

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 1673 Session of  
2019

INTRODUCED BY FARRY, BARRAR, DIGIROLAMO, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHMITT, MEHAFFIE, KULIK, LONGIETTI, HELM, STAATS, ULLMAN, MILLARD, THOMAS, POLINCHOCK, O'MARA, READSHAW, DUNBAR, YOUNGBLOOD, CAUSER, HILL-EVANS, GALLOWAY, BROWN, CIRESI, SAINATO, D. MILLER, DeLUCA, KIRKLAND, T. DAVIS, FREEMAN, STRUZZI, QUINN, KORTZ, WARNER, DOWLING, WEBSTER, MULLINS, DELLOSO AND TOMLINSON, JUNE 24, 2019

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, OCTOBER 19, 2020

## AN ACT

1 ~~Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania~~ <--  
2 ~~Consolidated Statutes, in volunteer firefighters, further~~  
3 ~~providing for definitions, for statement of purpose, for~~  
4 ~~funds and for audits.~~  
5 AMENDING TITLE 35 (HEALTH AND SAFETY) OF THE PENNSYLVANIA <--  
6 CONSOLIDATED STATUTES, IN COMMONWEALTH SERVICES, FURTHER  
7 PROVIDING FOR SCOPE OF SUBCHAPTER, FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS  
8 AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR ASSISTANCE  
9 TO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES, AMBULANCE SERVICE AND RESCUE  
10 SQUADS, FOR VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND, FOR POWERS AND  
11 DUTIES OF OFFICE, FOR DISPOSITION AND USE OF PROCEEDS, FOR  
12 VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND AND INVESTMENTS, FOR  
13 REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST, FOR  
14 TEMPORARY FINANCING AUTHORIZATION, FOR AUTHORIZATION OF  
15 CONTRACTS, REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE AND AMOUNT AND FOR  
16 REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE AND AMOUNT, PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM  
17 TO EXPAND LOAN ASSISTANCE AND FOR ANNUAL REPORT AND  
18 DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR  
19 DEFINITIONS AND FOR STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER, PROVIDING FOR  
20 CURRICULUM AND TRAINING AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR  
21 PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY, FOR PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER  
22 LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND FOR FIRE SAFETY ADVISORY  
23 COMMITTEE; IN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR  
24 DEFINITIONS, FOR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, FOR FUNDS AND FOR  
25 AUDITS AND PROVIDING FOR FIRE RELIEF FORMULA STUDY; IN GRANTS  
26 TO FIRE COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES,  
27 FURTHER PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR ESTABLISHMENT, FOR  
28 PUBLICATION AND NOTICE, FOR AWARD OF GRANTS, FOR

1 CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE, FOR ESTABLISHMENT, FOR PUBLICATION  
2 AND NOTICE AND FOR AWARD OF GRANTS, PROVIDING FOR  
3 CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR FIRE COMPANY  
4 GRANT PROGRAM, FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY GRANT  
5 PROGRAM, FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING, FOR ALLOCATION OF  
6 APPROPRIATED FUNDS, FOR EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY AND FOR  
7 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL REPORTS; IN  
8 INCENTIVES FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS OF FIRE COMPANIES AND  
9 NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCIES, FURTHER  
10 PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION, FOR  
11 REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AND FOR REJECTION AND APPEAL; AND  
12 MAKING EDITORIAL CHANGES.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 ~~Section 1. Section 7412 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania~~ <--  
16 ~~Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:~~  
17 ~~§ 7412. Definitions.~~

18 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter~~  
19 ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~  
20 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

21 ~~"Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.~~

22 ~~\* \* \*~~

23 ~~"Length of service award program." A system established by a~~  
24 ~~volunteer fire company or volunteer firefighters' relief~~  
25 ~~association to provide tax-deferred income benefits to active~~  
26 ~~volunteer members of a fire service.~~

27 ~~"Volunteer fire company." As defined in section 7802~~  
28 ~~(relating to definitions).~~

29 ~~\* \* \*~~

30 ~~Section 2. Section 7413 introductory paragraph and (4) of~~  
31 ~~Title 35 are amended and the section is amended by adding a~~  
32 ~~paragraph to read:~~

33 ~~§ 7413. Statement of purpose.~~

34 ~~The purpose of this subchapter is to encourage individuals to~~  
35 ~~take part in the fire service as volunteer firefighters by~~  
36 ~~establishing criteria and standards for orderly administration~~

1 ~~and conduct of affairs of firefighters' relief associations to~~  
2 ~~ensure, as far as circumstances will reasonably permit, that~~  
3 ~~funds shall be available for the assistance to and protection of~~  
4 ~~volunteer firefighters and their heirs in order to provide:~~

5 \* \* \*

6 ~~(4) Safeguards for preserving life, health and safety of~~  
7 ~~volunteer firefighters to ensure their availability to~~  
8 ~~participate in the fire service, including necessary~~  
9 ~~training.~~

10 \* \* \*

11 ~~(6.1) Financial assistance to recruit and retain~~  
12 ~~volunteer firefighters.~~

13 \* \* \*

14 ~~Section 3. Section 7416(a) and (f) (11) of Title 35 are~~  
15 ~~amended and subsection (f) is amended by adding paragraphs to~~  
16 ~~read:~~

17 ~~§ 7416. Funds.~~

18 ~~(a) General rule. A volunteer firefighters' relief~~  
19 ~~association may solicit and receive gifts and contributions from~~  
20 ~~any source, including municipal corporations, but shall not have~~  
21 ~~the right to receive any portion of the money distributed to~~  
22 ~~political subdivisions of this Commonwealth under Chapter 7 of~~  
23 ~~the act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1005, No.205), known as the~~  
24 ~~Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, unless~~  
25 ~~and until the governing body of at least one political~~  
26 ~~subdivision shall have certified to the Auditor General that the~~  
27 ~~association is a bona fide volunteer firefighters' relief~~  
28 ~~association, affiliated with a fire company which affords~~  
29 ~~protection against fire to all or a portion of the political~~  
30 ~~subdivision. This section shall include any non fire company~~

1 ~~affiliated relief association in existence and receiving funds~~  
2 ~~as provided for under this subchapter prior to November 23,~~  
3 ~~2010.~~

4 \* \* \*

5 ~~(f) Use. Funds of any volunteer firefighters' relief~~  
6 ~~association may be spent:~~

7 \* \* \*

8 ~~(11) To purchase safeguards for preserving life, health~~  
9 ~~and safety of volunteer firefighters to ensure their~~  
10 ~~availability to participate in the volunteer fire service,~~  
11 ~~including necessary training.~~

12 \* \* \*

13 ~~(18) To provide financial assistance for activities and~~  
14 ~~material needed to aid in the recruitment and retention of~~  
15 ~~volunteer firefighters.~~

16 ~~(19) To establish and pay for length of service award~~  
17 ~~programs.~~

18 Section 4. ~~Section 7418 of Title 35 is amended to read:~~

19 ~~§ 7418. Audits.~~

20 ~~(a) General rule.~~

21 ~~(1) The Office of Auditor General shall have the power~~  
22 ~~and its duty shall be to audit the accounts and records of~~  
23 ~~every volunteer firefighters' relief association receiving~~  
24 ~~money under Chapter 7 of the act of December 18, 1984~~  
25 ~~(P.L.1005, No.205), known as the Municipal Pension Plan~~  
26 ~~Funding Standard and Recovery Act, as far as may be necessary~~  
27 ~~to satisfy the Auditor General that the money received was or~~  
28 ~~is being expended for no purpose other than that authorized~~  
29 ~~by this subchapter. Copies of all audits shall be furnished~~  
30 ~~to the Governor.~~

1 ~~(2) The commissioner, in consultation with the fire~~  
2 ~~safety advisory committee, shall establish and publish~~  
3 ~~annually, on the Office of the State Fire Commissioner's~~  
4 ~~publicly accessible Internet website, eligible uses of the~~  
5 ~~money in accordance with this subchapter.~~

6 ~~(3) The commissioner may receive inquiries from the fire~~  
7 ~~services on eligible uses of money and, in consultation with~~  
8 ~~the Fire Safety Advisory Committee, make a determination on~~  
9 ~~the eligible use of money on the equipment or service that is~~  
10 ~~the subject of the inquiry.~~

11 ~~(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the commissioner~~  
12 ~~shall maintain authority relating to the eligible uses of~~  
13 ~~money received.~~

14 (b) Findings. If the Auditor General finds that [any] money  
15 received by a volunteer firefighters' relief association has  
16 been expended for a purpose other than one authorized by this  
17 subchapter, the Auditor General shall immediately notify the  
18 Governor and the commissioner and shall decline to approve  
19 further requisitions calling for payment to the volunteer  
20 firefighters' relief association until the improperly expended  
21 amount has been reimbursed to the relief association fund.

22 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

23 SECTION 1. THE HEADING OF SUBCHAPTER E OF CHAPTER 73 OF <--  
24 TITLE 35 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES IS AMENDED TO  
25 READ:

26 SUBCHAPTER E

27 [VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE SERVICE

28 AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE]

29 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

30 LOAN PROGRAM

1 SECTION 2. SECTIONS 7361 AND 7362(B) OF TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED  
2 TO READ:

3 § 7361. SCOPE OF SUBCHAPTER.

4 THIS SUBCHAPTER RELATES TO [VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE  
5 SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE] FIRE COMPANIES AND  
6 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES.

7 § 7362. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.

8 \* \* \*

9 (B) PURPOSE.--[IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBCHAPTER TO  
10 IMPLEMENT SECTION 5 OF THE ACT OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1975 (P.L.296,  
11 NO.95), ENTITLED "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE INDEBTEDNESS, WITH THE  
12 APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS, OF TEN MILLION DOLLARS FOR LOANS TO  
13 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICES AND  
14 VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING OR  
15 MODERNIZING FACILITIES TO HOUSE FIRE FIGHTING APPARATUS  
16 EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES, AND RESCUE VEHICLES, AND FOR PURCHASING  
17 NEW FIRE FIGHTING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES, AND RESCUE  
18 VEHICLES, PROTECTIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND ANY OTHER  
19 ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF SUCH  
20 ORGANIZATIONS' DUTIES," SECTION 5 OF THE ACT OF JUNE 30, 1981  
21 (P.L.138, NO.44), ENTITLED "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE INDEBTEDNESS,  
22 WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS, OF \$15,000,000 FOR LOANS TO  
23 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICES AND  
24 VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING OR  
25 MODERNIZING FACILITIES TO HOUSE FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS  
26 EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES, AND RESCUE VEHICLES, AND FOR PURCHASING  
27 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES, AND RESCUE  
28 VEHICLES, PROTECTIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND ANY OTHER  
29 ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF SUCH  
30 ORGANIZATIONS' DUTIES," AND SECTION 7378.1(5) (RELATING TO

1 REFERENDUM FOR ADDITIONAL INDEBTEDNESS), AS WELL AS TO IMPLEMENT  
2 IN PART SECTION 31.3 OF THE ACT OF JUNE 29, 2002 (P.L.559,  
3 NO.89), ENTITLED "AN ACT AMENDING THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1971  
4 (P.L.6, NO.2), ENTITLED 'AN ACT RELATING TO TAX REFORM AND STATE  
5 TAXATION BY CODIFYING AND ENUMERATING CERTAIN SUBJECTS OF  
6 TAXATION AND IMPOSING TAXES THEREON; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR  
7 THE PAYMENT, COLLECTION, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT THEREOF;  
8 PROVIDING FOR TAX CREDITS IN CERTAIN CASES; CONFERRING POWERS  
9 AND IMPOSING DUTIES UPON THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, CERTAIN  
10 EMPLOYERS, FIDUCIARIES, INDIVIDUALS, PERSONS, CORPORATIONS AND  
11 OTHER ENTITIES; PRESCRIBING CRIMES, OFFENSES AND PENALTIES, '  
12 FURTHER PROVIDING, IN SALES AND USE TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR  
13 IMPOSITION, FOR EXCLUSIONS, FOR LICENSES, FOR COLLECTION, FOR  
14 BULK AND AUCTION SALES AND FOR CRIMES; PROVIDING, IN LOCAL TAX  
15 SITUS, FOR SITUS OF MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES; FURTHER  
16 PROVIDING, IN PERSONAL INCOME TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR CLASSES  
17 OF INCOME, FOR SPECIAL TAX PROVISIONS FOR POVERTY, FOR  
18 CONTRIBUTIONS, FOR BULK AND AUCTION SALES AND TRANSFERS; IN  
19 CORPORATE NET INCOME TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR IMPOSITION AND  
20 FOR INTEREST IN UNINCORPORATED ENTITIES; AND IN CAPITAL STOCK  
21 AND FRANCHISE TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR IMPOSITION, FOR DEPOSIT  
22 OF PROCEEDS, FOR INTEREST IN UNINCORPORATED ENTITIES AND FOR  
23 APPLICABILITY AND EXPIRATION; ESTABLISHING REVENUE-NEUTRAL  
24 RECONCILIATION IN UTILITIES GROSS RECEIPTS TAX; PROVIDING, IN  
25 PUBLIC UTILITY REALTY TAX AND FOR SURCHARGE; FURTHER PROVIDING,  
26 IN REALTY TRANSFER TAX, FOR FURNISHING STAMPS; IN CIGARETTE TAX,  
27 FOR INCIDENCE AND RATE, FOR FLOOR TAX, FOR COMMISSIONS ON SALES  
28 AND FOR DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FUNDS; IN RESEARCH AND  
29 DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT, FOR TIME LIMITATIONS AND FOR  
30 TERMINATION; IN INHERITANCE TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR TRANSFERS

1 NOT SUBJECT TO TAX AND FOR ESTATE TAX AND FOR ESTATE TAX  
2 RETURNS; PROVIDING FOR IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENT, SETTLEMENT OR  
3 COLLECTION AND FOR DEPRECIATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN CITIES OF  
4 THE FIRST CLASS; AND MAKING REPEALS," BY PROVIDING FOR LOANS TO  
5 VOLUNTEER FIRE, AMBULANCE AND RESCUE COMPANIES TO PROTECT THE  
6 LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH PURSUANT  
7 TO AND TO EXECUTE THE ABOVE FAVORABLE REFERENDA IN SUBSECTION  
8 (A).] THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS DETERMINED THAT [VOLUNTEER] FIRE  
9 COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES ARE MOST IN  
10 NEED OF LOANS [AND THEREFORE INTENDS THAT, TO THE EXTENT  
11 POSSIBLE, A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN  
12 FUND BE USED TO PROVIDE LOANS TO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AND  
13 THAT THE BALANCE BE ALLOCATED TO PROVIDE LOANS TO VOLUNTEER  
14 AMBULANCE AND VOLUNTEER RESCUE COMPANIES]. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
15 INTENDS THAT THE LOANS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER BE USED TO  
16 REPLACE OUTMODED OR UNSAFE EQUIPMENT AND BUILDINGS OF  
17 [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES AND [THAT THE LOANS BE PROVIDED TO  
18 VOLUNTEER COMPANIES WHICH ARE EXPERIENCING A NEED FOR EQUIPMENT  
19 OR FACILITIES] EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES TO MEET AN  
20 INCREASING DEMAND FOR A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE IN THE  
21 COMMUNITIES WHICH THEY SERVE.

