

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 591

Session of 1989

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, McCALL, ALLEN, G. SNYDER, J. L. WRIGHT, BOYES, GODSHALL, STABACK, CESSAR, NOYE, JOHNSON, DISTLER, TIGUE, HASAY, DORR, BUSH, SERAFINI, E. Z. TAYLOR, FOX, DEMPSEY, MRKONIC, PETRARCA, SCHULER, CLYMER, HERMAN, VEON, HALUSKA, MORRIS, REBER, GANNON, LEVDANSKY, GRUPPO, ANGSTADT, GEIST, ROBBINS, DeLUCA, D. W. SNYDER, LASHINGER, LEH, McHALE, FREEMAN, VROON, DIETTERICK, RAYMOND, HESS, BURD, J. H. CLARK, KAISER, CORNELL, FLICK, BELARDI, MELIO, HECKLER AND MARSICO, FEBRUARY 15, 1989

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OCTOBER 3, 1989

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, No.208), entitled,  
2 as amended, "An act authorizing the indebtedness, with the  
3 approval of the electors, of twenty-five million dollars for  
4 loans to volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance  
5 services and volunteer rescue squads for the purpose of  
6 establishing or modernizing facilities to house fire fighting  
7 apparatus equipment, ambulances, and rescue vehicles, and for  
8 purchasing new fire fighting apparatus equipment, ambulances,  
9 and rescue vehicles, protective and communications equipment,  
10 and any other accessory equipment necessary for the proper  
11 performance of such organizations' duties," providing for an  
12 exception to loan limits AND ADJUSTING LOAN LIMITS. <—

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 ~~Section 1. Section 4 of the act of July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036,~~ <—  
16 ~~No.208), known as the Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Service~~  
17 ~~and Rescue Squad Assistance Act, is amended by adding a~~  
18 ~~subsection to read:~~

19 ~~Section 4. Assistance to Volunteer Fire Companies, Ambulance~~

1 ~~Service and Rescue Squads. \* \* \*~~

2 SECTION 1. SECTION 3 OF THE ACT OF JULY 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, <—  
3 NO.208), KNOWN AS THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE SERVICE  
4 AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE ACT, IS AMENDED BY ADDING A  
5 DEFINITION TO READ:

6 SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.--AS USED IN THIS ACT:

7 \* \* \*

8 "RESCUE VEHICLE" MEANS ANY VEHICLE, WHETHER A MOTOR VEHICLE  
9 OR A WATERCRAFT, USED FOR RESCUE SERVICES.

10 \* \* \*

11 SECTION 2. SECTION 4(A)(1), (2) AND (6) AND (B) OF THE ACT,  
12 AMENDED JUNE 13, 1980 (P.L.217, NO.65) AND MAY 11, 1982  
13 (P.L.407, NO.118), ARE AMENDED AND THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY  
14 ADDING A SUBSECTION TO READ:

15 SECTION 4. ASSISTANCE TO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES, AMBULANCE  
16 SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUADS.--(A) THE DEPARTMENT IS HEREBY  
17 AUTHORIZED, UPON APPLICATION OF ANY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY,  
18 VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, TO MAKE  
19 LOANS TO SAID VOLUNTEER COMPANIES FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

20 (1) ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING FACILITIES THAT HOUSE FIRE  
21 FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLES. THE AMOUNT OF  
22 A LOAN FOR ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING FACILITIES MADE TO ANY  
23 ONE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE SERVICE OR RESCUE SQUAD  
24 SHALL NOT EXCEED 50% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE FACILITIES OR  
25 MODERNIZATION OR [\$50,000] \$75,000, WHICHEVER IS LESS, AND A  
26 NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) SHALL  
27 SHOW THAT THE APPLICANT HAS AVAILABLE 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF  
28 THE FACILITIES IN UNOBLIGATED FUNDS. PROCEEDS OF THE LOAN SHALL  
29 BE USED ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF LAND ACQUISITION OR CONSTRUCTION,  
30 AND SHALL NOT BE USED FOR PAYMENT OF FEES FOR DESIGN, PLANNING,

