
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1628 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY STURLA, HILL-EVANS, SNYDER, SCHLOSSBERG, KULIK,
OTTEN, SAINATO, BURNS, STRUZZI, FREEMAN, HOWARD, CIRESI,
DALEY AND PASHINSKI, JUNE 17, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 17, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in grants to fire companies and
3 emergency medical services companies, further providing for
4 definitions, for establishment of Fire Company Grant Program
5 and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program, for publication
6 and notice, for award of grants, for consolidation incentive,
7 for Fire Company Grant Program, for Emergency Medical
8 Services Grant Program, for allocation of appropriated funds
9 and for expiration of authority.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The definition of "agency" in section 7802 of
13 Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is repealed:
14 § 7802. Definitions.

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

18 * * *

19 ["Agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.]

20 * * *

1 Section 2. Sections 7811, 7812, 7813(a), (b), and (c), 7814,
2 7821, 7822, 7823(a) and (c), 7831, 7832, 7833 and 7841 of Title
3 35 are amended to read:

4 § 7811. Establishment.

5 The Fire Company Grant Program is established and shall be
6 administered by the [agency in consultation with the]
7 commissioner. Grants provided under this program shall be used
8 to improve and enhance the capabilities of the fire company to
9 provide firefighting, ambulance and rescue services.

10 § 7812. Publication and notice.

11 The [agency shall publish] commissioner shall transmit notice
12 of the grant program availability [through] to the Legislative
13 Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin:

14 (1) within 30 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
15 years beginning July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007; and

16 (2) by August 8 for fiscal years beginning after June
17 30, 2008.

18 § 7813. Award of grants.

19 (a) Authorization.--The [agency] commissioner is authorized
20 to make a grant award to each eligible fire company for the
21 following:

22 (1) Construction and renovation of the fire company's
23 facility and purchase or repair of fixtures and furnishings
24 necessary to maintain or improve the capability of the
25 company to provide fire, ambulance and rescue services.

26 (2) Repair of firefighting, ambulance or rescue
27 equipment or purchase thereof.

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

29 (4) Training and certification of members.

30 (5) Training and education of the general public

1 regarding fire prevention.

2 (6) Recruitment and retention.

3 * * *

4 (b) Limits.--

5 (1) Except as provided in [paragraph] paragraphs (1.1)
6 and (3), grants shall be not less than \$2,500 and not more
7 than \$15,000 per fire company.

8 (1.1) Grants shall be awarded to paid municipal fire
9 companies based on the population, under the most recent
10 Federal decennial census, of the municipality in which the
11 fire company is located as follows:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Maximum Grant</u>
<u>Up to 20,000</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>
<u>From 20,001 to 40,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
<u>From 40,001 to 60,000</u>	<u>\$75,000</u>
<u>From 60,001 to 80,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>
<u>From 80,001 to 100,000</u>	<u>\$125,000</u>
<u>From 100,001 to 200,000</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>
<u>From 200,001 to 900,000</u>	<u>\$400,000</u>
<u>Over 900,000</u>	<u>\$1,500,000</u>

21 (2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the
22 total dollar amount of the approved application exceeds the
23 amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this
24 purpose.

25 (3) In a municipality where there are two or more
26 volunteer fire companies and if two or more volunteer fire
27 companies consolidated their use of equipment, firefighters
28 and services within 10 years preceding the date of the
29 current year application submission deadline, the
30 consolidated entity shall be deemed eligible to receive a

1 grant not to exceed the amount of the combined total for
2 which the individual companies would have been eligible had
3 they not consolidated.

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

5 (1) Within 30 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
6 years beginning July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, and by
7 September 1 of each year thereafter, the [agency]
8 commissioner shall provide written instructions for grants
9 under this chapter to:

10 (i) except as set forth in subparagraph (ii), the
11 fire chief and president of every fire company; or

12 (ii) in the case of a municipal fire company, the
13 chief executive of the municipality.

14 (2) Within 45 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
15 years beginning July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, and by
16 September 8 of each year thereafter, the [agency]
17 commissioner shall provide applications to individuals
18 specified in paragraph (1). The application for the fiscal
19 years commencing July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, shall be a
20 combined application. Fire companies seeking grants under
21 this chapter shall submit completed applications to the
22 [agency] commissioner. The application period shall remain
23 open for 45 days each year. The [agency] commissioner shall
24 act to approve or disapprove applications within 60 days of
25 the application submission deadline each year. Applications
26 which have not been approved or disapproved by the [agency]
27 commissioner within 60 days after the close of the
28 application period each year shall be deemed approved.

29 * * *

30 § 7814. Consolidation incentive.