22 SECTION 3. THE DEFINITION OF "VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND"  
23 IN SECTION 7363 OF TITLE 35 IS AMENDED AND THE SECTION IS  
24 AMENDED BY ADDING DEFINITIONS TO READ:

25 § 7363. DEFINITIONS.

26 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS SUBCHAPTER  
27 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
28 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

29 \* \* \*

30 "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY" OR "EMS COMPANY." A



1 CAREER, NONPROFIT OR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
2 COMPANY.  
3 \* \* \*  
4 "FIRE COMPANY." A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY.  
5 "FUND." THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN <--  
6 ASSISTANCE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 7365 (RELATING TO FIRE <--  
7 AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE FUND). <--  
8 "MUNICIPALITY." A COUNTY, CITY, BOROUGH, INCORPORATED TOWN  
9 OR TOWNSHIP.

10 \* \* \*

11 ["VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND." THE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER  
12 SECTION 7365 (RELATING TO VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND).]

13 SECTION 4. SECTIONS 7364, 7365, 7366(A)(2) AND (3.1) AND (B)  
14 (2), 7371, 7374, 7376, 7378(D), 7378.2 AND 7378.3 OF TITLE 35  
15 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

16 § 7364. ASSISTANCE TO [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES[, AMBULANCE  
17 SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUADS] AND EMS COMPANIES.

18 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE OFFICE IS AUTHORIZED, UPON  
19 APPLICATION OF ANY [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER  
20 AMBULANCE SERVICE OR VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY, TO  
21 MAKE LOANS FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

22 (1) ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING FACILITIES THAT HOUSE  
23 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLES. THE  
24 AMOUNT OF A LOAN FOR ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING FACILITIES  
25 MADE TO ANY ONE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE  
26 OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY SHALL NOT EXCEED 50% OF THE  
27 TOTAL COST OF THE FACILITIES OR MODERNIZATION OR [\$400,000]  
28 \$450,000, WHICHEVER IS LESS, AND A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL  
29 STATEMENT FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) SHALL SHOW THAT THE  
30 APPLICANT HAS AVAILABLE 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE

1 FACILITIES IN UNOBLIGATED FUNDS. PROCEEDS OF THE LOAN SHALL  
2 BE USED ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF STRUCTURE OR LAND ACQUISITION OR  
3 RENOVATION OR CONSTRUCTION AND SHALL NOT BE USED FOR PAYMENT  
4 OF FEES FOR DESIGN, PLANNING, PREPARATION OF APPLICATIONS OR  
5 ANY OTHER COST NOT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO STRUCTURE OR LAND  
6 ACQUISITION OR RENOVATION OR CONSTRUCTION.

7 (2) PURCHASING FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS, AMBULANCES OR  
8 RESCUE VEHICLES. THE AMOUNT OF A LOAN MADE FOR PURCHASING  
9 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS TO ANY ONE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY  
10 SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$200,000] \$250,000 FOR ANY SINGLE  
11 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT OR UTILITY OR SPECIAL  
12 SERVICE VEHICLE OR HEAVY DUTY RESCUE VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY  
13 REGULATION OR GUIDELINE, OR 50% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE  
14 EQUIPMENT OR VEHICLE, WHICHEVER IS LESS, EXCEPT FOR LOANS FOR  
15 AERIAL APPARATUS AS DEFINED BY REGULATION OR GUIDELINE, WHICH  
16 SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$300,000] \$350,000. THE AMOUNT OF A LOAN  
17 MADE TO ANY ONE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE  
18 OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY FOR ANY AMBULANCE OR LIGHT  
19 DUTY RESCUE VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY REGULATION OR GUIDELINE  
20 SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$100,000] \$125,000 AND FOR A WATERCRAFT  
21 RESCUE VEHICLE SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$30,000] \$35,000 OR 50% OF  
22 THE COST OF THE AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLE, WHICHEVER IS  
23 LESS, AND A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FILED UNDER  
24 SUBSECTION (C) SHALL SHOW THAT THE APPLICANT HAS AVAILABLE  
25 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE VEHICLE IN UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.

26 (3) PURCHASING PROTECTIVE, ACCESSORY OR COMMUNICATION  
27 EQUIPMENT. NO [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE OR  
28 RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY SHALL RECEIVE A LOAN FOR  
29 PROTECTIVE, ACCESSORY OR COMMUNICATIVE EQUIPMENT MORE THAN  
30 ONCE IN ANY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. EACH [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[,

1 AMBULANCE SERVICE OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY MAY APPLY  
2 FOR A LOAN FOR A MOBILE AND PORTABLE RADIO UNIT FOR EACH  
3 EXISTING SERVICEABLE APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE  
4 VEHICLE. RADIO EQUIPMENT OBTAINED THROUGH LOANS UNDER THIS  
5 SUBCHAPTER SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH A FREQUENCY OR FREQUENCIES  
6 LICENSED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR  
7 FIREFIGHTING OR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PURPOSES. A NOTARIZED  
8 FINANCIAL STATEMENT SHALL BE FILED AND LOANS UNDER THIS  
9 SUBCHAPTER FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROTECTIVE, ACCESSORY OR  
10 COMMUNICATIVE EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$20,000] \$25,000.

11 (4) REFINANCING DEBT INCURRED OR CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO  
12 AFTER NOVEMBER 4, 1975, AND USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF  
13 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT OR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION  
14 OF FACILITIES OR FOR MODIFICATION OF APPARATUS EQUIPMENT IN  
15 ORDER TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION  
16 STANDARDS.

17 (5) REPAIR OR REHABILITATION OF APPARATUS EQUIPMENT.  
18 WHERE IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT EXISTING APPARATUS  
19 EQUIPMENT NO LONGER MEETS THE STANDARDS OF THE NATIONAL FIRE  
20 PROTECTION ASSOCIATION AND THE REPAIR OR REHABILITATION OF  
21 SUCH EQUIPMENT WILL BRING IT IN COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL FIRE  
22 PROTECTION ASSOCIATION STANDARDS, LOANS FOR THE REPAIR OR  
23 REHABILITATION FOR A SINGLE APPARATUS EQUIPMENT SHALL BE FOR  
24 AT LEAST [\$2,000] \$3,000 BUT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF  
25 [\$70,000] \$80,000 OR 80% OF THE TOTAL COST OF REPAIR OR  
26 REHABILITATION.

27 (6) PURCHASING OF USED FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS,  
28 EQUIPMENT, USED AMBULANCES, USED RESCUE VEHICLES, USED  
29 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, USED ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT OR USED  
30 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, EXCEPT THAT THE USED VEHICLES AND

1 EQUIPMENT SHALL MEET THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION  
2 (NFPA) STANDARDS AND LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A USED SINGLE  
3 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT EXCEED [~~\$120,000~~] \$200,000 OR  
4 80% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE EQUIPMENT, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

5 [(7) PURCHASING PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INFORMATION REPORTING  
6 SYSTEM (PENNFIRS) HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE. A VOLUNTEER FIRE  
7 COMPANY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY ONE TIME ONLY FOR A LOAN  
8 OF NOT MORE THAN \$4,000 OR 75% OF THE COST OF SUCH  
9 ACQUISITION, WHICHEVER IS LESS, AND WITH A TERM NOT EXCEEDING  
10 FIVE YEARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING THE HARDWARE AND  
11 SOFTWARE NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE  
12 INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM. THE OFFICE SHALL DEVELOP, AT  
13 ITS DISCRETION, SUCH PROCEDURES AND FORMS AS IT MAY DEEM  
14 NECESSARY TO FACILITATE LOANS FOR PENNFIRS HARDWARE AND  
15 SOFTWARE. THE LOANS SHALL BE SECURED AS REQUIRED BY LAW.]

16 (A.1) LIMITATION.--LOANS UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER MAY BE MADE  
17 FOR ANY OF THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (A) UNDERTAKEN BY A  
18 [~~VOLUNTEER~~] FIRE COMPANY[, ~~VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE AND~~  
19 ~~VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD~~] OR EMS COMPANY ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 4,  
20 1975.

21 (B) LOANS.--LOANS MADE BY THE OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF  
22 [~~\$30,000~~] \$50,000 OR LESS SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN  
23 TEN YEARS. LOANS IN EXCESS OF [~~\$30,000~~] \$50,000 BUT NOT IN  
24 EXCESS OF [~~\$100,000~~] \$300,000 SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE  
25 THAN 15 YEARS. THE PAYBACK PERIOD OF ANY LOAN IN EXCESS OF  
26 [~~\$100,000, EXCEPT A LOAN FOR ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING~~  
27 ~~FACILITIES,~~] \$300,000 SHALL NOT EXCEED 20 YEARS. [~~THE PAYBACK~~  
28 ~~PERIOD FOR ANY LOAN IN EXCESS OF \$200,000 FOR ESTABLISHING OR~~  
29 ~~MODERNIZING FACILITIES SHALL NOT EXCEED 20 YEARS.] LOANS SHALL  
30 BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AT 2% PER YEAR AND SHALL~~

1 BE SUBJECT TO SUCH SECURITY AS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE  
2 COMMISSIONER. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF INTEREST EARNED BY THE  
3 INVESTMENT OR REINVESTMENT OF ALL OR ANY PART OF THE PRINCIPAL  
4 OF ANY LOAN SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE AND TRANSFERRED TO  
5 THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL <--  
6 SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED AS <--  
7 PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL OR INTEREST ON THE LOAN. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED  
8 IN SUBSECTION (A) (5) AND (7), THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF ANY LOAN  
9 SHALL BE [\$10,000] \$25,000.

10 (B.1) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.--BEGINNING ONE YEAR AFTER THE  
11 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION AND BIANNUALLY THEREAFTER, ALL  
12 LOAN LIMITS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCREASE AT THE RATE OF  
13 INFLATION AS OUTLINED IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN  
14 CONSUMERS FOR THE PHILADELPHIA-CAMDEN-WILMINGTON, PA-NJ-DE-MD  
15 AREA FOR THE MOST RECENT 12-MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH THE FIGURES  
16 HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,  
17 BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS. IF THE RATE OF INFLATION DOES NOT  
18 INCREASE, ALL LOAN LIMITS SHALL REMAIN THE SAME AS THEY WERE FOR  
19 THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE OFFICE SHALL TRANSMIT NOTICE OF LOAN  
20 LIMIT INCREASES TO THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FOR  
21 PUBLICATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN.

22 (C) APPLICATIONS.--EVERY APPLICATION FOR A LOAN SHALL BE  
23 ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE  
24 [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR  
25 EMS COMPANY AND A FINANCIAL PLAN TO SHOW THE AMOUNT OF ASSETS  
26 AND PROJECTED REVENUES FOR THE REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN, ANY OTHER  
27 OBLIGATIONS OF THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY AND  
28 OPERATING EXPENSES OVER THE PERIOD OF THE LOAN. EVERY  
29 APPLICATION SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO SHOW  
30 THAT ALL COSTS EXCEPT THE AMOUNT OF THE LOAN HAVE BEEN OBTAINED

1 BY ASSETS OF THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY AND  
2 OTHER LOANS OR SOURCES OF REVENUE. IF A [VOLUNTEER] FIRE  
3 COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY IS  
4 UNABLE TO MEET THE 20% REQUIREMENT OF SUBSECTION (A), THEN A  
5 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION WHICH IS SERVED BY THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE  
6 COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY MAY PLEDGE ITS CREDIT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
7 FUNDS NECESSARY TO SATISFY THE 20% REQUIREMENT AND, IF IT DOES  
8 SO, SHALL COSIGN THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE [VOLUNTEER]  
9 FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY.

