommendations regarding the
51 fire relief funding formula and fire relief services to all

1 of the following:

2 (i) The Governor.

3 (ii) The commissioner.

4 (iii) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

5 (iv) The Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
6 Senate.

7 (v) The Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
8 Committee of the Senate.

9 (vi) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10 (vii) The Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
11 House of Representatives.

12 (viii) The Veterans Affairs and Emergency
13 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives.

14 (b) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
15 construed to authorize a fire relief funding formula to go into
16 effect without being approved by an act of the General Assembly.

17 Section 15. The definition of "fire company" in section 7802
18 of Title 35 is amended and the section is amended by adding a
19 definition to read:

20 § 7802. Definitions.

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

24 * * *

25 "Airport fire company." A fire company that does all of the
26 following:

27 (1) Is associated with an airport.

28 (2) Has a mutual aid agreement with a neighboring
29 municipality.

30 (3) Has responded to at least 15 emergency calls
31 annually to neighboring fire companies as provided in
32 documentation requested by the State Fire Commissioner.

33 * * *

34 "Fire company." A volunteer fire company [or], a municipal
35 fire company or a combined volunteer and municipal fire company
36 located in this Commonwealth. The term includes an airport fire
37 company.

38 * * *

39 Section 16. Sections 7811 and 7812 of Title 35 are amended
40 to read:

41 § 7811. Establishment.

42 The Fire Company Grant Program is established and shall be
43 administered by the [agency in consultation with the]
44 commissioner. Grants provided under this program shall be used
45 to improve and enhance the capabilities of [the fire company]
46 fire companies to provide firefighting, ambulance and rescue
47 services.

48 § 7812. Publication and notice.

49 The [agency] commissioner shall publish notice of the grant
50 program availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau
51 for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin[:

1 (1) within 30 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
2 years beginning July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007; and
3 (2)] by August 8 for [fiscal years beginning after June
4 30, 2008.] each fiscal year. The commissioner shall post a
5 notice of the grant program and application for the grant
6 program on the Office of the State Fire Commissioner's
7 publicly accessible Internet website.

8 Section 17. Section 7813(a), (c) and (d) of Title 35 are
9 amended, subsection (b) is amended by adding a paragraph and the
10 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

11 § 7813. Award of grants.

12 (a) Authorization.--The [agency] commissioner is authorized
13 to make a grant award to each eligible fire company for the
14 following:

15 (1) Construction and renovation of [the fire company's
16 facility] facilities and purchase or repair of fixtures and
17 furnishings, office equipment and support services necessary
18 to maintain or improve the capability of the company to
19 provide fire, ambulance and rescue services.

20 (2) Repair of firefighting, ambulance or rescue
21 equipment or purchase thereof.

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

23 (4) Training and certification of members.

24 (5) [Training and education] Education of the general
25 public regarding fire prevention and community risk
26 reduction.

27 (6) Recruitment and retention, including, but not
28 limited to, volunteer firefighter length of service award
29 programs and programs for minors.

30 (7) Revenue loss for grants issued in 2021 and 2022.

31 * * *

32 (b) Limits.--

33 * * *

34 (4) A fire company may only apply for a grant for up to
35 five years for the purpose under subsection (e).

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

37 (1) [Within 30 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
38 years beginning July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, and by] By
39 September [1] 8 of each year [thereafter], the [agency]
40 commissioner shall provide applications and written
41 instructions for grants under this chapter to:

42 (i) except as set forth in subparagraph (ii), the
43 fire chief and president of every fire company; or

44 (ii) in the case of a municipal fire company, the
45 chief executive of the municipality.

