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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 540** Session of  
1999

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INTRODUCED BY TANGRETTI, SOLOBAY, ARMSTRONG, GORDNER, GEORGE, MARKOSEK, READSHAW, HERSHEY, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, SCRIMENTI, HERMAN, LEVDANSKY, FAIRCHILD, WOJNAROSKI, WILT, BAKER, HALUSKA, PISTELLA, LAUGHLIN, CORRIGAN, MAYERNIK, CURRY, SHANER, WALKO, E. Z. TAYLOR, PESCI, SURRA, TRELLO, MICHLOVIC, STABACK, McILHINNEY, ARGALL, MICOZZIE, CASORIO, VAN HORNE, TIGUE, GIGLIOTTI, SANTONI, MELIO, RAMOS, McCALL, MUNDY, SEYFERT, M. COHEN, L. I. COHEN, GRUCELA, ORIE, SAINATO, FORCIER, JAMES, FREEMAN, BELARDI, YOUNGBLOOD, DeLUCA, BUNT, PIPPY, STEELMAN, PETRARCA, KAISER, S. H. SMITH, CIVERA AND HARHAI, FEBRUARY 10, 1999

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, FEBRUARY 10, 1999

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AN ACT

1 Establishing a grant program for volunteer fire companies; and  
2 making an appropriation.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Volunteer  
7 Fire Company Grant Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Agency." The Department of Community and Economic  
13 Development of the Commonwealth.

1 "Volunteer fire company." A nonprofit chartered corporation,  
2 association or organization located in this Commonwealth which  
3 provides fire protection services and which may offer other  
4 voluntary emergency services within this Commonwealth. Voluntary  
5 emergency services provided by a volunteer fire company may  
6 include voluntary ambulance and voluntary rescue services.

7 Section 3. Volunteer Fire Company Grant Program.

8 (a) Establishment.--The Volunteer Fire Company Grant Program  
9 is hereby established and shall be administered by the agency.  
10 Grants provided under this program shall be used to improve and  
11 enhance the capabilities of the volunteer fire company.

12 (b) Guidelines and procedures.--The agency shall develop  
13 guidelines and procedures to implement the grant program.

14 Section 4. Grants.

15 (a) Authorization.--The agency is hereby authorized to make  
16 grants to eligible volunteer fire companies.

17 (b) Limits.--Grants shall be not less than \$1,000 and not  
18 more than \$10,000 per volunteer fire company in any one fiscal  
19 year.

20 Section 5. Appropriation.

21 The General Assembly shall appropriate a total of \$5,000,000  
22 to the Department of Community and Economic Development each  
23 fiscal year to comply with the provisions of this act.

24 Section 6. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect immediately.