10 (C.1) APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE.--THE OFFICE SHALL  
11 ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REVIEW LOAN  
12 APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON LOAN APPLICATIONS UNDER THIS  
13 SECTION. THE APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL REGULARLY MEET  
14 AT LEAST QUARTERLY TO REVIEW LOAN APPLICATIONS AND MAKE  
15 RECOMMENDATIONS ON LOAN APPLICATIONS TO THE OFFICE. THE  
16 APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL BE CHAIRED BY THE  
17 COMMISSIONER OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE AND INCLUDE THE  
18 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

19 (1) THE CHAIR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
20 PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE.

21 (2) THE MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
22 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OR THE  
23 MINORITY CHAIR'S DESIGNEE.

24 (3) THE CHAIR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
25 PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR  
26 THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE.

27 (4) THE MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
28 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
29 REPRESENTATIVES OR THE MINORITY CHAIR'S DESIGNEE.

30 (5) THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN

1 THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

2 (6) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE AND  
3 EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE.

4 (7) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE  
5 STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

6 (8) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION OF  
7 PENNSYLVANIA.

8 (9) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY  
9 HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL.

10 (D) USE.--LOANS SHALL BE USED FOR THE ACQUISITION BY  
11 [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES OR EMS COMPANIES OF NEW OR USED  
12 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, NEW OR USED AMBULANCES, NEW OR USED RESCUE  
13 VEHICLES, NEW OR USED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, NEW OR USED  
14 ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT OR NEW OR USED PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT OR FOR  
15 THE ACQUISITION AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES TO HOUSE  
16 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLES OR FOR THE  
17 CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION OF FACILITIES AND, EXCEPT AS  
18 PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) (4), SHALL NOT BE USED FOR OPERATING  
19 EXPENSES OR FOR THE REFINANCING OF RENOVATED STRUCTURES,  
20 REFINANCING OF CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION OF FACILITIES,  
21 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORY  
22 EQUIPMENT, NOR, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) (4), SHALL  
23 BE MADE OR USED TO REDUCE ANY DEBT OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS ISSUED  
24 PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBCHAPTER.

25 (E) PAYMENT.--LOANS MADE BY THE OFFICE SHALL BE PAID FROM  
26 THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND TO THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE  
27 COMPANIES [ , AMBULANCE SERVICES AND RESCUE SQUADS ] AND EMS  
28 COMPANIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES DEVELOPED  
29 BY THE OFFICE.

30 (F) DEPOSIT.--ALL PAYMENTS OF INTEREST ON THE LOANS AND THE

1 PRINCIPAL THEREOF SHALL BE DEPOSITED BY THE OFFICE IN THE  
2 [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND.

3 (G) ELIGIBILITY.--A [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE  
4 SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A  
5 LOAN REGARDLESS OF LEGAL OWNERSHIP IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY ANY  
6 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF ANY FACILITIES OR APPARATUS EQUIPMENT  
7 USED BY THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE AND  
8 VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY. ANY EQUIPMENT OR  
9 FACILITIES FINANCED MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO A POLITICAL  
10 SUBDIVISION SERVED BY THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER  
11 AMBULANCE SERVICE OR VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY  
12 SUBJECT TO SUCH SECURITY AS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE  
13 COMMISSIONER.

14 (H) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.--NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF  
15 THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ANY LOAN TO  
16 A [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE AND  
17 VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF  
18 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS, AMBULANCES OR RESCUE VEHICLES  
19 MANUFACTURED OR ASSEMBLED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH, MAY EXCEED THE  
20 LOAN LIMITS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION BY \$20,000.

21 (I) AGGREGATION OF LOANS.--

22 (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2), A FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER  
23 RESCUE SERVICE OR VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE] OR EMS COMPANY  
24 SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR MORE THAN THREE LOANS AT ONE TIME.

25 (2) IF MORE THAN ONE FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER RESCUE  
26 SERVICE OR VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE] OR EMS COMPANY MERGE  
27 OR CONSOLIDATE INTO A SINGLE ENTITY, AS DETERMINED BY THE  
28 COMMISSIONER, THE ENTITY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR NOT MORE THAN  
29 TEN LOANS AT ONE TIME FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE  
30 OF THE MERGER OR CONSOLIDATION.



1 § 7365. [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FIRE AND EMERGENCY <--  
2 MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE FUND. <--

3 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THERE IS CREATED A SPECIAL FUND IN THE  
4 TREASURY DEPARTMENT TO BE KNOWN AS THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN  
5 FUND] FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE FUND <--  
6 TO WHICH SHALL BE CREDITED ALL APPROPRIATIONS MADE BY THE  
7 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXPENSES OF  
8 ADMINISTERING THIS SUBCHAPTER OR GRANTS FROM OTHER SOURCES TO  
9 THE OFFICE AS WELL AS REPAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON  
10 LOANS MADE UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER.

11 (B) REQUISITION.--UPON APPROVAL OF THE LOAN, THE  
12 COMMISSIONER SHALL ROUTINELY REQUISITION FROM THE [VOLUNTEER  
13 COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND SUCH AMOUNTS AS SHALL BE ALLOCATED BY  
14 THE OFFICE FOR LOANS TO [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES OR EMS  
15 COMPANIES. WHEN AND AS THE AMOUNTS SO ALLOCATED AS LOANS TO  
16 [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES OR EMS COMPANIES ARE REPAYED PURSUANT  
17 TO THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS MADE AND ENTERED INTO WITH THE  
18 OFFICE, THE OFFICE SHALL PAY SUCH AMOUNTS INTO THE [VOLUNTEER  
19 COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND, IT BEING THE INTENT OF THIS  
20 SUBCHAPTER THAT THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND SHALL  
21 OPERATE AS A REVOLVING FUND WHEREBY ALL APPROPRIATIONS AND  
22 PAYMENTS MADE THERETO MAY BE APPLIED AND REAPPLIED TO THE  
23 PURPOSES OF THIS SUBCHAPTER.

24 (C) ADMINISTRATION.--[EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE STATE FIRE  
25 COMMISSIONER MAY USE AN AMOUNT UP TO \$250,000 FROM THE VOLUNTEER  
26 COMPANIES LOAN FUND FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COST OF IMPLEMENTING  
27 THE LOAN PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER.] THE COMMISSIONER MAY  
28 ~~USE UP TO THE 2% IN INTEREST PAYMENTS NOT MORE THAN \$500,000 FOR~~ <--  
29 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

30 § 7366. POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICE.

1 (A) MANDATORY.--THE OFFICE HAS THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

2 \* \* \*

3 (2) TO ACCEPT GRANTS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ANY  
4 OTHER INDIVIDUAL, AGENCY OR GOVERNMENT FOR USE IN THE  
5 [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND.

6 \* \* \*

7 (3.1) TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA TO DETERMINE NEED FOR  
8 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS, AMBULANCES AND RESCUE VEHICLES AND TO  
9 ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR [VOLUNTEER] FIRE  
10 COMPANIES OR EMS COMPANIES TO SHOW JUST CAUSE TO DETERMINE  
11 THAT NEED.

12 \* \* \*

13 (B) DISCRETIONARY.--THE OFFICE HAS THE FOLLOWING POWERS:

14 \* \* \*

15 (2) TO SPECIFY PRIORITY OF LIENS AGAINST ANY FACILITIES,  
16 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES, RESCUE VEHICLES OR ANY  
17 EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES USING FUNDS  
18 LOANED UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER TO PAY ALL OR ANY PART OF THE  
19 PURCHASE PRICE, AS THE OFFICE MAY REQUIRE BY ESTABLISHED  
20 GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES. THE COMMISSIONER MAY SPECIFY THE  
21 TYPE OF LIENS OR COLLATERAL AUTHORIZED AS SECURITY UNDER THIS  
22 PARAGRAPH.

23 \* \* \*

24 § 7371. DISPOSITION AND USE OF PROCEEDS.

25 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE PROCEEDS REALIZED FROM THE SALE OF  
26 BONDS UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL BE PAID INTO THE [VOLUNTEER  
27 COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND AND ARE SPECIFICALLY DEDICATED TO THE  
28 PURPOSES OF THE REFERENDA OF NOVEMBER 4, 1975, NOVEMBER 3, 1981,  
29 NOVEMBER 6, 1990, AND NOVEMBER 5, 2002, AND THE REFERENDUM  
30 SPECIFIED UNDER SECTION 7378.4 (RELATING TO REFERENDUM TO EXPAND

1 LOAN ASSISTANCE), AS IMPLEMENTED BY THIS SUBCHAPTER. THE MONEYS  
2 SHALL BE PAID BY THE STATE TREASURER PERIODICALLY TO THOSE  
3 AGENCIES OR AUTHORITIES AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND THE MONEYS AT SUCH  
4 TIMES AND IN SUCH AMOUNTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO SATISFY THE  
5 FUNDING NEEDS OF THE AGENCY OR AUTHORITY.

6 (B) INVESTING.--PENDING THEIR APPLICATION TO THE PURPOSES  
7 AUTHORIZED, MONEYS HELD OR DEPOSITED BY THE STATE TREASURER MAY  
8 BE INVESTED OR REINVESTED AS ARE OTHER FUNDS IN THE CUSTODY OF  
9 THE STATE TREASURER IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY LAW. ALL EARNINGS  
10 RECEIVED FROM THE INVESTMENT OR DEPOSIT OF SUCH FUNDS SHALL BE  
11 PAID INTO THE STATE TREASURY TO THE CREDIT OF THE [VOLUNTEER  
12 COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND.

13 § 7374. [VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND] FIRE AND <--  
14 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE SINKING <--  
15 FUND AND INVESTMENTS.

16 ALL BONDS ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL BE REDEEMED AT  
17 MATURITY AND ALL INTEREST DUE FROM TIME TO TIME ON SUCH BONDS  
18 SHALL BE PAID FROM THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND]  
19 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE SINKING <--  
20 FUND, WHICH IS HEREBY CREATED. FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF  
21 REDEEMING BONDS ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER AT MATURITY AND  
22 PAYING ALL INTEREST THEREON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INFORMATION  
23 RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNOR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL  
24 APPROPRIATE MONEYS TO THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND]  
25 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE SINKING FUND <--  
26 FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS AND THE PRINCIPAL  
27 THEREOF AT MATURITY. ALL MONEYS PAID INTO THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANY  
28 LOAN SINKING FUND] FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN <--  
29 ASSISTANCE SINKING FUND AND ALL OF SUCH MONEYS NOT NECESSARY TO <--  
30 PAY ACCRUING INTEREST SHALL BE INVESTED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE

1 AND REVENUE IN SUCH SECURITIES AS ARE PROVIDED BY LAW FOR THE  
2 INVESTMENT OF THE SINKING FUNDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

3 § 7376. REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST.

4 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO  
5 MONEYS RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE UNDER SECTION 7365 (RELATING TO

6 [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL <--

7 SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE FUND) AND SUCH OTHER MONEYS AS MAY BE <--

8 NECESSARY TO MEET REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL AND

9 INTEREST INTO THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND] FIRE AND <--

10 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE SINKING FUND. <--

11 § 7378. TEMPORARY FINANCING AUTHORIZATION.

12 \* \* \*

13 (D) PROCEEDS.--THE PROCEEDS OF ALL SUCH TEMPORARY BORROWINGS  
14 SHALL BE PAID INTO THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND.

15 § 7378.2. AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACTS, REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE  
16 AND AMOUNT.

17 THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

18 (1) THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES IS AUTHORIZED TO  
19 ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH LOCAL [VOLUNTEER FIRE, AMBULANCE  
20 AND RESCUE COMPANIES] FIRE COMPANIES OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
21 SERVICES COMPANIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES NECESSARY TO  
22 EXTINGUISH FIRES OR PERFORM ANY OTHER ALLIED SERVICES ON  
23 STATE-OWNED PROPERTY.

24 (2) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION IS AUTHORIZED TO  
25 ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH LOCAL [VOLUNTEER] FIRE[, AMBULANCE  
26 AND RESCUE] COMPANIES OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES  
27 TO PROVIDE SERVICES NECESSARY TO EXTINGUISH FIRES OR PERFORM  
28 ANY OTHER ALLIED SERVICES ON LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAYS, OTHER  
29 THAN THE PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE.

30 § 7378.3. REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE AND AMOUNT.

