

## AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for the Volunteer Quick  
3 Response Services Grant Program.

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

6 Section 1. Chapter 78 heading of Title 35 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, amended June 29, 2012  
8 (P.L.663, No.78), is amended to read:

## CHAPTER 78

## GRANTS TO FIRE COMPANIES,

VOLUNTEER QUICK RESPONSE SERVICES

## AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

13 Section 2. Section 7801 of Title 35, amended June 29, 2012  
14 (P.L.663, No.78), is amended to read:

15 § 7801. Scope of chapter.

16 This chapter relates to grants to fire companies, volunteer  
17 quick response services and volunteer ambulance services.

18 Section 3. Section 7802 of Title 35 is amended by adding a

1 definition to read:

2 § 7802. Definitions.

3 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
4 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
5 context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 \* \* \*

7 "Volunteer quick response service." Any nonprofit chartered  
8 corporation, association or organization located in this  
9 Commonwealth which is recognized by the Pennsylvania Department  
10 of Health and which is regularly engaged in responding to  
11 emergencies and providing emergency medical services pending the  
12 arrival of ambulance service personnel.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 4. Section 7831 of Title 35 is amended to read:

15 § 7831. Volunteer Fire Company Grant Program and Volunteer  
16 Quick Response Service Program.

17 The sum of \$22,000,000 of the amount appropriated to the  
18 agency for volunteer company grants under section 225 of the act  
19 of March 20, 2003 (P.L.463, No.1A), known as the General  
20 Appropriation Act of 2003, shall be expended for the purpose of  
21 making grants to eligible volunteer fire companies under  
22 Subchapter B (relating to volunteer fire company grant program)  
23 and to eligible volunteer quick response services under  
24 Subchapter E (relating to volunteer quick response service grant  
25 program).

26 Section 5. Section 7833(a)(1) and (b)(1) of Title 35,  
27 amended June 29, 2012 (P.L.663, No.78), are amended to read:

28 § 7833. Allocation of appropriated funds.

29 (a) Administration.--

30 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), no money

1 from the appropriation for grants shall be used for expenses  
2 or costs incurred by the agency for the administration of the  
3 grant programs authorized under Subchapters B (relating to  
4 fire company grant program) [and] C (relating to volunteer  
5 ambulance service grant program) and E (relating to volunteer  
6 quick response service grant program).

7 \* \* \*

8 (b) Grant allocation.--Unless otherwise expressly stated,  
9 money appropriated to the agency for purposes of company grants  
10 shall be allocated as follows:

11 (1) Eighty-eight percent of the amount appropriated  
12 shall be used for making grants to eligible fire companies  
13 under Subchapter B and to eligible volunteer quick response  
14 services under Subchapter E.

15 \* \* \*

16 Section 6. Chapter 78 of Title 35 is amended by adding a  
17 subchapter to read:

18 SUBCHAPTER D.1

19 VOLUNTEER QUICK RESPONSE

20 SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM

21 Sec.

22 7839.1. Establishment.

23 7839.2. Publication and notice.

24 7839.3. Award of grants.

25 § 7839.1. Establishment.

26 The Volunteer Quick Response Service Grant Program is hereby  
27 established and shall be administered by the agency. Grants  
28 provided under this program shall be used to improve and enhance  
29 the capabilities of the volunteer quick response services to  
30 provide quick response services.

1 § 7839.2. Publication and notice.

2 The agency shall submit notice of the grant program  
3 availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for  
4 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin:

5 (1) within 30 days of the effective date of this section  
6 for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2011, and July 1,  
7 2012; and

8 (2) by August 8 for fiscal years beginning after June  
9 30, 2013.

10 § 7839.3. Award of grants.

11 (a) Authorization.--The agency is hereby authorized to make  
12 a grant award to each eligible volunteer quick response service  
13 for the following:

14 (1) Construction and renovation of the volunteer quick  
15 response service's facility and purchase or repair of  
16 fixtures, furnishings, office equipment and support services  
17 necessary to maintain or improve the capability of the quick  
18 response service to provide quick response services.

