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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1448 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY STURLA, ZABEL, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG,  
FREEMAN, SNYDER, READSHAW, ROZZI, GALLOWAY, CIRESI, SAINATO,  
DALEY, WEBSTER AND MADDEN, MAY 13, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MAY 13, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in volunteer fire company, ambulance  
3 service and rescue squad assistance, providing for referendum  
4 to expand loan assistance.

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 section to read:

9 § 7378.1a. Referendum to expand loan assistance.

10 (a) Referendum.--The question of expanding the use of the  
11 indebtedness authorized under sections 7367 (relating to  
12 authority to borrow) and 7378.1 (relating to referendum for  
13 additional indebtedness) for volunteer loan assistance under  
14 this subchapter to include paid fire departments and companies  
15 for the purpose of establishing and modernizing facilities to  
16 house firefighting apparatus equipment, ambulances and rescue  
17 vehicles, protective and communications equipment and any other  
18 accessory equipment necessary for the proper performance of such

1 organizations' duties, shall be submitted to the electorate at  
2 the next primary, municipal or general election held after July  
3 1, 2019.

4 (b) Certification.--The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall  
5 certify the question to the county boards of election.

6 (c) Question to the electorate.--The question shall be in  
7 substantially the following form:

8 Do you favor expanding the use of the indebtedness authorized  
9 under 35 Pa.C.S. §§ 7367 (relating to authority to borrow)  
10 and 7378.1 (relating to referendum for additional  
11 indebtedness) for the volunteer loan assistance under 35  
12 Pa.C.S. Ch. 73 Subch. E (relating to volunteer fire company,  
13 ambulance service and rescue squad assistance) to include  
14 loans to fire companies that provide services through paid  
15 personnel for the purpose of establishing and modernizing  
16 facilities to house firefighting apparatus equipment,  
17 ambulances and rescue vehicles, protective and communications  
18 equipment and any other accessory equipment necessary for the  
19 proper performance of such organizations' duties?

20 (d) Election procedure.--The referendum shall be conducted  
21 in accordance with the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320),  
22 known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, except that the time  
23 limits for advertisement of notice of the referendum may be  
24 waived as to the question.

25 (e) Limitation.--This section shall not be construed as  
26 authorizing any additional borrowing for loan assistance to fire  
27 companies.

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