46 (2) [Within 45 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
47 years beginning July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, and by
48 September 8 of each year thereafter, the agency shall provide
49 applications to individuals specified in paragraph (1). The
50 application for the fiscal years commencing July 1, 2006, and
51 July 1, 2007, shall be a combined application.] Fire

1 companies seeking grants under this chapter shall submit
2 completed applications to the [agency] commissioner and the
3 municipalities where the fire companies are located. The
4 application period shall remain open for 45 days each year.
5 The agency shall act to approve or disapprove applications
6 within 60 days of the application submission deadline each
7 year. Applications which have not been approved or
8 disapproved by the [agency] commissioner within 60 days after
9 the close of the application period each year shall be deemed
10 approved.

11 (d) Eligibility.--To receive grant funds under this chapter,
12 a fire company must:

13 (1) Have actively responded to at least [10] 15 fire or
14 rescue emergencies during the previous calendar year.

15 (2) Be actively participating in the Pennsylvania Fire
16 Information Reporting System under a signed agreement. The
17 commissioner shall develop and publish guidelines specifying
18 the criteria necessary to determine the level of
19 participation in the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting
20 System to remain eligible for grant funds.

21 (e) Construction Savings Account.--A fire company may apply
22 for a grant under subsection (a) for the purpose of constructing
23 a new facility. The grant shall be deposited into the
24 Construction Savings Account, which is established within the
25 State Treasury. Money in the Construction Savings Account may be
26 withdrawn by application of the fire company. The Construction
27 Savings Account shall be administered by the commissioner. The
28 following shall apply:

29 (1) A fire company may only access money in the
30 Construction Savings Account for emergency purposes and at
31 the discretion of the commissioner.

32 (2) For a fire company to withdraw money from the
33 Construction Savings Account:

34 (i) The application shall contain the signatures of
35 two duly elected officers of the fire company.

36 (ii) The fire company shall indicate on the
37 application how the money is going to be used under
38 subsection (a).

39 (3) Any interest accrued on the Construction Savings
40 Account may be used by the commissioner for administrative
41 purposes.

42 Section 18. Sections 7814, 7821, 7822 and 7823(a) and (c) of
43 Title 35 are amended to read:

44 § 7814. Consolidation incentive.

45 If[, after July 31, 2003,] two or more volunteer fire
46 companies consolidate their use of facilities, equipment,
47 firefighters and services, the consolidated entity may, upon
48 notification of the [agency] commissioner, be eligible for a
49 reduction of the interest rate payable on any outstanding
50 principal balance owed, as of the date of consolidation, by any
51 or all of the consolidating companies to the [Volunteer

1 Companies Loan Fund] Emergency Services Loan Assistance Fund for
2 loans made under the act of July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, No.208),
3 known as the Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Service and
4 Rescue Squad Assistance Act, or under Subchapter E of Chapter 73
5 (relating to [volunteer fire company, ambulance service and
6 rescue squad assistance] Fire and Emergency Medical Services
7 Loan Assistance Program). The reduction in the interest rate
8 payable shall be from 2% to 1%. Upon receipt of such
9 notification, the [agency, in conjunction with the State Fire
10 Commissioner,] commissioner shall determine and verify that the
11 consolidated entity is in fact a bona fide consolidated
12 volunteer fire company. If the [agency] commissioner determines
13 that the consolidated entity is a bona fide consolidated
14 volunteer fire company, [it] the commissioner shall reduce the
15 interest rate payable on any outstanding principal balance owed
16 to the [Volunteer Companies Loan Fund] Emergency Services Loan
17 Assistance Fund for loans made under the former Volunteer Fire
18 Company, Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad Assistance Act, or
19 under Subchapter E of Chapter 73, for which the consolidating
20 companies or the consolidated entity may be individually or
21 jointly responsible. The [agency] commissioner may promulgate
22 such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the
23 provisions of this section.

24 § 7821. Establishment.

25 The Emergency Medical Services Grant Program is established
26 and shall be administered by the [agency] commissioner. Grants
27 provided under this program shall be used to improve and enhance
28 the capabilities of EMS [companies] to provide ambulance,
29 emergency medical, basic life support and advanced life support
30 services.

31 § 7822. Publication and notice.

