
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 955 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, COSTA, ARGALL, BAKER, BREWSTER,
FONTANA, GORDNER, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, RAFFERTY,
RESCHENTHALER, SABATINA, SCHWANK, TOMLINSON, WARD, WHITE AND
YUDICHAK, NOVEMBER 13, 2017

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 13, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for firefighter and emergency service
7 training.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1550 of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended to read:

13 Section 1550. Firefighter and Emergency Service Training.--

14 (a) [Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year and each school
15 year thereafter, a] A school district may offer firefighter and
16 emergency service training as credit-earning courses to students
17 of the age of sixteen (16) years or older, except as otherwise
18 provided in subsection (c). Such courses may include:

19 (1) Training as a Firefighter I from the National Board on

1 Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

2 (2) Training as an emergency medical technician pursuant to
3 the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45), known as the
4 "Emergency Medical Services Act."

5 (b) A school district that offers firefighter and emergency
6 service training as credit-earning courses shall provide
7 transportation to and supervision during any firefighter and
8 emergency service training program that takes place off school
9 grounds. Supervision of training shall be conducted as a
10 cooperative education program in accordance with the provisions
11 of 22 Pa. Code § 11.28 (relating to out-of-school programs).

12 (c) The Community College Secondary Education Fire Training
13 Pilot Program is established. The purpose of the pilot program
14 is to provide high school students with instruction through a
15 partnership between community colleges and school districts or
16 area vocational-technical schools, or both, to increase the
17 number of individuals capable of becoming volunteer
18 firefighters. The pilot program shall be implemented in
19 accordance with the following:

20 (1) The State Fire Commissioner shall accept proposals from
21 community colleges in this Commonwealth for the pilot program.
22 From the proposals submitted, the State Fire Commissioner shall
23 select three community colleges to offer the pilot program. The
24 State Fire Commissioner, to the greatest extent practicable,
25 shall select one community college each from the eastern,
26 central and western regions of this Commonwealth. Nothing in
27 this section shall prohibit a community college from
28 incorporating emergency medical services instruction in the
29 pilot program.

30 (2) A community college selected by the State Fire

1 Commissioner shall operate the pilot program by entering into an
2 agreement with a school district or an area vocational-technical
3 school, or both, for the provision of fire instruction to
4 students who are in at least the ninth grade and leading to
5 Firefighter I certification.

6 (3) A nonlapsing, restricted account is established in the
7 State Treasury, to be known as the Fire Training Fund. The State
8 Fire Commissioner may accept monetary donations and other money
9 for deposit into the Fire Training Fund from a person, business,
10 foundation, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of
11 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C.
12 § 501(c)(3)) or government entity on behalf of the Commonwealth.

13 (4) Money may be appropriated to the State Fire Commissioner
14 to carry out the provisions of this subsection. Each community
15 college offering the pilot program shall receive at least one
16 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the duration of
17 the pilot program.

18 (5) Any funds appropriated, donated or transferred under
19 this subsection and interest earned on the Fire Training Fund
20 shall be deposited into the Fire Training Fund.

21 (6) During the pilot program, the Legislative Budget and
22 Finance Committee shall conduct a survey of volunteer fire
23 companies in the municipalities surrounding the school districts
24 that participated in the pilot program to determine whether the
25 pilot program increased the number of volunteer firefighters and
26 any additional recommendations. The results of the survey shall
27 be submitted to the chair and minority chair of the Veterans
28 Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate and
29 the chair and minority chair of the Veterans Affairs and
30 Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives

1 within six months of the expiration of the pilot program.

2 (7) The pilot program shall expire four years from the
3 effective date of this subsection.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2018, or
5 immediately, whichever is later.