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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1888 Session of  
2005

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STABACK, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WATERS AND YOUNGBLOOD,  
JULY 13, 2005

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, JULY 13, 2005

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AN ACT

1 Establishing a grant program for municipal fire and emergency  
2 services organizations; and providing for grant funding.

3 TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Chapter 1. Preliminary Provisions

5 Section 101. Short title.

6 Section 102. Definitions.

7 Chapter 3. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization

8 Grant Program

9 Section 301. Establishment.

10 Section 302. Guidelines and procedures.

11 Section 303. Award of grants.

12 Chapter 5. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization

13 Grant Program Funding Provisions

14 Section 501. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization

1 Grant Program.

2 Section 502. Allocation of appropriated funds.

3 Chapter 21. Miscellaneous Provisions

4 Section 2101. Expiration of authority.

5 Section 2102. Effective date.

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

8 CHAPTER 1

9 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

10 Section 101. Short title.

11 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Municipal  
12 Fire and Emergency Services Organization Grant Act.

13 Section 102. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
15 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 "Advanced life support services." The term shall have the  
18 meaning given to it in the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45),  
19 known as the Emergency Medical Services Act.

20 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

21 "Basic life support services." The term shall have the  
22 meaning given to it in the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45),  
23 known as the Emergency Medical Services Act.

24 "Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.

25 "Facility." A structure or portion thereof intended for the  
26 purpose of storage or protection of firefighting apparatus,  
27 ambulances and rescue vehicles and related equipment and gear.  
28 The term does not include meeting halls, social halls, social  
29 rooms, lounges or any other facility not directly related to  
30 firefighting or the furnishing of ambulance or rescue services.

1 "Grant program." The Municipal Fire and Emergency Services  
2 Organization Grant Program established in Chapter 3.

3 "Invalid coach." The term shall have the meaning given to it  
4 in the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45), known as the  
5 Emergency Medical Services Act.

6 "Municipal fire and emergency services organization." A fire  
7 department, ambulance service or rescue squad established,  
8 operated and funded by a municipality within this Commonwealth  
9 which provides fire protection or emergency services. Emergency  
10 services provided by a municipal fire and emergency services  
11 organization may include ambulance and rescue services. The  
12 ambulance services may include basic life support or advanced  
13 life support services and the transportation of patients within  
14 this Commonwealth. The term does not include any corporation,  
15 association or organization that is primarily engaged in the  
16 operation of invalid coaches which are intended for the routine  
17 transport of persons who are convalescent or otherwise  
18 nonambulatory and do not ordinarily require emergency medical  
19 treatment while in transit. The rescue services may include  
20 rescue services in response to fire, vehicle accidents and water  
21 rescue efforts.

## 22 CHAPTER 3

### 23 MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

#### 24 GRANT PROGRAM

#### 25 Section 301. Establishment.

26 The Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization Grant  
27 Program is established and shall be administered by the agency  
28 in consultation with the commissioner. Grants provided under  
29 this program shall be used to improve and enhance the  
30 capabilities of municipal fire and emergency services

1 organizations to provide firefighting, ambulance and rescue  
2 services.

3 Section 302. Guidelines and procedures.

4 The agency shall develop guidelines, procedures and all  
5 applications necessary to implement the grant program. The  
6 agency shall submit the guidelines, procedures and applications  
7 to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the  
8 Pennsylvania Bulletin within 30 days of the effective date of  
9 this section.

10 Section 303. Award of grants.

11 (a) Authorization.--The agency is hereby authorized to make  
12 a grant award to each eligible municipal fire and emergency  
13 services organization for the following:

14 (1) Construction and/or renovation of the municipal fire  
15 and emergency services organization's facility and purchase  
16 or repair of fixtures and furnishings necessary to maintain  
17 or improve the capability of the municipal fire and emergency  
18 services organization to provide fire, ambulance and rescue  
19 services.

20 (2) Repair or purchase of firefighting, ambulance or  
21 rescue equipment.

22 (3) Retirement or reduction of debt associated with  
23 paragraph (1) or (2).

24 (4) Training and certification of members.

25 (b) Limits.--

26 (1) Grants shall be not less than \$10,000 and not more  
27 than \$1,000,000 per municipal fire and emergency services  
28 organization.

29 (2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the  
30 total dollar amount of approved applications exceeds the

1 amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this  
2 purpose.

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

4 (1) The agency shall provide written instructions and  
5 guidelines for grants under this chapter to the fire chief  
6 and president of each municipal fire and emergency services  
7 organization in this Commonwealth within 60 days of the  
8 effective date of this section.

9 (2) Municipal fire and emergency services organizations  
10 seeking grants under this chapter shall submit completed  
11 applications to the agency on or before December 31, 2005.  
12 The agency shall act to approve or disapprove the application  
13 by May 1, 2006. Applications which have not been approved or  
14 disapproved by the agency by May 1, 2006, shall be deemed  
15 approved.

16 (d) Eligibility.--To receive grant funds under this chapter,  
17 a municipal fire and emergency services organization shall have  
18 actively responded to one or more fire or rescue emergencies  
19 since July 1, 2003, and must sign an agreement to actively  
20 participate in the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting  
21 System.

## 22 CHAPTER 5

### 23 MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

#### 24 GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING PROVISIONS

25 Section 501. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization  
26 Grant Program.

27 The sum of \$8,000,000 of the amount appropriated to the  
28 agency for the Municipal Fire and Emergency Services  
29 Organization Grant Program shall be expended for the purpose of  
30 making grants to eligible municipal fire and emergency services

1 organizations pursuant to Chapter 3.

2 Section 502. Allocation of appropriated funds.

3 No moneys from the appropriation for municipal fire and  
4 emergency services organization grants shall be used for  
5 expenses or costs incurred by the agency for the administration  
6 of the grant program authorized under Chapter 3.

7 CHAPTER 21

8 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

9 Section 2101. Expiration of authority.

10 The authority of the agency to award grants under Chapter 3  
11 shall expire June 30, 2006.

12 Section 2102. Effective date.

13 This act shall take effect immediately.