1 THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

2 (1) A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES  
3 OR THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AND A LOCAL [VOLUNTEER]  
4 FIRE[, AMBULANCE AND RESCUE] COMPANY OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
5 SERVICES COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL  
6 SERVICES OR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL, MONTHLY,  
7 UPON RECEIPT OF PROPER PROOF, REIMBURSE EACH CONTRACTED  
8 [VOLUNTEER] FIRE[, AMBULANCE AND RESCUE] COMPANY OR EMERGENCY  
9 MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY ATTENDING AND PROVIDING FIRE CONTROL  
10 OR OTHER ALLIED SERVICES ON STATE-OWNED PROPERTY OR LIMITED  
11 ACCESS HIGHWAYS, AS THE CASE MAY BE, A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF \$50  
12 FOR EACH VERIFIED FIRE OR EMERGENCY CALL AND THE COST OF ANY  
13 SPECIAL EXTINGUISHING AGENTS UTILIZED, WHICH THE [VOLUNTEER]  
14 FIRE[, AMBULANCE AND RESCUE] COMPANY OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
15 SERVICES COMPANY MADE IN THE PRECEDING MONTH AS CERTIFIED BY  
16 THE PERSON IN CHARGE AT THE PARTICULAR STATE-OWNED PROPERTY  
17 OR BY AN INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE  
18 SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO VERIFY SERVICES RENDERED ON  
19 LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAYS.

20 (2) A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL  
21 SERVICES OR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND [A LOCAL  
22 VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE OR RESCUE] AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
23 COMPANY SHALL ALSO PROVIDE THAT THE AMBULANCE OR RESCUE  
24 COMPANY REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT FROM COLLECTIBLE INSURANCE  
25 PROCEEDS AVAILABLE AS A RESULT OF THE FIRE OR EMERGENCY  
26 SITUATION FOR WHICH THE [AMBULANCE OR RESCUE] EMERGENCY  
27 MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY PROVIDED ALLIED SERVICES. PROCEEDS  
28 PAYABLE TO THE [AMBULANCE OR RESCUE] EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
29 SERVICES COMPANY SHALL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
30 SERVICES PROVIDED PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT ENTERED INTO UNDER

1 THIS SUBCHAPTER. PRIOR TO PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED, THE  
2 [LOCAL VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE OR RESCUE] EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
3 SERVICES COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE PROOF THAT THEY REQUESTED  
4 REIMBURSEMENT FROM COLLECTIBLE INSURANCE PROCEEDS.

5 (3) A FALSE ALARM ON STATE-OWNED PROPERTY TO WHICH A  
6 [VOLUNTEER] FIRE [, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE] COMPANY OR EMERGENCY  
7 MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY RESPONDS SHALL CONSTITUTE A FIRE OR  
8 EMERGENCY CALL AND SHALL BE REIMBURSED AT A RATE SET BY THE  
9 CONTRACT WITH THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES, BUT SHALL  
10 NOT BE LESS THAN \$25 FOR EACH OCCURRENCE.

11 SECTION 5. TITLE 35 IS AMENDED BY ADDING SECTIONS TO READ:  
12 § 7378.4. REFERENDUM TO EXPAND LOAN ASSISTANCE.

13 (A) REFERENDUM.--THE QUESTION OF EXPANDING THE USE OF THE  
14 INDEBTEDNESS AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTIONS 7367 (RELATING TO  
15 AUTHORITY TO BORROW) AND 7378.1 (RELATING TO REFERENDUM FOR  
16 ADDITIONAL INDEBTEDNESS) FOR VOLUNTEER LOAN ASSISTANCE UNDER  
17 THIS SUBCHAPTER TO INCLUDE MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS OR FIRE  
18 COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES FOR THE  
19 PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AND MODERNIZING FACILITIES TO HOUSE  
20 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES AND RESCUE VEHICLES, PROTECTIVE  
21 AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND ANY OTHER ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT  
22 NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS'  
23 DUTIES, SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE NEXT  
24 PRIMARY, MUNICIPAL OR GENERAL ELECTION HELD AFTER NOVEMBER 3,  
25 2020.

26 (B) CERTIFICATION.--THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH SHALL  
27 CERTIFY THE QUESTION TO THE COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTION.

28 (C) QUESTION TO THE ELECTORATE.--THE QUESTION SHALL BE IN  
29 SUBSTANTIALLY THE FOLLOWING FORM:

30 DO YOU FAVOR EXPANDING THE USE OF THE INDEBTEDNESS

1 AUTHORIZED UNDER THE REFERENDUM FOR LOANS TO VOLUNTEER  
2 FIRE COMPANIES, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICES AND  
3 VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS UNDER 35 PA.C.S. § 7378.1  
4 (RELATING TO REFERENDUM FOR ADDITIONAL INDEBTEDNESS) TO  
5 INCLUDE LOANS TO MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS OR COMPANIES  
6 THAT PROVIDE SERVICES THROUGH PAID PERSONNEL AND  
7 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
8 ESTABLISHING AND MODERNIZING FACILITIES TO HOUSE  
9 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES AND RESCUE VEHICLES,  
10 PROTECTIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND ANY OTHER  
11 ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER PERFORMANCE  
12 OF THE DUTIES OF THE FIRE COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
13 SERVICES COMPANIES?

14 (D) ELECTION PROCEDURE.--THE REFERENDUM UNDER THIS SECTION  
15 SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT OF JUNE 3, 1937  
16 (P.L.1333, NO.320), KNOWN AS THE PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION CODE.

17 (E) CONSTRUCTION.--THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AS  
18 AUTHORIZING ANY ADDITIONAL BORROWING FOR LOAN ASSISTANCE TO FIRE  
19 COMPANIES OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES.

20 § 7378.5. ANNUAL REPORT AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.

21 (A) ANNUAL REPORT.--

22 (1) THE OFFICE SHALL PRODUCE AN ANNUAL REPORT, WHICH  
23 SHALL INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

24 (I) HOW MUCH MONEY IS IN THE FUND AT THE BEGINNING  
25 OF EACH FISCAL YEAR AND THE BALANCE IN THE FUND AT THE  
26 END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.

27 (II) HOW MANY LOAN APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE  
28 OFFICE.

29 (III) HOW MANY LOANS WERE ISSUED UNDER THE  
30 PENNSYLVANIA FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN

1 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

2 (IV) THE FIRE COMPANIES AND EMS COMPANIES TO WHICH  
3 THE LOANS WERE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE.

4 (V) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOANS ISSUED BY THE OFFICE.

5 (VI) THE NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF LOANS FOR FACILITIES,  
6 APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT.

7 (2) THE REPORT SHALL BE POSTED ON THE OFFICE'S PUBLICLY  
8 ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE AND SENT TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

9 (I) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
10 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE  
11 SENATE.

12 (II) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
13 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE  
14 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

15 (B) DISTRIBUTION.--THE OFFICE SHALL ANNUALLY DISTRIBUTE  
16 INFORMATION ON THE FUND TO ALL FIRE COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY  
17 MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH, INCLUDING  
18 NOTICE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
19 LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE AMOUNTS THAT CAN BE BORROWED  
20 UNDER THE PROGRAM.

21 SECTION 6. SECTIONS 7382 AND 7383 OF TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED TO  
22 READ:

23 § 7382. DEFINITIONS.

24 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS SUBCHAPTER  
25 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
26 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

27 "AGENCY." THE PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

28 "BOARD." THE STATE FIRE ADVISORY BOARD.

29 "COMMISSIONER." THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER.

30 ["COMMITTEE." THE FIRE SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.]



1 § 7383. STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER.

2 (A) STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER.--THERE SHALL BE A STATE FIRE  
3 COMMISSIONER, WHO[, THROUGH THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,] SHALL  
4 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR ON ALL MATTERS CONCERNING FIRE [SAFETY]  
5 SERVICES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH. THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE  
6 COMMISSIONER SHALL BE WITHIN THE AGENCY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
7 PURPOSES ONLY, AND THE COMMISSIONER SHALL NOT REPORT TO THE  
8 DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL HAVE THE POWER  
9 AND DUTY TO:

10 [(1) COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF STATE AND LOCAL  
11 COMMUNITY INTERESTS ENGAGED IN FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL  
12 ACTIVITIES.]

13 [(2) SERVE AS A FOCAL POINT FOR INFORMATION RELATIVE TO  
14 FIRES, PROPERTY DAMAGE, INJURIES AND THE LOSS OF LIFE.]

15 [(3) DISSEMINATE, THROUGH PERIODIC REPORTS, INFORMATION  
16 ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS AND FIRE CONTROL TECHNIQUES.]

17 [(4) DEVELOP AND PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM OF PUBLIC  
18 INFORMATION AND EDUCATION DESIGNED TO CREATE A PUBLIC  
19 AWARENESS OF THE INCIDENCE AND THE RAVAGES OF FIRE AND  
20 METHODS THE INDIVIDUAL CAN TAKE TO PREVENT FIRES AND MINIMIZE  
21 LOSS WHEN THEY OCCUR.]

22 [(5) SERVE AS A CENTRAL POINT TO SUPPORT LOCAL EFFORTS  
23 AND INTERESTS IN ALL MATTERS PERTINENT TO FIRE PREVENTION AND  
24 CONTROL.]

25 (B) TRANSFER.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL USE, EMPLOY AND  
26 EXPEND, IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES  
27 ENUMERATED IN SUBSECTION (A) FOR THE POSITION OF THE  
28 COMMISSIONER, CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS, IF ANY, RECORDS, FILES,  
29 PROPERTY, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT NOW BEING USED OR HELD IN  
30 CONNECTION WITH SUCH FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES AND THE

1 UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF APPROPRIATIONS, ALLOCATIONS, FEDERAL  
2 GRANTS AND OTHER FUNDS AVAILABLE OR TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE  
3 IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES AS  
4 PREVIOUSLY WERE VESTED IN THE AGENCY BY REORGANIZATION PLAN NO.5  
5 OF 1981 (P.L.612).]

6 (1) SERVE AS THE PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE FOR FIRE  
7 SERVICES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL WORK  
8 WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES TO ENSURE COORDINATION AT THE STATE AND  
9 LOCAL LEVELS.

10 (2) SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE BOARD.

11 (3) DEVELOP CURRICULUM AND PROVIDE AND ASSIST IN THE  
12 COORDINATION OF FIRE, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING,  
13 INCLUDING ONLINE TRAINING AND ISSUE CERTIFICATIONS.

14 (4) ADMINISTER THE STATE FIRE ACADEMY.

15 (5) COLLECT DATA, PROVIDE ANALYSIS AND PERIODIC REPORTS  
16 AND SERVE AS A FOCAL POINT FOR INFORMATION RELATIVE TO FIRES,  
17 PROPERTY DAMAGE, INJURIES TO THE PUBLIC AND FIREFIGHTERS AND  
18 THE LOSS OF LIFE.

19 (6) CONDUCT AFTER-ACTION REPORTS ON SIGNIFICANT  
20 INCIDENTS THAT INVOLVE FIREFIGHTER DEATHS AND SIGNIFICANT  
21 INJURIES.

22 (7) ADMINISTER GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAMS FOR FIRE,  
23 AMBULANCE AND RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
24 TITLE OR AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE  
25 FOR FIREFIGHTER RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS, THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE  
26 AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, FIRE  
27 AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE, FIRE AND  
28 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANTS AND MONEY RECEIVED BY THE  
29 OFFICE OF STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER FROM THE UNCONVENTIONAL GAS  
30 WELL FUND.

1           (8) ASSIST WITH STATEWIDE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION  
2           EFFORTS.

3           (9) HIRE REGIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORS TO ASSIST FIRE  
4           COMPANIES WITH GRANT AND LOAN ASSISTANCE, MERGERS,  
5           CONSOLIDATION AND REGIONALIZATION AND PROMOTE BEST PRACTICES  
6           FOR SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS.

7           (10) PROMOTE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RISK  
8           REDUCTION EFFORTS.

9           (11) ADMINISTER A FIRE EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTOR  
10          CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

11          (C) QUALIFICATIONS AND APPOINTMENT.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL  
12 BE A PERSON WHO, BY REASON OF TRAINING, EXPERIENCE AND  
13 ATTAINMENT, IS QUALIFIED TO COORDINATE [FIRE PREVENTION AND  
14 CONTROL ACTIVITIES. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE  
15 GOVERNOR AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE FIRE SERVICE COMMUNITY. THE  
16 COMMISSIONER SHALL ACT AS THE COMMONWEALTH'S PRIMARY  
17 REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE STATEWIDE FIRE SERVICE COMMUNITY.]  
18 SERVICES. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL HAVE SERVED AS A CHIEF OFFICER  
19 OR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN A ~~CAREER~~ MUNICIPAL, COMBINATION OR <--  
20 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY  
21 THE GOVERNOR SUBJECT TO THE CONSENT OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS  
22 ELECTED TO THE SENATE.

23          SECTION 7. TITLE 35 IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:  
24 § 7383.1. CURRICULUM AND TRAINING.

25          (A) DUTY TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL  
26 ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, DELIVERY AND  
27 MAINTENANCE OF A SYSTEM OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING.

28          (B) TRAINING.--TRAINING SHALL BE LECTURE-BASED, HANDS ON OR  
29 ONLINE. TRAINING MAY BE CONDUCTED AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE  
30 ACADEMY, A COUNTY TRAINING CENTER, A COMMUNITY COLLEGE, A LOCAL

1 FIRE STATION OR OTHER APPROPRIATE AREA. THE TRAINING SHALL BE  
2 INCORPORATED INTO THE TRAIN PA SYSTEM OR ANY OTHER SYSTEM  
3 APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

4 (C) CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL  
5 PROVIDE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO  
6 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES A FIRE OR EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING  
7 PROGRAM.

