
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1243 Session of
1987

INTRODUCED BY WESTON, APRIL 29, 1987

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, APRIL 29, 1987

AN ACT

1 Providing for the political activities of firefighters employed
2 by cities of the first class; imposing a penalty; and making
3 a repeal.

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

6 Section 1. Right to political participation.

7 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
8 firefighters employed by cities of the first class shall have
9 the full right to actively participate in political management
10 and political campaigns except as otherwise provided in this
11 act.

12 Section 2. Prohibited acts.

13 No firefighter employed by a city of the first class shall do
14 any of the following:

15 (1) Use his office or position to influence political
16 movements or to influence the political action of any other
17 firefighter or any other person.

18 (2) Be a candidate for public office in any partisan

1 election, including a primary election: Provided, however,
2 That candidacy for political party office, even in a partisan
3 election, is not prohibited.

4 (3) Directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce or
5 command a State or local officer or employee or any other
6 person to pay, lend or contribute money, service or any
7 valuable thing to a party, committee, organization, agency or
8 person for political purposes.

9 (4) Directly or indirectly, by oral or written
10 communication, demand, solicit, collect or receive or be in
11 any manner concerned in demanding, soliciting, collecting or
12 receiving money or any valuable thing or any assessment,
13 subscription or contribution, whether voluntary or
14 involuntary, from any other firefighter for any political
15 purpose whatsoever, whether or not as a condition of
16 employment, continued employment or promotion, except that
17 solicitation for voluntary contributions of firefighters by
18 registered political action committees formed by them shall
19 be permitted.

20 (5) Directly or indirectly, by oral or written
21 communication, demand, solicit, collect or receive or be in
22 any manner concerned in demanding, soliciting, collecting or
23 receiving money or any valuable thing from any person other
24 than a firefighter for any political purpose whatsoever.

25 (6) Remove, suspend, furlough or demote or in any manner
26 change the official status or compensation of any other
27 firefighter, or promise or threaten to do so, for withholding
28 or neglecting to make any contribution of money, service or
29 any valuable thing for any political purpose.

30 Section 3. Penalty.

1 A person who violates this act commits a misdemeanor of the
2 second degree.

3 Section 4. Repeals.

4 The act of April 21, 1949 (P.L.665, No.155), known as the
5 First Class City Home Rule Act, is repealed insofar as it is
6 inconsistent with this act.

7 Section 5. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect January 1, 1988, or immediately,
9 whichever is later.