32 The [agency] commissioner shall publish notice of the grant
33 program availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau
34 for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin[:
35

36 (1) within 30 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
37 years beginning July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007; and

38 (2)] by August 8 for [fiscal years beginning after June
39 30, 2008] each fiscal year.

39 § 7823. Award of grants.

40 (a) Authorization.--The [agency] commissioner is authorized
41 to make a grant award to each eligible EMS company for the
42 following:

43 (1) Construction and renovation of the EMS company's
44 [facility] facilities and purchase or repair of fixtures,
45 furnishings, office equipment and support services necessary
46 to maintain or improve the capability of the [ambulance
47 service] services to provide ambulance, emergency medical,
48 basic life support and advanced life support services.

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

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

51 (4) Training and certification of members.

1 (5) Education of the general public regarding community
2 risk reduction programs.

3 (6) Recruitment and retention programs, including, but
4 not limited to, programs for minors.

5 (7) Revenue loss for grants issued in 2021 and 2022.

6 * * *

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

8 (1) [Within 30 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
9 years commencing July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, and by] By
10 September [1] § of each year [thereafter], the [agency]
11 commissioner shall provide applications and written
12 instructions for grants under this chapter to the president
13 or lead officer of every EMS company in this Commonwealth.

14 (2) [Within 45 days of the effective date of June 28,
15 2007, for the fiscal years commencing July 1, 2006, and July
16 1, 2007, and by September 8 of each year, the agency shall
17 provide applications to the president of every EMS company.
18 The application for the fiscal years commencing July 1, 2006,
19 and July 1, 2007, shall be a combined application.] EMS
20 companies seeking grants under this chapter shall submit
21 completed applications to the [agency] commissioner. The
22 application period shall remain open for 45 days each year.
23 The [agency] commissioner shall act to approve or disapprove
24 applications within 60 days of the application submission
25 deadline each year. Applications which have not been approved
26 or disapproved by the [agency] commissioner within 60 days
27 after the close of the application period each year shall be
28 deemed approved.

29 Section 19. Subchapter C of Chapter 78 of Title 35 is
30 amended by adding a section to read:

31 § 7824. Consolidation incentive.

32 After January 1, 2020, if two or more emergency medical
33 services companies consolidate their use of facilities,
34 equipment and services, the consolidated entity may, upon
35 notification of the commissioner, be eligible for a reduction of
36 the interest rate payable on any outstanding principal balance
37 owed, as of the date of consolidation, by any or all of the
38 consolidating companies to the Emergency Services Loan
39 Assistance Fund for loans made under Subchapter E of Chapter 73
40 (relating to Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Assistance
41 Program). The reduction in the interest rate payable shall be
42 from 2% to 1%. Upon receipt of such notification, the
43 commissioner shall determine and verify that the consolidated
44 entity is in fact a bona fide consolidated emergency medical
45 services company. If the commissioner determines that the
46 consolidated entity is a bona fide consolidated emergency
47 medical services company, the commissioner shall reduce the
48 interest rate payable on any outstanding principal balance owed
49 to the Emergency Services Loan Assistance Fund for loans made
50 under Subchapter E of Chapter 73, for which the consolidating
51 companies or the consolidated entity may be individually or

1 jointly responsible. The commissioner may promulgate such rules
2 and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions
3 of this section.

4 Section 20. Sections 7831, 7832, 7832.1, 7833, 7841 and
5 7842(b) of Title 35 are amended to read:

6 § 7831. Fire Company Grant Program.

7 The sum of \$22,000,000 of the amount appropriated to the
8 [agency] commissioner for fire company grants under section
9 1799-E of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as
10 The Fiscal Code, shall be expended for the purpose of making
11 grants to eligible fire companies under Subchapter B (relating
12 to fire company grant program).

13 § 7832. Emergency Medical Services Company Grant Program.

