

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

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No. _____

Legislative Reference Bureau

AN ACT

Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services agencies, establishing the First Responder Loan Forgiveness Program; and making editorial changes.

INTRODUCED _____ **20** _____

By _____ **District NO.** _____

By _____ **District NO.** _____

By _____ **District NO.** _____

By _____ **District NO.** _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Prior Session _____

Referred to Committee on	
Date _____	20 _____
Reported _____	20 _____
As Committed-Amended	
Recommendation	

By Hon. _____	

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
 2 Consolidated Statutes, in incentives for municipal volunteers
 3 of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services
 4 agencies, establishing the First Responder Loan Forgiveness
 5 Program; and making editorial changes.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Subchapter D heading of Chapter 79A of Title 35
 9 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

SUBCHAPTER D

[MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS] PENALTIES

12 Section 2. Chapter 79A of Title 35 is amended by adding a
 13 subchapter to read:

SUBCHAPTER E

FIRST RESPONDER LOAN FORGIVENESS

16 Sec.

17 79A41. Definitions.

18 79A42. First Responder Loan Forgiveness Program.

19 79A43. Award of loan forgiveness.

1 "Program." The First Responder Loan Forgiveness Program
2 established in section 79A42 (relating to First Responder Loan
3 Forgiveness Program).

4 "Qualified applicant." An active first responder who
5 qualifies for loan forgiveness under section 79A43 (relating to
6 award of loan forgiveness).

7 "Volunteer fire company." As defined in section 7802
8 (relating to definitions).

9 "Volunteer rescue company." As defined in section 7802.
10 § 79A42. First Responder Loan Forgiveness Program.

11 (a) Program established.--The First Responder Loan
12 Forgiveness Program is established. The program shall provide
13 loan forgiveness awards to qualified applicants in accordance
14 with this subchapter. The agency shall administer the program
15 for active first responders on a Statewide basis.

16 (b) Applicants.--An active first responder must meet the
17 following criteria to apply for loan forgiveness under this
18 subchapter:

19 (1) Is a resident of this Commonwealth.

20 (2) Has been an active first responder, as certified in
21 accordance with section 79A47 (relating to certification), in
22 this Commonwealth for at least the 12 months immediately
23 preceding the application.

24 (3) Enrolled as a student in an approved program of
25 education and completed a postsecondary degree or
26 certification program after the effective date of this
27 section.

28 (4) Provides the agency with a sworn or official
29 statement by the executive officer attesting that the
30 applicant is a member in good standing of the first response

1 \$4,000, but not exceeding 25% of the original qualifying
2 loans.

3 (iii) Third year of active first responder status
4 following qualified application in an amount up to
5 \$8,000, but not exceeding 50% of the original qualifying
6 loans.

7 (b) Preference.--The agency may give preference in approving
8 loan forgiveness awards under the program to renewal
9 applications.

10 § 79A45. Funding.

11 The agency may approve loan forgiveness awards only to the
12 extent that funds are appropriated by the General Assembly and
13 are sufficient to cover administration of the program. In the
14 event that funding is insufficient to fully fund administration
15 and awards to all qualified applicants, the agency shall prorate
16 loan forgiveness awards.

17 § 79A46. Point system.

18 (a) General rule.--A point system establishing the
19 requirements for annual certification of active first responders
20 shall be developed and implemented by the executive officer.

21 (b) Factors.--The point system shall be used to determine
22 whether to certify an individual as an active first responder
23 and shall include the following factors:

24 (1) The number of emergency calls to which the
25 individual responded.

26 (2) The individual's level of training and participation
27 in formal training or drills.

28 (3) Time spent by the individual on administration and
29 support activities, including maintenance of facilities and
30 equipment.