8 (D) PUBLICATION.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL POST A COMPLETE  
9 LISTING OF THE AVAILABLE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING  
10 COURSES ON THE OFFICE'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

11 SECTION 8. SECTIONS 7384(A), (B) AND (D), 7385 HEADING, (A)  
12 AND (C) AND 7386 OF TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

13 § 7384. PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY.

14 (A) CREATION.--THERE IS CREATED THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE  
15 ACADEMY, WHICH SHALL BE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE  
16 COMMISSIONER. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ADMINISTRATIVELY PROVIDE  
17 FOR THE ERECTION OR CONSTRUCTION, THE FURNISHING, THE STAFFING  
18 AND THE EQUIPPING OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES THROUGH THE  
19 DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES AND FOR THE LEASING THEREOF BY  
20 THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
21 STATE FIRE ACADEMY. [THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIREMEN'S TRAINING  
22 SCHOOL AND THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTE BOARD PERTAINING TO THE  
24 PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIREMEN'S TRAINING SCHOOL, WHICH WERE  
25 TRANSFERRED TO THE AGENCY UNDER REORGANIZATION PLAN NO.6 OF 1981  
26 (P.L.613) AND WHICH ARE SET FORTH IN SUBCHAPTER D (RELATING TO  
27 STATE FIREMEN'S TRAINING SCHOOL), ARE HEREBY TRANSFERRED TO AND  
28 VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONER.

29 (B) TRANSFER.--THERE ARE TRANSFERRED TO THE COMMISSIONER, TO  
30 BE USED, EMPLOYED AND EXPENDED IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUNCTIONS,

1 POWERS AND DUTIES ENUMERATED IN SUBSECTION (A), PERSONNEL,  
2 CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS, IF ANY, RECORDS, FILES, PROPERTY, SUPPLIES  
3 AND EQUIPMENT NOW BEING USED OR HELD IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH  
4 FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES AND THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF  
5 APPROPRIATIONS, ALLOCATIONS, FEDERAL GRANTS AND OTHER FUNDS  
6 AVAILABLE OR TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH  
7 SUCH FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES AS PREVIOUSLY WERE VESTED IN  
8 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTE  
9 BOARD UNDER SUBCHAPTER D, AND TRANSFERRED TO THE AGENCY BY  
10 REORGANIZATION PLAN NO.6 OF 1981 (P.L.613).]

11 \* \* \*

12 (D) FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.--A STATEWIDE  
13 FIREFIGHTER TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE  
14 COMMISSIONER. [TO EDUCATE THE FIRE SERVICE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE  
15 IMPORTANCE OF FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY. THIS PROGRAM SHALL  
16 INCLUDE MEASURES DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE MOBILITY OF TRAINING  
17 COURSES THROUGHOUT THIS COMMONWEALTH, TO ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER  
18 ACCESSIBILITY TO TRAINING COURSE OFFERINGS AND TO IMPROVE AND  
19 EXPAND TRAINING FOR AND RESPONSE CAPABILITY TO EMERGENCIES WITH  
20 EMPHASIS ON HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS.] THE PROGRAM SHALL  
21 ALSO INCLUDE [IMPLEMENTATION OF] A FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION  
22 PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH [PARAMETERS DEVELOPED BY THE  
23 COMMISSIONER CONSISTENT WITH] ESTABLISHED STANDARDS. THE  
24 ACQUISITION OF PHYSICAL RESOURCES TO ENHANCE STATEWIDE  
25 CAPABILITY SHALL BE COORDINATED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

26 \* \* \*

27 § 7385. PENNSYLVANIA [VOLUNTEER] FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
28 SERVICES LOAN [ASSISTANCE] PROGRAM. <--

29 (A) CREATION.--THERE SHALL BE A LOAN [ASSISTANCE] PROGRAM, <--  
30 WHICH SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE COMMISSIONER, FOR [VOLUNTEER

1 AGENCIES, KNOWN AS THE PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER LOAN ASSISTANCE  
2 PROGRAM,] FIRE COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
3 COMPANIES, KNOWN AS THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
4 SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, WHICH SHALL MAKE LOANS UNDER <--  
5 SUBCHAPTER E (RELATING TO [VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE  
6 SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE). THE PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER  
7 LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE POWERS AND DUTIES PREVIOUSLY  
8 VESTED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, WHICH WERE  
9 TRANSFERRED TO THE AGENCY UNDER REORGANIZATION PLAN NO.7 OF 1981  
10 (P.L.615) AND WHICH ARE SET FORTH UNDER SUBCHAPTER E, ARE HEREBY  
11 TRANSFERRED TO AND VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONER.] FIRE AND  
12 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM). <--

13 \* \* \*

14 [(C) REGULATIONS.--THE VOLUNTEER LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
15 REGULATIONS FOUND IN 4 PA. CODE CH. 113 (RELATING TO VOLUNTEER  
16 FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE) ARE  
17 HEREBY TRANSFERRED TO THE COMMISSIONER FROM THE AGENCY. THE  
18 COMMISSIONER SHALL FULLY IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THOSE  
19 REGULATIONS ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 12, 1996. THE COMMISSIONER MAY  
20 BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE AGENCY THROUGHOUT THE REGULATIONS AND THE  
21 REGULATIONS MAY BE RENUMBERED AND PUBLISHED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA  
22 BULLETIN AS FINAL REGULATIONS WITHOUT THOSE REGULATORY CHANGES  
23 BEING SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF JUNE 25, 1982  
24 (P.L.633, NO.181), KNOWN AS THE REGULATORY REVIEW ACT.]

25 § 7386. STATE FIRE [SAFETY] ADVISORY [COMMITTEE] BOARD.

26 (A) CREATION.--

27 (1) THERE IS CREATED THE STATE FIRE [SAFETY] ADVISORY  
28 [COMMITTEE] BOARD TO ASSIST THE COMMISSIONER. THE [COMMITTEE]  
29 BOARD SHALL CONSIST OF [NINE] THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS [, AS  
30 FOLLOWS:

1 (I) THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY, EX OFFICIO.

2 (II) THE COMMISSIONER, WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHAIRMAN.

3 (III) TWO PAID FIREFIGHTERS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE  
4 GOVERNOR FROM A LIST OF AT LEAST SIX NOMINEES SUBMITTED  
5 BY THE PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS  
6 ASSOCIATION.

7 (IV) ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO BE APPOINTED BY THE  
8 GOVERNOR.

9 (V) FOUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, ONE EACH TO BE  
10 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, THE  
11 MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
12 OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
13 OF REPRESENTATIVES.] :

14 (I) THE COMMISSIONER, WHO SHALL SERVE AS  
15 CHAIRPERSON.

16 (II) THE PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSIONAL  
17 FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OR A DESIGNEE.

18 (III) THE PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CAREER FIRE  
19 CHIEFS ASSOCIATION OR A DESIGNEE.

20 (IV) THE PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE AND  
21 EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE OR A DESIGNEE.

22 (V) TEN FIREFIGHTERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, TO  
23 WHOM THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

24 (A) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE THE PRESIDENT, OR  
25 DESIGNEE OF THE PRESIDENT, OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
26 ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS IN A FIRE COMPANY IN A  
27 CITY OF THE FIRST CLASS, SECOND CLASS OR THIRD CLASS  
28 WITH A POPULATION OF AT LEAST 115,000 BASED ON THE  
29 MOST RECENT CENSUS, SO LONG AS THE FIRE COMPANY IS  
30 NOT A MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSIONAL

1 FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION.

2 (B) EXCEPT FOR THE MEMBER UNDER CLAUSE (A), THE  
3 FOLLOWING APPLY:

4 (I) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE A CERTIFIED FIRE  
5 SERVICE INSTRUCTOR.

6 (II) MEMBERS SHALL BE:

7 (A) CURRENT MEMBERS OF A FIRE COMPANY OR  
8 CURRENTLY SERVING OR HAVE SERVED WITHIN THE  
9 PAST FIVE YEARS AS A CHIEF OFFICER OR  
10 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF A FIRE COMPANY; AND

11 (B) CERTIFIED AS FIREFIGHTER I OR ITS  
12 EQUIVALENT.

13 (III) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE SELECTED FROM EACH  
14 OF THE FOLLOWING REGIONS:

15 (A) REGION 1 - CRAWFORD, ERIE, FOREST,  
16 VENANGO AND WARREN COUNTIES.

17 (B) REGION 2 - ALLEGHENY, ARMSTRONG,  
18 BEAVER, BUTLER, CAMBRIA, FAYETTE, GREENE,  
19 INDIANA, LAWRENCE, MERCER, SOMERSET,  
20 WASHINGTON AND WESTMORELAND COUNTIES.

21 (C) REGION 3 - CAMERON, CLARION,  
22 CLEARFIELD, ELK, JEFFERSON AND MCKEAN  
23 COUNTIES.

24 (D) REGION 4 - BEDFORD, BLAIR, CENTRE,  
25 FULTON, HUNTINGDON, JUNIATA, MIFFLIN AND  
26 SNYDER COUNTIES.

27 (E) REGION 5 - BRADFORD, CLINTON,  
28 LYCOMING, POTTER, SULLIVAN, TIOGA AND UNION  
29 COUNTIES.

30 (F) REGION 6 - ADAMS, CUMBERLAND,



1 DAUPHIN, FRANKLIN, LANCASTER, LEBANON, PERRY  
2 AND YORK COUNTIES.

3 (G) REGION 7 - BERKS, COLUMBIA, LUZERNE,  
4 MONTOUR, NORTHUMBERLAND, SCHUYLKILL AND  
5 WYOMING COUNTIES.

6 (H) REGION 8 - CARBON, LACKAWANNA,  
7 LEHIGH, MONROE, NORTHAMPTON, PIKE,  
8 SUSQUEHANNA AND WAYNE COUNTIES.

9 (I) REGION 9 - BUCKS, CHESTER, DELAWARE,  
10 MONTGOMERY AND PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES.

11 (2) MEMBERS OF THE [COMMITTEE] BOARD SHALL SERVE AT THE  
12 PLEASURE OF THEIR APPOINTING AUTHORITY. [THE COMMITTEE SHALL  
13 ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE  
14 OPERATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND ANY  
15 OTHER MATTERS AS THE COMMISSIONER MAY REQUEST.]

16 (3) THE CHAIRPERSON AND MINORITY CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
17 VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE  
18 SENATE AND THE CHAIRPERSON AND MINORITY CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
19 VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE  
20 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR THEIR DESIGNEES, SHALL SERVE AS  
21 NONVOTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

22 (4) THE GOVERNOR MAY SHALL APPOINT THE FOLLOWING AS <--  
23 NONVOTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

24 (I) THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY.

25 (II) THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
26 SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

27 (III) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOLLOWING:

28 (A) THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF HAZARDOUS  
29 MATERIALS TECHNICIANS.

30 (B) THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE

1 EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTORS.

2 (C) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF  
3 PENNSYLVANIA.

4 (D) THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

5 (E) THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF  
6 TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS.

7 (F) THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF  
8 TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS.

9 (G) THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF  
10 BOROUGHES.

11 (H) THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS OF  
12 GOVERNMENTS.

13 (I) TRADE ASSOCIATIONS.

14 (J) FIRE EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS VENDORS.

15 (K) MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

16 (5) MEMBERS OF THE BOARD INITIALLY APPOINTED BY THE  
17 GOVERNOR UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) (V) SHALL SERVE AN INITIAL TERM  
18 OF TWO YEARS AS DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR AT THE TIME OF  
19 APPOINTMENT. UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE INITIAL TERM OF  
20 OFFICE OF EACH MEMBER OF THE BOARD AS APPOINTED UNDER  
21 PARAGRAPH (1) (V), THE MEMBER SHALL HOLD OFFICE FOR A TERM OF  
22 FOUR YEARS AND MAY CONTINUE TO HOLD OFFICE FOR A PERIOD OF  
23 TIME NOT TO EXCEED SIX MONTHS OR UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS  
24 APPOINTED AND QUALIFIED, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST. UPON THE  
25 DEATH, RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF ANY PERSON SO  
26 APPOINTED, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A COMPETENT PERSON TO  
27 SERVE FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM.

28 (6) UPON THE COMPLETION OF A MEMBER'S TERM WHO WAS  
29 APPOINTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) (V) (A), THE GOVERNOR SHALL NOT  
30 APPOINT THE SUCCEEDING MEMBER FROM THE SAME CLASS OF CITY AS

1       THE PREVIOUS TWO OUTGOING MEMBERS.

2       (B) EXPENSES.--MEMBERS OF THE [COMMITTEE] BOARD SHALL  
3 RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR REASONABLE TRAVEL[, HOTEL] AND OTHER  
4 NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES  
5 IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMMONWEALTH REGULATIONS.

6       (C) MEETINGS.--THE BOARD SHALL MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY OR AT  
7 THE TIMES AND PLACES AS CALLED UPON BY THE COMMISSIONER. ALL  
8 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD SHALL COMPLY WITH 65 PA.C.S. CH. 7  
9 (RELATING TO OPEN MEETINGS).

10      (D) DUTIES.--THE BOARD SHALL ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER ON  
11 MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE FOLLOWING:

12           (1) LEGISLATION.

13           (2) INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING.

14           (3) STANDARDS OF COVER FOR MUNICIPALITIES.

15           (4) OPERATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY.