1 If, after July 31, 2003, two or more volunteer fire companies
2 consolidate their use of facilities, equipment, firefighters and
3 services, the consolidated entity may, upon notification of the
4 [agency] commissioner, be eligible for a reduction of the
5 interest rate payable on any outstanding principal balance owed,
6 as of the date of consolidation, by any or all of the
7 consolidating companies to the Volunteer Companies Loan Fund for
8 loans made under the act of July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, No.208),
9 known as the Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Service and
10 Rescue Squad Assistance Act, or under Subchapter E of Chapter 73
11 (relating to volunteer fire company, ambulance service and
12 rescue squad assistance). The reduction in the interest rate
13 payable shall be from 2% to 1%. Upon receipt of such
14 notification, the [agency, in conjunction with the State Fire
15 Commissioner,] commissioner shall determine and verify that the
16 consolidated entity is in fact a bona fide consolidated
17 volunteer fire company. If the [agency] commissioner determines
18 that the consolidated entity is a bona fide consolidated
19 volunteer fire company, it shall reduce the interest rate
20 payable on any outstanding principal balance owed to the
21 Volunteer Companies Loan Fund for loans made under the former
22 Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad
23 Assistance Act, or under Subchapter E of Chapter 73, for which
24 the consolidating companies or the consolidated entity may be
25 individually or jointly responsible. The [agency] commissioner
26 may promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
27 carry out the provisions of this section.

28 § 7821. Establishment.

29 The Emergency Medical Services Grant Program is established
30 and shall be administered by the [agency] commissioner. Grants

1 provided under this program shall be used to improve and enhance
2 the capabilities of EMS companies to provide ambulance,
3 emergency medical, basic life support and advanced life support
4 services.

5 § 7822. Publication and notice.

6 The [agency shall publish] commissioner shall transmit notice
7 of the grant program availability [through] to the Legislative
8 Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin:

9 (1) within 30 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
10 years beginning July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007; and

11 (2) by August 8 for fiscal years beginning after June
12 30, 2008.

13 § 7823. Award of grants.

14 (a) Authorization.--The [agency] commissioner is authorized
15 to make a grant award to each eligible EMS company for the
16 following:

17 (1) Construction and renovation of the EMS company's
18 facility and purchase or repair of fixtures, furnishings,
19 office equipment and support services necessary to maintain
20 or improve the capability of the ambulance service to provide
21 ambulance, emergency medical, basic life support and advanced
22 life support services.

23 (2) Repair of ambulance equipment or purchase thereof.

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

25 (4) Training and certification of members.

26 (5) Recruitment and retention.

27 * * *

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

29 (1) Within 30 days of June 28, 2007, for the fiscal
30 years commencing July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, and by

1 September 1 of each year thereafter, the [agency]
2 commissioner shall provide written instructions for grants
3 under this chapter to the president of every EMS company in
4 this Commonwealth.

5 (2) Within 45 days of the effective date of June 28,
6 2007, for the fiscal years commencing July 1, 2006, and July
7 1, 2007, and by September 8 of each year, the [agency]
8 commissioner shall provide applications to the president of
9 every EMS company. The application for the fiscal years
10 commencing July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, shall be a
11 combined application. EMS companies seeking grants under this
12 chapter shall submit completed applications to the [agency]
13 commissioner. The application period shall remain open for 45
14 days each year. The [agency] commissioner shall act to
15 approve or disapprove applications within 60 days of the
16 application submission deadline each year. Applications which
17 have not been approved or disapproved by the [agency]
18 commissioner within 60 days after the close of the
19 application period each year shall be deemed approved.

20 § 7831. Fire Company Grant Program.

21 The sum of [\$22,000,000] \$27,000,000 of the amount
22 appropriated to the [agency] commissioner for fire company
23 grants under section 1799-E of the act of April 9, 1929
24 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, shall be expended
25 for the purpose of making grants to eligible fire companies
26 under Subchapter B (relating to fire company grant program).

27 § 7832. Emergency Medical Services [Company] Grant Program.

28 The sum of [\$3,000,000] \$6,750,000 of the amount appropriated
29 to the [agency] commissioner for EMS company grants under
30 section 1799-E of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176),

1 known as The Fiscal Code, shall be expended for the purpose of
2 making grants to eligible EMS companies under Subchapter C
3 (relating to emergency medical services grant program).

4 § 7833. Allocation of appropriated funds.

5 (a) Administration.--

6 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), no money
7 from the appropriation for grants shall be used for expenses
8 or costs incurred by the [agency] commissioner for the
9 administration of the grant programs authorized under
10 Subchapters B (relating to fire company grant program) and C
11 (relating to emergency medical services grant program).

12 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the commissioner may
13 use not more than [\$800,000] \$1,000,000 of any unencumbered
14 funds remaining in the fund for administrative costs for
15 grant program implementation under this chapter.

16 (b) Grant allocation.--Unless otherwise expressly stated,
17 money appropriated to the [agency] commissioner for purposes of
18 company grants shall be allocated as follows:

19 (1) [Eighty-eight] The sum of \$200,000 from the amount
20 appropriated shall be expended for a single-point location in
21 the office of the commissioner for firefighter and emergency
22 medical services provider recruitment and retention.

23 (1.1) Eighty percent of the amount appropriated
24 remaining after the expenditure under paragraph (1) shall be
25 used for making grants to eligible fire companies under
26 Subchapter B.

27 (2) [Twelve] Twenty percent of the amount appropriated
28 remaining after the expenditure under paragraph (1) shall be
29 used for making grants to eligible EMS companies under
30 Subchapter C.

1 § 7841. Expiration of authority.

2 The authority of the [agency] commissioner to award grants
3 under Subchapters B (relating to fire company grant program) and
4 C (relating to emergency medical services grant program) shall
5 expire June 30, [2020] 2024.

6 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.