
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2420 Session of
2002

INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, SAYLOR, GEORGE, FEESE, BARRAR, BEBKO-
JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BOYES, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE,
CAPPELLI, M. COHEN, COLAFELLA, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY,
CREIGHTON, CURRY, DALEY, DALLY, DERMODY, DeWEESE, DIVEN,
EACHUS, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GORDNER, GRUCELA, HABAY, HALUSKA,
HARHAI, HUTCHINSON, KAISER, LAUGHLIN, LAWLESS, LESCOVITZ,
LEVANSKY, LUCYK, MAHER, MARKOSEK, MAYERNIK, McCALL,
McILHATTAN, MELIO, MICHLOVIC, MUNDY, OLIVER, PALLONE,
PETRARCA, PETRONE, PIPPI, PISTELLA, PRESTON, READSHAW,
ROBERTS, ROONEY, RUFFING, SAINATO, SCRIMENTI, SHANER,
SOLOBAY, STEELMAN, STERN, STETLER, R. STEVENSON,
T. STEVENSON, SURRA, TANGRETTI, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRAVAGLIO,
TRELLO, TRICH, VEON, WALKO, WANSACZ, J. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI,
M. WRIGHT, YUDICHAK AND McGEEHAN, MARCH 14, 2002

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 14, 2002

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, further providing for surcharge; creating a
3 Volunteer Fire Company Grant Fund; and providing for the
4 Volunteer Fire Company Grant Program.

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

7 Section 1. Section 6505(b) and (c) of Title 75 of the
8 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended and the section
9 is amended by adding a subsection to read:

10 § 6506. Surcharge.

11 * * *

12 (b) Disposition.--Notwithstanding the provisions of 42
13 Pa.C.S. §§ 3571 (relating to Commonwealth portion of fines,

etc.) and 3573 (relating to municipal corporation portion of fines, etc.), all surcharges levied and collected under subsection (a) by any division of the unified judicial system existing under section 1 of Article V of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and 42 Pa.C.S. § 301 (relating to unified judicial system) shall be remitted to the Commonwealth for deposit as follows:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2003, 50% of the surcharges levied and collected under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the Volunteer Fire Company Grant Fund, which is hereby created as a restricted receipt account in the State Treasury. All money so deposited shall be used solely for the purposes of providing grants to eligible volunteer fire companies in accordance with section 6507 (relating to volunteer fire company grant program).

(2) All other surcharges shall be deposited in the Catastrophic Loss Benefits Continuation Fund for the purpose of funding catastrophic loss benefits in accordance with section 1798.2 (relating to transition). If the surcharge is being paid in installments, the surcharge shall be remitted on each installment.

(b.1) Use of surcharges.--The surcharges levied and collected under subsection (a) shall not be deposited for the credit or use of, or otherwise allocated, directed or paid to, counties or municipalities under the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 35 Subch. E (relating to fines, etc.), or any other statute, the Crime Victim's Compensation Board under section 477.15(b) of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, the Commission on Crime and Delinquency for victim-witness services grants under section

1 477.15(c) of The Administrative Code of 1929, rape crisis
2 centers, the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund, domestic
3 violence shelters, the Judicial Computer System Augmentation
4 Account established under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 37 Subch. C (relating
5 to judicial computer system) or under any other statute.

6 [(c) Expiration.--This section shall expire upon the
7 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the Insurance
8 Commissioner's certification that the Catastrophic Loss Benefits
9 Continuation Fund has sufficient money in it to cover unfunded
10 liability of the Catastrophic Loss Trust Fund existing on
11 December 31, 1991.]

12 (c.1) Exception.--This section shall not authorize the
13 deposit of any funds into the Volunteer Fire Company Grant Fund
14 if the deposit of funds for the purpose contained in section
15 6507 prevents timely processing and payment of catastrophic loss
16 benefits under section 1798.2 or loan repayments previously
17 authorized.

18 Section 2. Title 75 is amended by adding a section to read:
19 § 6507. Volunteer Fire Company Grant Program.

20 (a) Program established.--There is hereby established in the
21 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency the Volunteer Fire
22 Company Grant Program, which shall be administered by the
23 agency. Grants provided under this program shall be used for the
24 following purposes:

25 (1) Construction and/or renovation of the fire company's
26 facility and purchase or repair of fixtures and furnishings
27 necessary to maintain or improve the capability of the
28 company to provide fire, ambulance and rescue services.

29 (2) Repair of firefighting, ambulance or rescue
30 equipment or purchase thereof.

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

2 (b) Guidelines and procedures.--The agency, in consultation
3 with the Fire Safety Advisory Committee, as defined under the
4 act of November 13, 1995 (P.L.604, No.61), known as the State
5 Fire Commissioner Act, shall develop guidelines and procedures
6 to implement the grant program.

7 (c) Authorization.--The agency is hereby authorized to make
8 grants to eligible volunteer fire companies, based on
9 preestablished eligibility criteria developed by the agency and
10 the Fire Safety Advisory Committee.

11 (d) Limits.--Grants shall be limited to no more than \$25,000
12 per volunteer fire company in any one fiscal year.

13 (e) Restrictions.--Eligible fire companies shall only spend
14 grant funds for the purposes requested in their grant
15 application. Volunteer fire companies must provide proof of
16 these bona fide expenditures to the agency within 180 days of
17 receiving funds under this grant program and prior to any
18 subsequent applications for future grants.

19 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
20 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
21 subsection:

22 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

23 "Volunteer fire company." A nonprofit chartered corporation,
24 association or organization located in this Commonwealth which
25 provides fire protection services and which may offer other
26 voluntary emergency services within this Commonwealth. Voluntary
27 emergency services provided by a volunteer fire company may
28 include voluntary ambulance and voluntary rescue services.

29 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.