14 The sum of \$3,000,000 of the amount appropriated to the
15 [agency] commissioner for EMS company grants under section 1799-
16 E of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The
17 Fiscal Code, shall be expended for the purpose of making grants
18 to eligible EMS companies under Subchapter C (relating to
19 emergency medical services grant program).

20 § 7832.1. Additional funding.

21 In addition to sums transferred from the State Gaming Fund
22 and under section 2413(a)(1) of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6,
23 No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, the sum of
24 \$5,000,000 shall be transferred annually from the Property Tax
25 Relief Reserve Fund to the Fire Company Grant Program for the
26 purpose of making grants to eligible fire companies under this
27 subchapter.

28 § 7833. Allocation of appropriated funds.

29 (a) Administration.--

30 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), no money
31 from the appropriation for grants shall be used for expenses
32 or costs incurred by the [agency] commissioner for the
33 administration of the grant programs authorized under
34 Subchapters B (relating to fire company grant program) and C
35 (relating to emergency medical services grant program).

36 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the commissioner may
37 use not more than \$800,000 of any unencumbered funds
38 remaining in the fund for administrative costs for grant
39 program implementation under this chapter.

40 (b) Grant allocation.--Unless otherwise expressly stated,
41 money appropriated to the [agency] commissioner for purposes of
42 fire company and EMS company grants shall be allocated as
43 follows:

44 (1) Eighty-eight percent of the amount appropriated
45 shall be used for making grants to eligible fire companies
46 under Subchapter B.

47 (2) Twelve percent of the amount appropriated shall be
48 used for making grants to eligible EMS companies under
49 Subchapter C.

50 § 7841. Expiration of authority.

51 The authority of the [agency] commissioner to award grants

1 under Subchapters B (relating to fire company grant program) and
2 C (relating to emergency medical services grant program) shall
3 expire [June 30, 2020] June 30, 2024.

4 § 7842. Special provisions.

5 * * *

6 (b) Delinquency.--An applicant for a grant under this
7 chapter who is delinquent in loan payments to the Pennsylvania
8 [Volunteer Loan Assistance Program established under the act of
9 July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, No.208), known as the Volunteer Fire
10 Company, Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad Assistance Act,]
11 Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Assistance Program must
12 use its grant funds to pay any arrears to the Commonwealth or it
13 will not be qualified to receive a grant. Any organization that
14 fails to comply with this subsection shall be disqualified from
15 applying to the grant program for a period of [three] five
16 years.

17 * * *

18 Section 21. Title 35 is amended by adding a section to read:

19 § 7843. Annual reports.

20 (a) Contents.--The commissioner shall prepare an annual
21 report on the Fire Company Grant Program and Emergency Medical
22 Services Grant Program. The annual report shall include all of
23 the following information:

24 (1) The total number of fire companies and EMS companies
25 that were notified of the grant programs.

26 (2) The total number of fire companies and EMS companies
27 that submitted applications for the grant programs.

28 (3) The total number of fire companies and EMS companies
29 that were approved for grants.

30 (4) An analysis of how the grants were used for
31 facilities, equipment, debt reduction, training and
32 certification, the education of the general public,
33 construction savings accounts and recruitment and retention,
34 including length of service award programs, as delineated by
35 county and municipality.

36 (5) A list of the fire companies as delineated by county
37 that received additional grants under section 7813(a.2)
38 (relating to award of grants).

39 (6) A list of the different entities that received
40 grants, including career fire companies, volunteer fire
41 companies, career emergency medical services companies and
42 volunteer EMS companies.

43 (7) A list of the different reasons why grants were not
44 issued to fire companies and EMS companies, including, but
45 not limited to, the following:

46 (i) Failure to submit applications for the grant
47 programs.

48 (ii) Failure to run calls for emergencies.

49 (iii) Delinquencies and bankruptcies.

50 (8) A list of the fire companies and EMS companies that
51 utilized the grants to pay off loans under the Pennsylvania

1 Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Assistance Program.