16           (5) ANY OTHER MATTERS AS THE COMMISSIONER MAY REQUEST OR  
17 AS DIRECTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

18      SECTION 9. THE HEADING OF SUBCHAPTER B OF CHAPTER 74 OF  
19 TITLE 35 IS AMENDED TO READ:

20                                       SUBCHAPTER B

21                                       FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

22      SECTION 10. THE DEFINITION OF "VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS'  
23 RELIEF ASSOCIATION" IN SECTION 7412 OF TITLE 35 IS AMENDED AND  
24 THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY ADDING DEFINITIONS TO READ:

25      § 7412. DEFINITIONS.

26      THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS SUBCHAPTER  
27 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
28 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

29      "COMMISSIONER." THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER.

30      "FIRE COMPANY." A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, A MUNICIPAL FIRE

1 COMPANY OR A COMBINED VOLUNTEER AND MUNICIPAL FIRE COMPANY  
2 LOCATED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

3 \* \* \*

4 "LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM." A SYSTEM ESTABLISHED BY A  
5 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF  
6 ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE TAX-DEFERRED INCOME BENEFITS TO ACTIVE  
7 VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF A FIRE SERVICE.

8 "VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY." AS DEFINED IN SECTION 7802  
9 (RELATING TO DEFINITIONS).

10 \* \* \*

11 "VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION." AN  
12 ORGANIZATION FORMED PRIMARILY TO AFFORD FINANCIAL PROTECTION TO  
13 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AGAINST THE CONSEQUENCES OF MISFORTUNE  
14 SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRE SERVICE.  
15 THE ORGANIZATION MAY CONTAIN WITHIN ITS MEMBERSHIP THE MEMBERS  
16 OF ONE OR MORE [FIRE COMPANIES] VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES OR FIRE  
17 COMPANIES THAT ARE A COMBINATION OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AND  
18 A MUNICIPAL FIRE COMPANY, AND MAY SERVE SECONDARY PURPOSES, AS  
19 SET FORTH IN THIS SUBCHAPTER, BUT ONLY IF ADEQUATE PROVISIONS  
20 HAVE BEEN FIRST MADE TO SERVE THE PRIMARY PURPOSE.

21 SECTION 11. SECTION 7413 INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH, (1) AND (4)  
22 OF TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED AND THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY ADDING A  
23 PARAGRAPH TO READ:

24 § 7413. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

25 THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBCHAPTER IS TO ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO  
26 TAKE PART IN THE FIRE SERVICE AS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS BY  
27 ESTABLISHING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS FOR ORDERLY ADMINISTRATION  
28 AND CONDUCT OF AFFAIRS OF FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS TO  
29 ENSURE, AS FAR AS CIRCUMSTANCES WILL REASONABLY PERMIT, THAT  
30 FUNDS SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE ASSISTANCE TO AND PROTECTION OF

1 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND THEIR HEIRS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE:

2 (1) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WHO  
3 MAY SUFFER PHYSICAL OR MENTAL INJURY OR MISFORTUNE BY REASON  
4 OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRE SERVICE.

5 \* \* \*

6 (4) SAFEGUARDS FOR PRESERVING LIFE, HEALTH AND SAFETY OF  
7 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS TO ENSURE THEIR AVAILABILITY TO  
8 PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRE SERVICE, INCLUDING NECESSARY  
9 TRAINING.

10 \* \* \*

11 (6.1) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN  
12 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.

13 \* \* \*

14 SECTION 12. SECTION 7416(A) AND (F) (11), (13) AND (14) OF  
15 TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED AND SUBSECTION (F) IS AMENDED BY ADDING  
16 PARAGRAPHS TO READ:

17 § 7416. FUNDS.

18 (A) GENERAL RULE.--A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF  
19 ASSOCIATION MAY SOLICIT AND RECEIVE GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM  
20 ANY SOURCE, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, BUT SHALL NOT HAVE  
21 THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE ANY PORTION OF THE MONEY DISTRIBUTED TO  
22 POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH UNDER CHAPTER 7 OF  
23 THE ACT OF DECEMBER 18, 1984 (P.L.1005, NO.205), KNOWN AS THE  
24 MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN FUNDING STANDARD AND RECOVERY ACT, UNLESS  
25 AND UNTIL THE GOVERNING BODY OF AT LEAST ONE POLITICAL  
26 SUBDIVISION SHALL HAVE CERTIFIED TO THE [AUDITOR GENERAL]  
27 COMMISSIONER THAT THE ASSOCIATION IS A BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER  
28 FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION, AFFILIATED WITH A FIRE COMPANY  
29 WHICH AFFORDS PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE TO ALL OR A PORTION OF THE  
30 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE ANY NON-FIRE-

1 COMPANY-AFFILIATED RELIEF ASSOCIATION IN EXISTENCE AND RECEIVING  
2 FUNDS AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER  
3 23, 2010.

4 \* \* \*

5 (F) USE.--FUNDS OF ANY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF  
6 ASSOCIATION MAY BE SPENT:

7 \* \* \*

8 (11) TO PURCHASE SAFEGUARDS FOR PRESERVING LIFE, HEALTH  
9 AND SAFETY OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS TO ENSURE THEIR  
10 AVAILABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE,  
11 INCLUDING NECESSARY TRAINING.

12 \* \* \*

13 (13) TO MAINTAIN COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH, PHYSICAL FITNESS  
14 AND PHYSICAL MONITORING PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE FOR PHYSICAL  
15 FITNESS ACTIVITIES, NUTRITION EDUCATION AND SUPPLIES AND  
16 INSTRUCTION AND HEALTH AND FITNESS EVALUATION AND MONITORING,  
17 PROVIDED THAT THE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE NEAREST  
18 STATE-LICENSED HEALTH CARE FACILITY WHICH IS AUTHORIZED TO  
19 PROVIDE THAT SERVICE.

20 (14) TO PURCHASE EXERCISE AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR USE  
21 BY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS[, EXCEPT THAT EXPENDITURES FOR  
22 EXERCISE AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT EXCEED \$2,000 IN ANY  
23 TWO-YEAR PERIOD].

24 \* \* \*

25 (19) TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ACTIVITIES AND  
26 MATERIALS NEEDED TO AID IN THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF  
27 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.

28 (20) TO ESTABLISH AND PAY FOR LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD  
29 PROGRAMS.

30 (21) TO PAY FOR FACILITIES FOR STORAGE OF EMERGENCY

1 VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT, TRAINING AND MEETINGS.

2 (22) TO PAY FOR VEHICLES USED FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

3 (23) TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT USED FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

4 (24) TO DEFRAY THE COST OF OBTAINING OR RENEWING A  
5 COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES UNDER 75 PA.C.S. CH. 16  
6 (RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVERS) FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS  
7 WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH TO OPERATE FIRE OR  
8 EMERGENCY VEHICLES REGISTERED TO FIRE COMPANIES OR  
9 MUNICIPALITIES.

10 (25) TO PAY FOR STIPENDS TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, NOT  
11 TO EXCEED \$1,500 PER YEAR.

12 SECTION 13. SECTION 7418 OF TITLE 35 IS AMENDED TO READ:

13 § 7418. AUDITS.

14 (A) GENERAL RULE.--

15 (1) THE OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL SHALL HAVE THE POWER  
16 AND ITS DUTY SHALL BE TO AUDIT THE ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS OF  
17 EVERY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION RECEIVING  
18 MONEY UNDER CHAPTER 7 OF THE ACT OF DECEMBER 18, 1984  
19 (P.L.1005, NO.205), KNOWN AS THE MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN  
20 FUNDING STANDARD AND RECOVERY ACT, AS FAR AS MAY BE NECESSARY  
21 TO SATISFY THE AUDITOR GENERAL THAT THE MONEY RECEIVED WAS OR  
22 IS BEING EXPENDED FOR NO PURPOSE OTHER THAN THAT AUTHORIZED  
23 BY THIS SUBCHAPTER. COPIES OF ALL AUDITS SHALL BE FURNISHED  
24 TO THE GOVERNOR.

25 (2) THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE FIRE  
26 ADVISORY ~~COMMITTEE~~ BOARD, SHALL ESTABLISH AND PUBLISH <--  
27 ANNUALLY, ON THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S  
28 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE, ELIGIBLE USES OF THE  
29 MONEY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBCHAPTER.

30 (3) THE COMMISSIONER MAY RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM THE FIRE

1 SERVICES ON ELIGIBLE USES OF MONEY AND, IN CONSULTATION WITH  
2 THE FIRE ADVISORY ~~COMMITTEE~~ BOARD, MAKE A DETERMINATION ON <--  
3 THE ELIGIBLE USE OF MONEY ON THE EQUIPMENT OR SERVICE THAT IS  
4 THE SUBJECT OF THE INQUIRY.

5 (4) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1), THE COMMISSIONER  
6 SHALL MAINTAIN AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE ELIGIBLE USES OF  
7 MONEY RECEIVED.

8 (B) FINDINGS.--IF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FINDS THAT [ANY] MONEY  
9 RECEIVED BY A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION HAS  
10 BEEN EXPENDED FOR A PURPOSE OTHER THAN ONE AUTHORIZED BY THIS  
11 SUBCHAPTER, THE COMMISSIONER, UPON RECEIVING NOTICE OF THE  
12 FINDINGS FROM THE AUDITOR GENERAL, SHALL [IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE  
13 GOVERNOR AND SHALL] DECLINE TO APPROVE [FURTHER REQUISITIONS  
14 CALLING FOR] PAYMENT TO THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF  
15 ASSOCIATION UNTIL THE IMPROPERLY EXPENDED AMOUNT HAS BEEN  
16 REIMBURSED TO THE RELIEF ASSOCIATION FUND.

17 SECTION 14. TITLE 35 IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:  
18 § 7419.1. FIRE RELIEF FORMULA STUDY.

19 (A) STUDY.--THE FIRE ADVISORY ~~COMMITTEE~~ BOARD SHALL HAVE THE <--  
20 FOLLOWING DUTIES:

21 (1) REVIEW AND MAKE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
22 REGARDING THE FIRE RELIEF FUNDING FORMULA AND FIRE RELIEF  
23 SERVICES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

24 (2) HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS REGARDING THE FIRE RELIEF  
25 FUNDING FORMULA AND FIRE RELIEF SERVICES IN DIFFERENT REGIONS  
26 OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

27 (3) CONSULT WITH AND UTILIZE EXPERTS TO ASSIST THE  
28 ~~COMMITTEE~~ BOARD IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS <--  
29 SECTION.

30 (4) RECEIVE INPUT FROM INTERESTED PARTIES AND TAKE INTO



1 CONSIDERATION THE DIVERSE NATURE OF FIRE SERVICES IN THIS  
2 COMMONWEALTH.

3 (5) DRAFT PROPOSED LEGISLATION BASED ON THE ~~COMMITTEE'S~~ <--  
4 BOARD'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE FIRE <--  
5 RELIEF FUNDING FORMULA AND FIRE RELIEF SERVICES.

6 (6) NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30, 2022, ISSUE A REPORT ON  
7 THE ~~COMMITTEE'S~~ BOARD'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS <--  
8 REGARDING THE FIRE RELIEF FUNDING FORMULA AND FIRE RELIEF  
9 SERVICES TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

10 (I) THE GOVERNOR.

11 (II) THE COMMISSIONER.

12 (III) THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

13 (IV) THE MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
14 SENATE.

15 (V) THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
16 COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

17 (VI) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

18 (VII) THE MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
19 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

20 (VIII) THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
21 PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

22 (B) CONSTRUCTION.--NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE  
23 CONSTRUED TO AUTHORIZE A FIRE RELIEF FUNDING FORMULA TO GO INTO  
24 EFFECT WITHOUT BEING APPROVED BY AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

25 SECTION 15. THE DEFINITION OF "FIRE COMPANY" IN SECTION 7802  
26 OF TITLE 35 IS AMENDED AND THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY ADDING A  
27 DEFINITION TO READ:

28 § 7802. DEFINITIONS.

29 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS CHAPTER  
30 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE

1 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

2 \* \* \*

3 "AIRPORT FIRE COMPANY." A FIRE COMPANY THAT DOES ALL OF THE  
4 FOLLOWING:

5 (1) IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN AIRPORT.

6 (2) HAS A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH A NEIGHBORING  
7 MUNICIPALITY.

8 (3) HAS RESPONDED TO AT LEAST 15 FIRE OR RESCUE <--  
9 EMERGENCY CALLS ANNUALLY TO NEIGHBORING FIRE COMPANIES AS  
10 PROVIDED IN DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED BY THE STATE FIRE  
11 COMMISSIONER.

12 \* \* \*

13 "FIRE COMPANY." A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY [OR], A MUNICIPAL  
14 FIRE COMPANY OR A COMBINED VOLUNTEER AND MUNICIPAL FIRE COMPANY  
15 LOCATED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH. THE TERM INCLUDES AN AIRPORT FIRE  
16 COMPANY.

17 \* \* \*

18 SECTION 16. SECTIONS 7811 AND 7812 OF TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED  
19 TO READ:

20 § 7811. ESTABLISHMENT.

21 THE FIRE COMPANY GRANT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED AND SHALL BE  
22 ADMINISTERED BY THE [AGENCY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE]  
23 COMMISSIONER. GRANTS PROVIDED UNDER THIS PROGRAM SHALL BE USED  
24 TO IMPROVE AND ENHANCE THE CAPABILITIES OF [THE FIRE COMPANY]  
25 FIRE COMPANIES TO PROVIDE FIREFIGHTING, AMBULANCE AND RESCUE  
26 SERVICES.

