

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2481 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY DAVIS, HORNAMAN, BARBIN, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA,
DALEY, DAVIDSON, DeLUCA, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HEFFLEY,
JAMES, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MANN, READSHAW, SAINATO,
SCHMOTZER, STABACK, SWANGER, TALLMAN, WATERS, YOUNGBLOOD AND
BRADFORD, JUNE 18, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 18, 2012

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for assistance to
3 volunteer fire companies, ambulance service and rescue
4 squads.

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

7 Section 1. Section 7364(a) of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 7364. Assistance to volunteer fire companies, ambulance
10 service and rescue squads.

11 (a) General rule.--The agency is authorized, upon
12 application of any volunteer fire company, volunteer ambulance
13 service or volunteer rescue squad, to make loans for the
14 following purposes:

15 (1) Establishing or modernizing facilities that house
16 firefighting equipment, ambulance or rescue vehicles. The
17 amount of a loan for establishing or modernizing facilities

1 made to any one volunteer fire company, ambulance service or
2 rescue squad shall not exceed 50% of the total cost of the
3 facilities or modernization or [\$200,000] \$500,000, whichever
4 is less, and a notarized financial statement filed under
5 subsection (c) shall show that the applicant has available
6 20% of the total cost of the facilities in unobligated funds.
7 Proceeds of the loan shall be used only for purposes of
8 structure or land acquisition or renovation or construction
9 and shall not be used for payment of fees for design,
10 planning, preparation of applications or any other cost not
11 directly attributable to structure or land acquisition or
12 renovation or construction.

13 (2) Purchasing firefighting apparatus, ambulances or
14 rescue vehicles. The amount of a loan made for purchasing
15 firefighting apparatus to any one volunteer fire company
16 shall not exceed [\$100,000] \$500,000 for any single
17 firefighting apparatus equipment or utility or special
18 service vehicle or heavy duty rescue vehicle as defined by
19 regulation, or 50% of the total cost of the equipment or
20 vehicle, whichever is less, except for loans for aerial
21 apparatus as defined by regulation, which shall not exceed
22 \$150,000. The amount of a loan made to any one volunteer fire
23 company, ambulance service or rescue squad for any ambulance
24 or light duty rescue vehicle as defined by regulation shall
25 not exceed \$50,000 and for a watercraft rescue vehicle shall
26 not exceed \$15,000 or 50% of the cost of the ambulance or
27 rescue vehicle, whichever is less, and a notarized financial
28 statement filed under subsection (c) shall show that the
29 applicant has available 20% of the total cost of the vehicle
30 in unobligated funds.

1 (3) Purchasing protective, accessory or communication
2 equipment. No volunteer fire company, ambulance service or
3 rescue squad shall receive a loan for protective, accessory
4 or communicative equipment more than once in any five-year
5 period. Each volunteer fire company, ambulance service or
6 rescue squad may apply for a loan for a mobile and portable
7 radio unit for each existing serviceable apparatus equipment,
8 ambulance or rescue vehicle. Radio equipment obtained through
9 loans under this subchapter shall be equipped with a
10 frequency or frequencies licensed by the Federal
11 Communications Commission for firefighting or emergency
12 response purposes. A notarized financial statement shall be
13 filed and loans under this subchapter for the purchase of
14 protective, accessory or communicative equipment shall not
15 exceed \$10,000.

16 (4) Refinancing debt incurred or contracts entered into
17 after November 4, 1975, and used for the purchase of
18 apparatus equipment or for the construction or modernization
19 of facilities or for modification of apparatus equipment in
20 order to comply with National Fire Protection Association
21 standards.

22 (5) Repair or rehabilitation of apparatus equipment.
23 Where it has been determined that existing apparatus
24 equipment no longer meets the standards of the National Fire
25 Protection Association and the repair or rehabilitation of
26 such equipment will bring it in compliance with National Fire
27 Protection Association standards, loans for the repair or
28 rehabilitation for a single apparatus equipment shall be for
29 at least \$1,000 but shall not exceed the lesser of \$35,000 or
30 80% of the total cost of repair or rehabilitation.

1 (6) Purchasing of used firefighting apparatus,
2 equipment, used ambulances, used rescue vehicles, used
3 communications equipment, used accessory equipment or used
4 protective equipment, except that the used vehicles and
5 equipment shall meet the National Fire Protection Association
6 (NFPA) standards and loans for the purchase of a used single
7 apparatus equipment shall not exceed [\$60,000] \$500,000 or
8 80% of the total cost of the equipment, whichever is less.

9 (7) Purchasing Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting
10 System (PennFIRS) hardware and software. A volunteer fire
11 company shall be eligible to apply one time only for a loan
12 of not more than \$2,000 or 75% of the cost of such
13 acquisition, whichever is less, and with a term not exceeding
14 five years for the purpose of acquiring the hardware and
15 software necessary to participate in the Pennsylvania Fire
16 Information Reporting System. The Office of the State Fire
17 Commissioner shall develop, at its discretion, such
18 procedures and forms as it may deem necessary to facilitate
19 loans for PennFIRS hardware and software. The loans shall be
20 secured as required by law.

21 * * *

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