

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 115

Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. A. K. HUTCHINSON, LAUDADIO, MUSTO, MORRIS, PETRARCA, KOLTER, DeMEDIO, DOMBROWSKI, ROMANELLI, MISCEVICH, MENHORN, BONETTO, YAHNER, KLINGAMAN, KNEPPER, ABRAHAM, O'KEEFE, GILLESPIE, W. W. FOSTER, SCHEAFFER, SHUPNIK, MRS. GILLETTE, MESSRS. DAVIS, ZWIKL, MANDERINO, SALOOM, FEE, DOYLE, LINCOLN, HALVERSON, VALICENTI, WANSACZ, TAYLOR, NOVAK, BRADLEY, MILANOVICH, FISCHER, TADDONIO, TURNER, ZELLER AND CIMINI, JANUARY 27, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 27, 1975

AN ACT

1 Providing for grants or loans to volunteer fire companies for
2 the purpose of establishing or modernizing facilities that
3 house fire fighting equipment or purchasing new fire fighting
4 apparatus equipment and training; establishing a revolving
5 fund for such purpose; providing for the administration of
6 the act by the Department of Community Affairs; and making an
7 appropriation.

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

10 Section 1. Short Title.--This act shall be known and may be
11 cited as the "Volunteer Fire Company Assistance Act."

12 Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act:

13 "Apparatus equipment" means snorkel, pumpers, tankers, ladder
14 trucks, or other large equipment used for fire fighting.

15 "Department" means the Department of Community Affairs of the
16 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

17 "Facilities" means facilities used to house fire fighting

1 equipment and shall not include meeting halls, social rooms, or
2 any other facilities not directly related to fire fighting.

3 "Volunteer fire company" means any nonprofit chartered
4 corporation, association, or organization located in this
5 Commonwealth which provides fire protection within this
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Volunteer Fire Company Grant or Loan Fund" means the fund
8 established under section 4 of this act.

9 Section 3. Assistance to Volunteer Fire Companies.--(a) The
10 department is hereby authorized, upon application of any
11 volunteer fire company, to make grants or loans to said
12 volunteer fire company for the purpose of establishing or
13 modernizing facilities that house fire fighting apparatus
14 equipment. At no time shall the grant exceed 50% of the cost
15 incurred nor be in excess of \$50,000, whichever is less, to
16 establish or modernize facilities that house fire fighting
17 equipment or purchase new fire fighting apparatus equipment. The
18 amount of a loan made to any one volunteer fire company shall
19 not exceed \$150,000.

20 (b) Prior to approving a grant, the volunteer fire company
21 must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that they
22 have the financial resources or can obtain the financial
23 resources for complete payment of establishing or modernizing
24 facilities that house fire fighting equipment or purchasing new
25 fire fighting apparatus equipment.

26 (c) Loans made by the department shall be for a period of
27 not more than 10 years and shall be subject to such security as
28 shall be determined by the department.

29 (d) Grants and loans made by the department shall be paid
30 from the Volunteer Fire Company Grant and Loan Fund to the

1 volunteer fire companies in such a manner determined by the
2 department.

3 (e) All payments of interest on said loans and the principal
4 thereof shall be deposited by the department in the Volunteer
5 Fire Company Grant and Loan Fund.

6 Section 4. Volunteer Fire Company Loan.--(a) There is hereby
7 created a special fund in the Treasury Department to be known as
8 the Volunteer Fire Company Grant and Loan Fund to which shall be
9 credited all appropriations made by the General Assembly to the
10 department as well as repayment of principal and interest on
11 loans made pursuant to this act.

12 (b) The department may requisition from time to time from
13 the Volunteer Fire Company Grant and Loan Fund such amounts as
14 shall be allocated by the department for grants or loans to
15 volunteer fire companies. When and as the amounts so allocated
16 by the department as loans to volunteer fire companies are
17 repaid to the department pursuant to the terms of the agreements
18 made and entered into with the department, the department shall
19 pay such amounts into the Volunteer Fire Company Grant and Loan
20 Fund, it being the intent of this act that the Volunteer Fire
21 Company Grant and Loan Fund shall operate as a revolving fund
22 whereby all appropriations and payments made thereto may be
23 applied and reapplied to the purposes of this act.

24 (c) At any time that the department shall determine that
25 funds held in the Volunteer Fire Company Grant and Loan Fund are
26 in excess of the amount needed by the department to carry out
27 the purposes of this act, the department may take such action as
28 shall be required to release such excess from the Volunteer Fire
29 Company Grant and Loan Fund and transfer the same to the General
30 Fund in the Treasury Department.

1 Section 5. Powers and Duties of the Department.--The powers
2 and duties shall be:

3 (1) To appoint agents, employees, and servants; and to
4 prescribe their duties and to fix their compensation within the
5 limitations provided by law;

6 (2) To accept grants from the Federal Government and any
7 other individual, agency, or government for use in the Volunteer
8 Fire Company Grant and Loan Fund;

9 (3) To direct the Department of Community Affairs of the
10 Commonwealth to take title to any piece of property which acts
11 as security for any outstanding loan;

12 (4) To require all loans to be secured in such a manner that
13 the Department of Community Affairs would have a first priority
14 in case of any default or foreclosure;

15 (5) To loan money over a term of years, but in no case in
16 excess of 10 years;

17 (6) To require, whenever possible, consolidation or mutual
18 aid agreements between communities in the utilization of
19 volunteer fire companies; and

20 (7) To promulgate such rules and regulations as it deems
21 necessary to carry out its powers and duties under this act.

22 Section 6. Appropriation.--The sum of \$5,000,000, or as much
23 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the
24 Volunteer Fire Company Grant and Loan Fund for the purposes set
25 forth in the implementation of this act.

26 Section 7. Effective Date.--This act shall take effect
27 immediately.