



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1834

PRINTERS NO. 2570

PRIME SPONSOR: Sainato

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
General Fund; Construction Savings Account	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 1834, Printer's Number 2570, extends the authority of the Fire Company Grant Program and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Grant Program and enhances the grant awards of the program.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) adding language to enhance the program and expand the eligibility of grant awards for recruitment and retention initiatives, such as volunteer firefighter length of service award programs and programs for minors serving in volunteer emergency service organizations.

The bill also expands the eligible use of grants to fire companies to include the construction of a new facility and establishes the Construction Savings Account within the State Treasury which will be administered by the State Fire Commissioner. A fire company may deposit up to five years' worth of grants for the construction of a new facility in a construction savings account and may be withdrawn by application of the fire company. The money in the account may only be withdrawn by application of the fire company for emergency purposes at the discretion of the commissioner. Any interest accrued on the Construction Savings Account may be used by the commissioner for administrative purposes.

Lastly, the bill specifically extends the authority for the Fire Company Grant Program and the Emergency Medical Services Grant Program from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2024.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this legislation will have no impact on Commonwealth funds. The grant program will continue as established by providing \$30 million annually for the Fire Company Grant Program and the EMS Grant Program, which are supported with \$25 million transferred from the State Gaming Fund and \$5 million from the Property Tax Relief Fund.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeffrey Clukey  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** October 28, 2019

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*