27 § 7812. PUBLICATION AND NOTICE.

28 THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER SHALL PUBLISH NOTICE OF THE GRANT  
29 PROGRAM AVAILABILITY THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
30 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN[:]

1 (1) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF JUNE 28, 2007, FOR THE FISCAL  
2 YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006, AND JULY 1, 2007; AND

3 (2)] BY AUGUST 8 FOR [FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING AFTER JUNE  
4 30, 2008.] EACH FISCAL YEAR. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL POST A  
5 NOTICE OF THE GRANT PROGRAM AND APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT  
6 PROGRAM ON THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S  
7 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

8 SECTION 17. SECTION 7813(A), (C) AND (D) OF TITLE 35 ARE  
9 AMENDED, SUBSECTION (B) IS AMENDED BY ADDING A PARAGRAPH AND THE  
10 SECTION IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SUBSECTION TO READ:

11 § 7813. AWARD OF GRANTS.

12 (A) AUTHORIZATION.--THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
13 TO MAKE A GRANT AWARD TO EACH ELIGIBLE FIRE COMPANY FOR THE  
14 FOLLOWING:

15 (1) CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF [THE FIRE COMPANY'S  
16 FACILITY] FACILITIES AND PURCHASE OR REPAIR OF FIXTURES AND  
17 FURNISHINGS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES NECESSARY  
18 TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF THE COMPANY TO  
19 PROVIDE FIRE, AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SERVICES.

20 (2) REPAIR OF FIREFIGHTING, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE  
21 EQUIPMENT OR PURCHASE THEREOF.

22 (3) DEBT REDUCTION ASSOCIATED WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OR (2).

23 (4) TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF MEMBERS.

24 (5) [TRAINING AND EDUCATION] EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL  
25 PUBLIC REGARDING FIRE PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY RISK  
26 REDUCTION.

27 (6) RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT  
28 LIMITED TO, VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD  
29 PROGRAMS AND PROGRAMS FOR MINORS.

30 (7) REVENUE LOSS FOR GRANTS ISSUED IN 2021 AND 2022.

1 \* \* \*

2 (B) LIMITS.--

3 \* \* \*

4 (4) A FIRE COMPANY MAY ONLY APPLY FOR A GRANT FOR UP TO  
5 FIVE YEARS FOR THE PURPOSE UNDER SUBSECTION (E).

6 (C) TIME FOR FILING APPLICATION AND DEPARTMENT ACTION.--

7 (1) [WITHIN 30 DAYS OF JUNE 28, 2007, FOR THE FISCAL  
8 YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006, AND JULY 1, 2007, AND BY] BY  
9 SEPTEMBER [1] 8 OF EACH YEAR [THEREAFTER], THE [AGENCY]  
10 COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE APPLICATIONS AND WRITTEN  
11 INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRANTS UNDER THIS CHAPTER TO:

12 (I) EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II), THE  
13 FIRE CHIEF AND PRESIDENT OF EVERY FIRE COMPANY; OR

14 (II) IN THE CASE OF A MUNICIPAL FIRE COMPANY, THE  
15 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

16 (2) [WITHIN 45 DAYS OF JUNE 28, 2007, FOR THE FISCAL  
17 YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006, AND JULY 1, 2007, AND BY  
18 SEPTEMBER 8 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE  
19 APPLICATIONS TO INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1). THE  
20 APPLICATION FOR THE FISCAL YEARS COMMENCING JULY 1, 2006, AND  
21 JULY 1, 2007, SHALL BE A COMBINED APPLICATION.] FIRE  
22 COMPANIES SEEKING GRANTS UNDER THIS CHAPTER SHALL SUBMIT  
23 COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER AND THE  
24 MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THE FIRE COMPANIES ARE LOCATED. THE  
25 APPLICATION PERIOD SHALL REMAIN OPEN FOR 45 DAYS EACH YEAR.  
26 THE AGENCY SHALL ACT TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE APPLICATIONS  
27 WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE EACH  
28 YEAR. APPLICATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED OR  
29 DISAPPROVED BY THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER  
30 THE CLOSE OF THE APPLICATION PERIOD EACH YEAR SHALL BE DEEMED

1 APPROVED.

2 (D) ELIGIBILITY.--TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS UNDER THIS CHAPTER,  
3 A FIRE COMPANY MUST:

4 (1) HAVE ACTIVELY RESPONDED TO AT LEAST [10] 15 FIRE OR  
5 RESCUE EMERGENCIES DURING THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR.

6 (2) BE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE  
7 INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM UNDER A SIGNED AGREEMENT. THE  
8 COMMISSIONER SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH GUIDELINES SPECIFYING  
9 THE CRITERIA NECESSARY TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF  
10 PARTICIPATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INFORMATION REPORTING  
11 SYSTEM TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT FUNDS.

12 (E) CONSTRUCTION SAVINGS ACCOUNT.--A FIRE COMPANY MAY APPLY  
13 FOR A GRANT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING  
14 A NEW FACILITY. THE GRANT SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE  
15 CONSTRUCTION SAVINGS ACCOUNT, WHICH IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE  
16 STATE TREASURY. MONEY IN THE CONSTRUCTION SAVINGS ACCOUNT MAY BE  
17 WITHDRAWN BY APPLICATION OF THE FIRE COMPANY. THE CONSTRUCTION  
18 SAVINGS ACCOUNT SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMISSIONER. THE  
19 FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

20 (1) A FIRE COMPANY MAY ONLY ACCESS MONEY IN THE  
21 CONSTRUCTION SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES AND AT  
22 THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSIONER.

23 (2) FOR A FIRE COMPANY TO WITHDRAW MONEY FROM THE  
24 CONSTRUCTION SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

25 (I) THE APPLICATION SHALL CONTAIN THE SIGNATURES OF  
26 TWO DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE FIRE COMPANY.

27 (II) THE FIRE COMPANY SHALL INDICATE ON THE  
28 APPLICATION HOW THE MONEY IS GOING TO BE USED UNDER  
29 SUBSECTION (A).

30 (3) ANY INTEREST ACCRUED ON THE CONSTRUCTION SAVINGS

1 ACCOUNT MAY BE USED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
2 PURPOSES.

3 SECTION 18. SECTIONS 7814, 7821, 7822 AND 7823(A) AND (C) OF  
4 TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

5 § 7814. CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE.

6 IF[, AFTER JULY 31, 2003,] TWO OR MORE VOLUNTEER FIRE  
7 COMPANIES CONSOLIDATE THEIR USE OF FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT,  
8 FIREFIGHTERS AND SERVICES, THE CONSOLIDATED ENTITY MAY, UPON  
9 NOTIFICATION OF THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER, BE ELIGIBLE FOR A  
10 REDUCTION OF THE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE ON ANY OUTSTANDING  
11 PRINCIPAL BALANCE OWED, AS OF THE DATE OF CONSOLIDATION, BY ANY  
12 OR ALL OF THE CONSOLIDATING COMPANIES TO THE [VOLUNTEER  
13 COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN <--  
14 ASSISTANCE FUND FOR LOANS MADE UNDER THE ACT OF JULY 15, 1976 <--  
15 (P.L.1036, NO.208), KNOWN AS THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY,  
16 AMBULANCE SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE ACT, OR UNDER  
17 SUBCHAPTER E OF CHAPTER 73 (RELATING TO [VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY,  
18 AMBULANCE SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE] FIRE AND  
19 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM). THE <--  
20 REDUCTION IN THE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE SHALL BE FROM 2% TO 1%.  
21 UPON RECEIPT OF SUCH NOTIFICATION, THE [AGENCY, IN CONJUNCTION  
22 WITH THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER,] COMMISSIONER SHALL DETERMINE  
23 AND VERIFY THAT THE CONSOLIDATED ENTITY IS IN FACT A BONA FIDE  
24 CONSOLIDATED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY. IF THE [AGENCY]  
25 COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT THE CONSOLIDATED ENTITY IS A BONA  
26 FIDE CONSOLIDATED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, [IT] THE COMMISSIONER  
27 SHALL REDUCE THE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE ON ANY OUTSTANDING  
28 PRINCIPAL BALANCE OWED TO THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] <--  
29 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE FUND FOR <--  
30 LOANS MADE UNDER THE FORMER VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE

1 SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE ACT, OR UNDER SUBCHAPTER E  
2 OF CHAPTER 73, FOR WHICH THE CONSOLIDATING COMPANIES OR THE  
3 CONSOLIDATED ENTITY MAY BE INDIVIDUALLY OR JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE.  
4 THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER MAY PROMULGATE SUCH RULES AND  
5 REGULATIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF  
6 THIS SECTION.

7 § 7821. ESTABLISHMENT.

8 THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED  
9 AND SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER. GRANTS  
10 PROVIDED UNDER THIS PROGRAM SHALL BE USED TO IMPROVE AND ENHANCE  
11 THE CAPABILITIES OF EMS [COMPANIES] TO PROVIDE AMBULANCE,  
12 EMERGENCY MEDICAL, BASIC LIFE SUPPORT AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT  
13 SERVICES.

14 § 7822. PUBLICATION AND NOTICE.

15 THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER SHALL PUBLISH NOTICE OF THE GRANT  
16 PROGRAM AVAILABILITY THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
17 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN[ :

18 (1) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF JUNE 28, 2007, FOR THE FISCAL  
19 YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006, AND JULY 1, 2007; AND

20 (2)] BY AUGUST 8 FOR [FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING AFTER JUNE  
21 30, 2008] EACH FISCAL YEAR.

22 § 7823. AWARD OF GRANTS.

23 (A) AUTHORIZATION.--THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
24 TO MAKE A GRANT AWARD TO EACH ELIGIBLE EMS COMPANY FOR THE  
25 FOLLOWING:

26 (1) CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF THE EMS COMPANY'S  
27 [FACILITY] FACILITIES AND PURCHASE OR REPAIR OF FIXTURES,  
28 FURNISHINGS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES NECESSARY  
29 TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF THE [AMBULANCE  
30 SERVICE] SERVICES TO PROVIDE AMBULANCE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL,

1 BASIC LIFE SUPPORT AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES.

2 (2) REPAIR OF AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT OR PURCHASE THEREOF.

3 (3) DEBT REDUCTION ASSOCIATED WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OR (2).

4 (4) TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF MEMBERS.

5 (5) EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC REGARDING COMMUNITY  
6 RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS.

7 (6) RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING, BUT  
8 NOT LIMITED TO, PROGRAMS FOR MINORS.

9 (7) REVENUE LOSS FOR GRANTS ISSUED IN 2021 AND 2022.

10 \* \* \*

11 (C) TIME FOR FILING APPLICATION AND DEPARTMENT ACTION.--

12 (1) [WITHIN 30 DAYS OF JUNE 28, 2007, FOR THE FISCAL  
13 YEARS COMMENCING JULY 1, 2006, AND JULY 1, 2007, AND BY] BY  
14 SEPTEMBER [1] 8 OF EACH YEAR [THEREAFTER], THE [AGENCY]  
15 COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE APPLICATIONS AND WRITTEN  
16 INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRANTS UNDER THIS CHAPTER TO THE PRESIDENT  
17 OR LEAD OFFICER OF EVERY EMS COMPANY IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

18 (2) [WITHIN 45 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF JUNE 28,  
19 2007, FOR THE FISCAL YEARS COMMENCING JULY 1, 2006, AND JULY  
20 1, 2007, AND BY SEPTEMBER 8 OF EACH YEAR, THE AGENCY SHALL  
21 PROVIDE APPLICATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT OF EVERY EMS COMPANY.  
22 THE APPLICATION FOR THE FISCAL YEARS COMMENCING JULY 1, 2006,  
23 AND JULY 1, 2007, SHALL BE A COMBINED APPLICATION.] EMS  
24 COMPANIES SEEKING GRANTS UNDER THIS CHAPTER SHALL SUBMIT  
25 COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER. THE  
26 APPLICATION PERIOD SHALL REMAIN OPEN FOR 45 DAYS EACH YEAR.  
27 THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER SHALL ACT TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE  
28 APPLICATIONS WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION  
29 DEADLINE EACH YEAR. APPLICATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED  
30 OR DISAPPROVED BY THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER WITHIN 60 DAYS



1 AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE APPLICATION PERIOD EACH YEAR SHALL BE  
2 DEEMED APPROVED.

3 SECTION 19. SUBCHAPTER C OF CHAPTER 78 OF TITLE 35 IS  
4 AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

5 § 7824. CONSOLIDATION INCENTIVE.