19 (2) Repair of ambulance equipment or purchase thereof.

20 (3) Debt reduction associated with paragraph (1) or (2).

21 (4) Training and certification of members.

22 (b) Limits.--

23 (1) Grants shall be not less than \$2,500 and not more  
24 than \$10,000 per volunteer quick response service.

25 (2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the  
26 total dollar amount of approved applications exceeds the  
27 amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this  
28 purpose.

29 (3) If two or more volunteer quick response services  
30 consolidated their use of equipment, personnel and services

1 within five years preceding the date of the current year  
2 application submission deadline, the consolidated entity  
3 shall be deemed eligible to receive a grant not to exceed the  
4 amount of the combined total for which the individual  
5 companies would have been eligible had they not consolidated.

6 (c) Time for filing application and department action.--

7 (1) Within 30 days of the effective date of this  
8 paragraph for the fiscal years commencing July 1, 2011, and  
9 July 1, 2012, and by September 1 of each year thereafter, the  
10 agency shall provide written instructions for grants under  
11 this chapter to the president of every volunteer quick  
12 response service in this Commonwealth.

13 (2) Within 45 days of the effective date of this  
14 paragraph for the fiscal years commencing July 1, 2011, and  
15 July 1, 2012, and by September 8 of each year, the agency  
16 shall provide applications to the president of every  
17 volunteer quick response service. The application for the  
18 fiscal years commencing July 1, 2011, and July 1, 2012, shall  
19 be a combined application. Volunteer ambulance services  
20 seeking grants under this subchapter shall submit completed  
21 applications to the agency. The application period shall  
22 remain open for 45 days each year. The agency shall act to  
23 approve or disapprove applications within 60 days of the  
24 application submission deadline each year. Applications which  
25 have not been approved or disapproved by the agency within 60  
26 days after the close of the application period each year  
27 shall be deemed approved.

28 Section 7. Section 7841 of Title 35, amended June 29, 2012

29 (P.L.663, No.78), is amended to read:

30 § 7841. Expiration of authority.

1 The authority of the agency to award grants under Subchapters  
2 B (relating to volunteer fire company grant program) [and] C  
3 (relating to volunteer ambulance service grant program) and  
4 (D.1) (relating to volunteer quick response service grant  
5 program) shall expire June 30, 2016.

6 Section 8. Section 7842 of Title 35 is amended to read:

7 § 7842. Special provisions.

8 (a) Claim.--An applicant for a grant under this chapter who  
9 failed to return a signed agreement for the preceding year shall  
10 not be permitted to apply for a grant in the current year unless  
11 the applicant has provided the commissioner with a reasonable  
12 written explanation as to why it did not claim its grant.

13 (b) Delinquency.--An applicant for a grant under this  
14 chapter who is delinquent in loan payments to the Pennsylvania  
15 Volunteer Loan Assistance Program established under the act of  
16 July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, No.208), known as the Volunteer Fire  
17 Company, Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad Assistance Act,  
18 shall agree to use its grant funds to pay any arrears to the  
19 Commonwealth or it will not be qualified to receive a grant. Any  
20 organization agreeing to this arrangement who fails to make the  
21 payment to the Commonwealth shall be disqualified from applying  
22 to the grant program for a period of three years.

23 (c) Demonstration.--An applicant for a grant under this  
24 chapter must demonstrate that it complied with all of the terms  
25 of its grant agreement in the previous year regarding the use of  
26 the grant money it received in previous years or it shall not be  
27 eligible to receive a grant in the current year.

28 (d) Approval.--An applicant shall not be approved for a  
29 grant to be used for purposes other than those stated in section  
30 7813(a) (relating to award of grants) [or] 7823(a) (relating to

1 award of grants) or 7839.3(a) (relating to award of grants).

2 Section 9. This act shall take effect immediately.