1 PREPARATION OF APPLICATIONS, OR ANY OTHER COST NOT DIRECTLY  
2 ATTRIBUTABLE TO LAND ACQUISITION OR CONSTRUCTION.

3 (2) PURCHASING FIRE FIGHTING APPARATUS, AMBULANCES OR RESCUE  
4 VEHICLES. THE AMOUNT OF A LOAN MADE FOR PURCHASING FIRE FIGHTING  
5 APPARATUS, TO ANY ONE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY SHALL NOT EXCEED  
6 [\$50,000] \$100,000 FOR ANY SINGLE FIRE FIGHTING APPARATUS  
7 EQUIPMENT OR UTILITY OR SPECIAL SERVICE VEHICLE OR HEAVY DUTY  
8 RESCUE VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY REGULATION, OR 50% OF THE TOTAL  
9 COST OF THE EQUIPMENT OR VEHICLE, WHICHEVER IS LESS. THE AMOUNT  
10 OF A LOAN MADE TO ANY ONE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE  
11 SERVICE OR RESCUE SQUAD FOR ANY AMBULANCE OR LIGHT DUTY RESCUE  
12 VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY REGULATION SHALL NOT EXCEED \$40,000 AND  
13 FOR A WATERCRAFT RESCUE VEHICLE SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$25,000]  
14 \$15,000 OR 50% OF THE COST OF THE AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLE,  
15 WHICHEVER IS LESS, AND A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FILED  
16 UNDER SUBSECTION (C) SHALL SHOW THAT THE APPLICANT HAS AVAILABLE  
17 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE VEHICLE IN UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.

18 \* \* \*

19 (6) PURCHASING OF USED FIRE FIGHTING APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT,  
20 USED AMBULANCES, USED RESCUE VEHICLES, USED COMMUNICATIONS  
21 EQUIPMENT, USED ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT OR USED PROTECTIVE  
22 EQUIPMENT: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE USED VEHICLES AND  
23 EQUIPMENT SHALL MEET THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION  
24 (NFPA) STANDARDS: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT LOANS FOR THE  
25 PURCHASE OF A USED SINGLE APPARATUS EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT EXCEED  
26 \$60,000 OR 80% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE EQUIPMENT, WHICHEVER IS  
27 LESS.

28 LOANS UNDER THIS ACT MAY BE MADE FOR ANY OF THE PURPOSES OF  
29 THIS SUBSECTION UNDERTAKEN BY A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY,  
30 VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD ON OR

1 AFTER NOVEMBER 4, 1975, THE DATE OF THE APPROVAL OF THE  
2 REFERENDUM APPROVING THE BORROWING OF MONEY FOR THE PURPOSES OF  
3 THIS ACT.

4 (B) LOANS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF  
5 NOT MORE THAN [TEN] 15 YEARS, AND ANY LOAN OF THE AMOUNT OF  
6 [ \$10,000 ] \$15,000 OR LESS SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN  
7 FIVE YEARS. LOANS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AT  
8 2% PER ANNUM AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SUCH SECURITY AS SHALL BE  
9 DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF INTEREST  
10 EARNED BY THE INVESTMENT OR REINVESTMENT OF ALL OR ANY PART OF  
11 THE PRINCIPAL OF ANY LOAN SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT  
12 AND TRANSFERRED TO THE VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND, AND SHALL  
13 NOT BE CREDITED AS PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL OR INTEREST ON THE LOAN.  
14 THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF ANY LOAN SHALL BE [ \$1,000 ] \$5,000.

15 \* \* \*

16 (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to  
17 the contrary, the maximum amount of any loan to a volunteer fire  
18 company, volunteer ambulance service and volunteer rescue squad  
19 for the purchase of fire fighting apparatus, ambulances or  
20 rescue vehicles built in this Commonwealth may exceed the loan  
21 limits set forth in this section by \$10,000.

22 Section 2 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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