2 (b) Submission.--The commissioner shall submit the annual
3 report by October 1, 2020, and by October 1 of each year
4 thereafter, to all of the following:

5 (1) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs
6 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate.

7 (2) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs
8 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of
9 Representatives.

10 (c) Posting.--The commissioner shall post the annual report
11 on the Office of the State Fire Commissioner's publicly
12 accessible Internet website.

13 Section 22. The definitions of "governing body" and
14 "municipality" in section 79A03 of Title 35 are amended to read:
15 § 79A03. Definitions.

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

19 * * *

20 "Governing body." A governing body of a county, city
21 council, borough council, incorporated town council, board of
22 township commissioners, board of township supervisors, governing
23 body of a school district, governing council of a home rule
24 municipality or optional plan municipality or a governing
25 council of any similar purpose government which may be created
26 by statute after the effective date of this section and which
27 has adopted a tax credit under this chapter.

28 * * *

29 "Municipality." Any county, city, borough, incorporated
30 town, township, home rule municipality, optional plan
31 municipality, optional charter municipality [or any], similar
32 general purpose unit of government which may be created or
33 authorized by statute or any school district.

34 * * *

35 Section 23. Section 79A11(a) and (b), 79A13 and 79A24(b) of
36 Title 35 are amended to read:
37 § 79A11. Program authorization.

38 (a) Establishment.--A municipality that levies an earned
39 income tax may establish by ordinance or resolution a tax credit
40 against an individual's liability imposed under Chapter 3 of the
41 Local Tax Enabling Act for active service as a volunteer.

42 (b) Amount.--A municipality shall set forth in the ordinance
43 or resolution the total amount of the tax credit that will be
44 offered to an individual. If an individual's earned income tax
45 liability is less than the amount of the tax credit offered, the
46 individual's tax credit must equal the individual's tax
47 liability.

48 * * *

49 § 79A13. Real property tax credit.

50 The governing body of a municipality may provide, by
51 ordinance or resolution, for a tax credit against real property

1 tax to be granted to an active volunteer. The tax credit shall
2 apply to tax levied on residential real property owned and
3 occupied by an active volunteer who is certified under section
4 79A23 (relating to certification). The amount of the tax credit
5 authorized by an ordinance [shall not exceed 20%] or resolution
6 may not exceed 100% of the tax liability of the active
7 volunteer.

8 § 79A24. Rejection and appeal.

9 * * *

10 (b) Appeal.--An active volunteer shall have the right to
11 appeal a claim that has been rejected by a governing body. The
12 governing body shall establish, by ordinance or resolution, the
13 procedure by which a rejected claim can be appealed.

14 Section 24. Title 35 is amended by adding sections to read:
15 § 79A32. Intergovernmental cooperation.

16 A council of governments, consortium or other similar entity
17 of which the municipality is a member may provide for the joint
18 creation and administration of a volunteer service credit
19 program and tax credits adopted by its members. A governing body
20 may, by ordinance or resolution, delegate to the entity its
21 powers and duties under Subch. C (relating to volunteer service
22 credit), including the process of rejecting and appealing claims
23 under section 79A24 (relating to rejection and appeal).

24 § 79A33. Duties of State Fire Commissioner.

25 The State Fire Commissioner shall:

26 (1) Establish guidelines for municipalities, volunteer
27 fire companies and nonprofit EMS agencies regarding the tax
28 credit and post the guidelines online.

29 (2) Require municipalities and entities under this
30 section to notify the State Fire Commissioner of the adoption
31 of a tax credit.

32 (3) Provide an annual report on the tax credit
33 authorized under this chapter to the Chairman and Minority
34 Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
35 Committee of the Senate and the Veterans Affairs & Emergency
36 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives which
37 shall include:

38 (i) Each municipality that provides the tax credit.

39 (ii) The amount of the tax credit.

