



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 739
As amended by: A03659

PRINTERS NO. 1089

PRIME SPONSOR: Stefano

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 739, Printer's Number 1089, revises membership of the Application Review Committee for the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Program and establishes the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) by revising the composition of the Application Review Committee for the Fire and EMS Company Loan Program to review loan applications and recommendations related to the program.

It strikes out the "Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania" as a member and adds the following four additional members: the Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association; Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association; Secretary of Community and Economic Development; and Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources.

It also makes a change to the definition of "fire company" to include a volunteer nonprofit chartered fire company or municipal-owned fire company or department.

The bill as amended also establishes the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program and shall be administered by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner (OSFC) in consultation with the Department of Health. Grants provided under the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program shall be used by EMS companies to provide services in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

No application shall be required to receive a grant under this subchapter and the OSFC shall notify in writing each EMS company of the availability of grants from the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program.

The OSFC shall include with the written notification a form for each eligible EMS company to certify that a grant received under this subchapter shall be used for the purposes outlined under the program and provide a deadline by which an EMS company must return the certification form.

Grants shall be awarded in an amount equal to the total amount of funds appropriated under section 7843 (relating to funding and costs) less the amount used under section 7843(b) divided by the total number of EMS companies that returned the certification under subsection (c).

The program shall receive a total of \$25 million in Federal funds in the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account and be appropriated to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program. It should be noted that the OSFC may use up to \$200,000 of unencumbered funds from the amount appropriated for administrative costs to implement the grant program.

The amendment also requires a report be prepared by each EMS company receiving a grant award and submitted to the OSFC explaining how the grant money is used. The commissioner shall prepare a report on the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program that includes the following information:

- 1) Total number of EMS companies that were notified of the grant program.
- 2) Total number of EMS companies that submitted a certification for the grant program.
- 3) Total number of EMS companies that received a grant.
- 4) Total amount of the grant received by each EMS company.
- 5) A summary of how each EMS company will use the grant money awarded.

The commissioner shall post the annual report on the OSFC's publicly accessible Internet website and submit the report by September 1, 2022, to the following:

- 1) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate;
- 2) The chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives;
- 3) The chair and minority chair of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate; and
- 4) The chair and minority chair of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

The changes to the Application Review Committee and definition of the "fire company" would take effect in 60 days upon enactment, while the remainder of the legislation would take effect immediately. The authority of the State Fire Commissioner to administer the Emergency Medical Services Recovery Grant Program shall expire June 30, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation to revise the Application Review Committee for the Fire and EMS Company Loan Program will have no impact on Commonwealth funds.

The remainder of the bill establishes the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program as administered by the OSFC. The sum of \$25,000,000 of Federal funds in the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account is appropriated to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for the grant program, while the OSFC may use up to \$200,000 of unencumbered funds from the amount appropriated for administrative costs.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: February 7, 2022

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