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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1518 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY WAUGH, TARTAGLIONE, PILEGGI, ERICKSON, SOLOBAY,  
ALLOWAY, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, WASHINGTON AND COSTA,  
MAY 11, 2012

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, MAY 11,  
2012

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for grants to municipal fire  
3 and emergency services organizations; and imposing a  
4 pyrotechnic public safety fee.

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

7 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
8 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 79

10 GRANTS TO MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY

11 SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS

12 Subchapter

13 A. Preliminary Provisions

14 B. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organizations

15 Grant Program

16 C. Grant Funding Provisions

17 D. Miscellaneous Provisions

18 SUBCHAPTER A

1 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

2 Sec.

3 7901. Scope of chapter.

4 7902. Definitions.

5 § 7901. Scope of chapter.

6 This chapter relates to grants to municipal fire and  
7 emergency services organizations.

8 § 7902. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
10 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Advanced life support services." The advanced prehospital  
13 and interhospital emergency medical care of serious illness or  
14 injury by appropriately trained health professionals and by  
15 certified EMT-paramedics.

16 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

17 "Basic life support services." Prehospital or interhospital  
18 emergency medical care and management of illness or injury  
19 performed by specially trained and certified or licensed  
20 personnel.

21 "Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.

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

28 "Grant program." The Municipal Fire and Emergency Services  
29 Organizations Grant Program established in Subchapter B  
30 (relating to Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organizations

1 Grant Program).

2 "Invalid coach." A vehicle which is primarily maintained,  
3 operated and intended to be used for routine transport of  
4 persons who are convalescent or otherwise nonambulatory and do  
5 not ordinarily require emergency medical treatment while in  
6 transit. The vehicles will not be considered ambulance or  
7 emergency medical service vehicles.

8 "Municipal fire and emergency services organization." As  
9 follows:

10 (1) A fire department, ambulance service or rescue squad  
11 established, operated and funded by a municipality within  
12 this Commonwealth which meets all of the following:

13 (i) Provides fire protection or emergency services.

14 (ii) Has personnel which consists of all paid  
15 employees or a combination of paid employees and unpaid  
16 volunteers.

17 (iii) Provides 24-hour, 365-days-per-year staffing  
18 by full-time, paid employees.

19 (2) Emergency services provided by a municipal fire and  
20 emergency services organization may include:

21 (i) Ambulance services, which may include basic life  
22 support or advanced life support services and the  
23 transportation of patients within this Commonwealth.

24 (ii) Rescue services, which may include response to  
25 fire, vehicle accidents and water rescue efforts.

26 (3) The term does not include any corporation,  
27 association or organization that is primarily engaged in the  
28 operation of invalid coaches which are intended for the  
29 routine transport of persons who are convalescent or  
30 otherwise nonambulatory and do not ordinarily require

1 emergency medical treatment while in transit.

2 SUBCHAPTER B

3 MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

4 ORGANIZATIONS GRANT PROGRAM

5 Sec.

6 7911. Establishment.

7 7912. Publication and notice.

8 7913. Award of grants.

9 § 7911. Establishment.

10 The Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization Grant  
11 Program is established and shall be administered by the agency  
12 in consultation with the commissioner. Grants provided under  
13 this program shall be used to improve and enhance the  
14 capabilities of municipal fire and emergency services  
15 organizations to provide services.

16 § 7912. Publication and notice.

17 The agency shall publish notice of the grant program  
18 availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for  
19 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin:

20 (1) within 30 days of June 28, 2012, for the fiscal  
21 years beginning July 1, 2011, and July 1, 2012; and

22 (2) by August 8 for fiscal years beginning after June  
23 30, 2013.

24 § 7913. Award of grants.

25 (a) Authorization.--The agency is authorized to make a grant  
26 award to each municipal fire and emergency services organization  
27 for the following:

28 (1) Construction and renovation of the municipal fire  
29 and emergency services organization's facility and purchase  
30 or repair of fixtures and furnishings necessary to maintain

1 or improve the capability of the organization to provide  
2 services.

3 (2) Repair of equipment or purchase thereof.

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

5 (4) Training and certification of members.

6 (b) Limits.--

7 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), grants shall be  
8 not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$15,000 per municipal  
9 fire and emergency services organization company.

10 (2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the  
11 total dollar amount of the approved application exceeds the  
12 amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this  
13 purpose.

14 (3) In a municipality where there are two or more  
15 municipal fire and emergency services organizations and if  
16 two or more municipal fire and emergency services  
17 organizations consolidated their use of equipment,  
18 firefighters and services within five years preceding the  
19 date of the current year application submission deadline, the  
20 consolidated entity shall be deemed eligible to receive a  
21 grant not to exceed the amount of the combined total for  
22 which the individual companies would have been eligible had  
23 they not consolidated.

24 (c) Time for filing application and agency action.--

25 (1) Within 30 days of June 28, 2012, for the fiscal  
26 years beginning July 1, 2011, and July 1, 2012, and by  
27 September 1 of each year thereafter, the agency shall provide  
28 written instructions for grants under this chapter to the  
29 president of every municipal fire and emergency services  
30 organization in this Commonwealth.



1 under the act of May 15, 1939 (P.L.134, No.65), referred to as  
2 the Fireworks Law, a fee equal to 25% of the purchase price of  
3 the consumer fireworks.

4 (b) Distribution.--Money collected as a result of the fee  
5 imposed under subsection (a) shall be distributed as follows:

6 (1) One million dollars shall be appropriated annually  
7 to fund grants to eligible municipal fire and emergency  
8 services organizations in accordance with this chapter.

9 (2) Remaining funds shall be allocated in accordance  
10 with section 7833(b) (relating to allocation of appropriated  
11 funds).

12 § 7922. Prohibition.

13 No money from the appropriation under section 7921(b)  
14 (relating to pyrotechnic public safety fee) for municipal fire  
15 and emergency services organization grants may be used for  
16 expenses or costs incurred by the agency for the administration  
17 of the grant program authorized under Subchapter B (relating to  
18 Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organizations Grant  
19 Program).

20 SUBCHAPTER D

21 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

22 Sec.

23 7931. Expiration of authority.

24 7932. Special provisions.

25 § 7931. Expiration of authority.

26 The authority of the agency to award grants under Subchapter  
27 B (relating to Municipal Fire and Emergency Services  
28 Organizations Grant Program) shall expire June 30, 2022.

29 § 7932. Special provisions.

30 (a) Claim.--An applicant for a grant under this chapter who

1 failed to return a signed agreement for the preceding year shall  
2 not be permitted to apply for a grant in the current year unless  
3 the applicant has provided the commissioner with a reasonable  
4 written explanation as to why it did not claim its grant.

5 (b) Demonstration.--An applicant for a grant under this  
6 chapter must demonstrate that it complied with all of the terms  
7 of its grant agreement in the previous year regarding the use of  
8 the grant money it received in previous years or it shall not be  
9 eligible to receive a grant in the current year.

10 (c) Approval.--An applicant shall not be approved for a  
11 grant to be used for purposes other than those stated in section  
12 7913(a) (relating to award of grants).

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