40 Section 25. The following shall apply for the fiscal year
41 beginning after June 30, 2020, and ending before July 1, 2021:

42 (1) The following shall apply to fire company grants
43 under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 Subch. B (relating to fire company
44 grant program):

45 (i) Notwithstanding 35 Pa.C.S. § 7812 (relating to
46 publication and notice), the State Fire Commissioner
47 shall, within five days of the effective date of this
48 section, transmit notice of the Fire Company Grant
49 Program availability to the Legislative Reference Bureau
50 for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

51 (ii) Notwithstanding 35 Pa.C.S. § 7813(c) (relating

1 to award of grants), the following shall apply:

2 (A) Within 15 days of the date of publication of
3 the notice under subparagraph (i), the State Fire
4 Commissioner shall provide written instructions for
5 grants under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 Subch. B to:

6 (I) except as set forth in subclause (II),
7 the fire chief and president of every fire
8 company; or

9 (II) in the case of a municipal fire
10 company, the chief executive of the municipality.

11 (B) Within 45 days of the date of publication of
12 the notice under subparagraph (i), the State Fire
13 Commissioner shall provide applications to
14 individuals specified in clause (A). Fire companies
15 seeking grants under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 Subch. B shall
16 submit completed applications to the State Fire
17 Commissioner. The application period shall remain
18 open for 45 days. The State Fire Commissioner shall
19 act to approve or disapprove applications within 60
20 days of the application submission deadline.
21 Applications which have not been approved or
22 disapproved by the State Fire Commissioner within 60
23 days after the close of the application period shall
24 be deemed approved.

25 (2) The following shall apply to emergency medical
26 services grants under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 Subch. C (relating to
27 Emergency Medical Services Grant Program):

28 (i) Notwithstanding 35 Pa.C.S. § 7822 (relating to
29 publication and notice), the State Fire Commissioner
30 shall, within five days of the effective date of this
31 section, transmit notice of the Emergency Medical
32 Services Grant Program availability to the Legislative
33 Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania
34 Bulletin.

35 (ii) Notwithstanding 35 Pa.C.S. § 7823(c) (relating
36 to award of grants), the following shall apply:

37 (A) Within 15 days of the date of publication of
38 the notice under subparagraph (i), the State Fire
39 Commissioner shall provide written instructions for
40 grants under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 Subch. C to the
41 president of every emergency medical services company
42 in this Commonwealth.

43 (B) Within 45 days of the date of publication of
44 the notice under subparagraph (i), the State Fire
45 Commissioner shall provide applications to
46 individuals specified in clause (A). Emergency
47 medical services companies seeking grants under 35
48 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 Subch. C shall submit completed
49 applications to the State Fire Commissioner. The
50 application period shall remain open for 45 days. The
51 State Fire Commissioner shall act to approve or

1 disapprove applications within 60 days of the
2 application submission deadline. Applications which
3 have not been approved or disapproved by the State
4 Fire Commissioner within 60 days after the close of
5 the application period shall be deemed approved.
6 Section 26. This act shall take effect as follows:
7 (1) The following provisions shall take effect
8 immediately:
9 (i) Section 26 of this act.
10 (ii) This section.
11 (iii) The amendment of 35 Pa.C.S. § 7841.
12 (2) The amendment or addition of the following shall
13 take effect in six months:
14 (i) 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 74 Subch. B heading.
15 (ii) 35 Pa.C.S. § 7412.
16 (iii) 35 Pa.C.S. § 7413 introductory paragraph, (1),
17 (4) and (6.1).
18 (iv) 35 Pa.C.S. § 7416(a) and (f) (13), (14), (19),
19 (20), (21), (22), (23), (24) and (25).
20 (v) 35 Pa.C.S. § 7418(b).
21 (vi) 35 Pa.C.S. § 7419.1.
22 (3) The amendment of 35 Pa.C.S. § 7383(c) shall take
23 effect on January 1, 2022.
24 (4) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60
25 days.