6 AFTER JANUARY 1, 2020, IF TWO OR MORE EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
7 SERVICES COMPANIES CONSOLIDATE THEIR USE OF FACILITIES,  
8 EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES, THE CONSOLIDATED ENTITY MAY, UPON  
9 NOTIFICATION OF THE COMMISSIONER, BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REDUCTION OF  
10 THE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE ON ANY OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL BALANCE  
11 OWED, AS OF THE DATE OF CONSOLIDATION, BY ANY OR ALL OF THE  
12 CONSOLIDATING COMPANIES TO THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL <--  
13 SERVICES LOAN ~~ASSISTANCE~~ FUND FOR LOANS MADE UNDER SUBCHAPTER E <--  
14 OF CHAPTER 73 (RELATING TO FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
15 LOAN ~~ASSISTANCE~~ PROGRAM). THE REDUCTION IN THE INTEREST RATE <--  
16 PAYABLE SHALL BE FROM 2% TO 1%. UPON RECEIPT OF SUCH  
17 NOTIFICATION, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL DETERMINE AND VERIFY THAT  
18 THE CONSOLIDATED ENTITY IS IN FACT A BONA FIDE CONSOLIDATED  
19 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY. IF THE COMMISSIONER  
20 DETERMINES THAT THE CONSOLIDATED ENTITY IS A BONA FIDE  
21 CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY, THE  
22 COMMISSIONER SHALL REDUCE THE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE ON ANY  
23 OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL BALANCE OWED TO THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY <--  
24 MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ~~ASSISTANCE~~ FUND FOR LOANS MADE UNDER <--  
25 SUBCHAPTER E OF CHAPTER 73, FOR WHICH THE CONSOLIDATING  
26 COMPANIES OR THE CONSOLIDATED ENTITY MAY BE INDIVIDUALLY OR  
27 JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE. THE COMMISSIONER MAY PROMULGATE SUCH RULES  
28 AND REGULATIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS  
29 OF THIS SECTION.

30 SECTION 20. SECTIONS 7831, 7832, 7832.1, 7833, 7841 AND

1 7842(B) OF TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

2 § 7831. FIRE COMPANY GRANT PROGRAM.

3 THE SUM OF \$22,000,000 OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO THE  
4 [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER FOR FIRE COMPANY GRANTS UNDER SECTION  
5 1799-E OF THE ACT OF APRIL 9, 1929 (P.L.343, NO.176), KNOWN AS  
6 THE FISCAL CODE, SHALL BE EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING  
7 GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE FIRE COMPANIES UNDER SUBCHAPTER B (RELATING  
8 TO FIRE COMPANY GRANT PROGRAM) .

9 § 7832. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY GRANT PROGRAM.

10 THE SUM OF \$3,000,000 OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO THE  
11 [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER FOR EMS COMPANY GRANTS UNDER SECTION 1799-  
12 E OF THE ACT OF APRIL 9, 1929 (P.L.343, NO.176), KNOWN AS THE  
13 FISCAL CODE, SHALL BE EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING GRANTS  
14 TO ELIGIBLE EMS COMPANIES UNDER SUBCHAPTER C (RELATING TO  
15 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM) .

16 § 7832.1. ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

17 IN ADDITION TO SUMS TRANSFERRED FROM THE STATE GAMING FUND  
18 AND UNDER SECTION 2413(A) (1) OF THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1971 (P.L.6,  
19 NO.2), KNOWN AS THE TAX REFORM CODE OF 1971, THE SUM OF  
20 \$5,000,000 SHALL BE TRANSFERRED ANNUALLY FROM THE PROPERTY TAX  
21 RELIEF RESERVE FUND TO THE FIRE COMPANY GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE  
22 PURPOSE OF MAKING GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE FIRE COMPANIES UNDER THIS  
23 SUBCHAPTER.

24 § 7833. ALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.

25 (A) ADMINISTRATION.--

26 (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2), NO MONEY  
27 FROM THE APPROPRIATION FOR GRANTS SHALL BE USED FOR EXPENSES  
28 OR COSTS INCURRED BY THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER FOR THE  
29 ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED UNDER  
30 SUBCHAPTERS B (RELATING TO FIRE COMPANY GRANT PROGRAM) AND C

1 (RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM) .

2 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1), THE COMMISSIONER MAY  
3 USE NOT MORE THAN \$800,000 OF ANY UNENCUMBERED FUNDS  
4 REMAINING IN THE FUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR GRANT  
5 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION UNDER THIS CHAPTER.

6 (B) GRANT ALLOCATION.--UNLESS OTHERWISE EXPRESSLY STATED,  
7 MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER FOR PURPOSES OF  
8 FIRE COMPANY AND EMS COMPANY GRANTS SHALL BE ALLOCATED AS  
9 FOLLOWS:

10 (1) EIGHTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED  
11 SHALL BE USED FOR MAKING GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE FIRE COMPANIES  
12 UNDER SUBCHAPTER B.

13 (2) TWELVE PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED SHALL BE  
14 USED FOR MAKING GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE EMS COMPANIES UNDER  
15 SUBCHAPTER C.

16 § 7841. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.

17 THE AUTHORITY OF THE [AGENCY] COMMISSIONER TO AWARD GRANTS  
18 UNDER SUBCHAPTERS B (RELATING TO FIRE COMPANY GRANT PROGRAM) AND  
19 C (RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM) SHALL  
20 EXPIRE [JUNE 30, 2020] JUNE 30, 2024.

21 § 7842. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

22 \* \* \*

23 (B) DELINQUENCY.--AN APPLICANT FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS  
24 CHAPTER WHO IS DELINQUENT IN LOAN PAYMENTS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA  
25 [VOLUNTEER LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ACT OF  
26 JULY 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, NO.208), KNOWN AS THE VOLUNTEER FIRE  
27 COMPANY, AMBULANCE SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE ACT,]  
28 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MUST <--  
29 USE ITS GRANT FUNDS TO PAY ANY ARREARS TO THE COMMONWEALTH OR IT  
30 WILL NOT BE QUALIFIED TO RECEIVE A GRANT. ANY ORGANIZATION THAT

1 FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM  
2 APPLYING TO THE GRANT PROGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF [~~THREE~~] FIVE  
3 YEARS.

4 \* \* \*

5 SECTION 21. TITLE 35 IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:  
6 § 7843. ANNUAL REPORTS.

7 (A) CONTENTS.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL  
8 REPORT ON THE FIRE COMPANY GRANT PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
9 SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM. THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL INCLUDE ALL OF  
10 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

11 (1) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRE COMPANIES AND EMS COMPANIES  
12 THAT WERE NOTIFIED OF THE GRANT PROGRAMS.

13 (2) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRE COMPANIES AND EMS COMPANIES  
14 THAT SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT PROGRAMS.

15 (3) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRE COMPANIES AND EMS COMPANIES  
16 THAT WERE APPROVED FOR GRANTS.

17 (4) AN ANALYSIS OF HOW THE GRANTS WERE USED FOR  
18 FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, DEBT REDUCTION, TRAINING AND  
19 CERTIFICATION, THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC,  
20 CONSTRUCTION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION,  
21 INCLUDING LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAMS, AS DELINEATED BY  
22 COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY.

23 (5) A LIST OF THE FIRE COMPANIES AS DELINEATED BY COUNTY  
24 THAT RECEIVED ADDITIONAL GRANTS UNDER SECTION 7813(A.2)  
25 (RELATING TO AWARD OF GRANTS).

26 (6) A LIST OF THE DIFFERENT ENTITIES THAT RECEIVED  
27 GRANTS, INCLUDING ~~CAREER~~ MUNICIPAL FIRE COMPANIES, VOLUNTEER <--  
28 FIRE COMPANIES, ~~CAREER~~ MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES <--  
29 COMPANIES AND VOLUNTEER EMS COMPANIES.

30 (7) A LIST OF THE DIFFERENT REASONS WHY GRANTS WERE NOT

1 ISSUED TO FIRE COMPANIES AND EMS COMPANIES, INCLUDING, BUT  
2 NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

3 (I) FAILURE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT  
4 PROGRAMS.

5 (II) FAILURE TO RUN CALLS FOR EMERGENCIES.

6 (III) DELINQUENCIES AND BANKRUPTCIES.

7 (8) A LIST OF THE FIRE COMPANIES AND EMS COMPANIES THAT  
8 UTILIZED THE GRANTS TO PAY OFF LOANS UNDER THE PENNSYLVANIA  
9 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ~~ASSISTANCE~~ PROGRAM. <--

10 (B) SUBMISSION.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT THE ANNUAL  
11 REPORT BY OCTOBER 1, 2020, AND BY OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR  
12 THEREAFTER, TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

13 (1) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS  
14 AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

15 (2) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS  
16 AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
17 REPRESENTATIVES.

18 (C) POSTING.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL POST THE ANNUAL REPORT  
19 ON THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S PUBLICLY  
20 ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

21 SECTION 22. THE DEFINITIONS OF "GOVERNING BODY" AND  
22 "MUNICIPALITY" IN SECTION 79A03 OF TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED TO READ:  
23 § 79A03. DEFINITIONS.

24 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS CHAPTER  
25 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
26 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

27 \* \* \*

28 "GOVERNING BODY." A GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY, CITY  
29 COUNCIL, BOROUGH COUNCIL, INCORPORATED TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD OF  
30 TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS, BOARD OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS, GOVERNING

1 BODY OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, GOVERNING COUNCIL OF A HOME RULE  
2 MUNICIPALITY OR OPTIONAL PLAN MUNICIPALITY OR A GOVERNING  
3 COUNCIL OF ANY SIMILAR PURPOSE GOVERNMENT WHICH MAY BE CREATED  
4 BY STATUTE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION AND WHICH  
5 HAS ADOPTED A TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS CHAPTER.

6 \* \* \*

7 "MUNICIPALITY." ANY COUNTY, CITY, BOROUGH, INCORPORATED  
8 TOWN, TOWNSHIP, HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY, OPTIONAL PLAN  
9 MUNICIPALITY, OPTIONAL CHARTER MUNICIPALITY [OR ANY], SIMILAR  
10 GENERAL PURPOSE UNIT OF GOVERNMENT WHICH MAY BE CREATED OR  
11 AUTHORIZED BY STATUTE OR ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

12 \* \* \*

13 SECTION 23. SECTION 79A11(A) AND (B), 79A13 AND 79A24(B) OF  
14 TITLE 35 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

15 § 79A11. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

16 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--A MUNICIPALITY THAT LEVIES AN EARNED  
17 INCOME TAX MAY ESTABLISH BY ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION A TAX CREDIT  
18 AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL'S LIABILITY IMPOSED UNDER CHAPTER 3 OF THE  
19 LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT FOR ACTIVE SERVICE AS A VOLUNTEER.

20 (B) AMOUNT.--A MUNICIPALITY SHALL SET FORTH IN THE ORDINANCE  
21 OR RESOLUTION THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT THAT WILL BE  
22 OFFERED TO AN INDIVIDUAL. IF AN INDIVIDUAL'S EARNED INCOME TAX  
23 LIABILITY IS LESS THAN THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT OFFERED, THE  
24 INDIVIDUAL'S TAX CREDIT MUST EQUAL THE INDIVIDUAL'S TAX  
25 LIABILITY.

26 \* \* \*

27 § 79A13. REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.

28 THE GOVERNING BODY OF A MUNICIPALITY MAY PROVIDE, BY  
29 ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION, FOR A TAX CREDIT AGAINST REAL PROPERTY  
30 TAX TO BE GRANTED TO AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER. THE TAX CREDIT SHALL

1 APPLY TO TAX LEVIED ON RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY OWNED AND  
2 OCCUPIED BY AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER WHO IS CERTIFIED UNDER SECTION  
3 79A23 (RELATING TO CERTIFICATION). THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT  
4 AUTHORIZED BY AN ORDINANCE [SHALL NOT EXCEED 20%] OR RESOLUTION  
5 MAY NOT EXCEED 100% OF THE TAX LIABILITY OF THE ACTIVE  
6 VOLUNTEER.

7 § 79A24. REJECTION AND APPEAL.

8 \* \* \*

9 (B) APPEAL.--AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO  
10 APPEAL A CLAIM THAT HAS BEEN REJECTED BY A GOVERNING BODY. THE  
11 GOVERNING BODY SHALL ESTABLISH, BY ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION, THE  
12 PROCEDURE BY WHICH A REJECTED CLAIM CAN BE APPEALED.

13 SECTION 24. TITLE 35 IS AMENDED BY ADDING SECTIONS TO READ:

14 § 79A32. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION.

15 A COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, CONSORTIUM OR OTHER SIMILAR ENTITY  
16 OF WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY IS A MEMBER MAY PROVIDE FOR THE JOINT  
17 CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF A VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT  
18 PROGRAM AND TAX CREDITS ADOPTED BY ITS MEMBERS. A GOVERNING BODY  
19 MAY, BY ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION, DELEGATE TO THE ENTITY ITS  
20 POWERS AND DUTIES UNDER SUBCH. C (RELATING TO VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
21 CREDIT), INCLUDING THE PROCESS OF REJECTING AND APPEALING CLAIMS  
22 UNDER SECTION 79A24 (RELATING TO REJECTION AND APPEAL).

23 § 79A33. DUTIES OF STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER.

24 THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

25 (1) ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR MUNICIPALITIES, VOLUNTEER  
26 FIRE COMPANIES AND NONPROFIT EMS AGENCIES REGARDING THE TAX  
27 CREDIT AND POST THE GUIDELINES ONLINE.

28 (2) REQUIRE MUNICIPALITIES AND ENTITIES UNDER THIS  
29 SECTION TO NOTIFY THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER OF THE ADOPTION  
30 OF A TAX CREDIT.

1           (3) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TAX CREDIT  
2           AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS CHAPTER TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY  
3           CHAIRMAN OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
4           COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY  
5           PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHICH  
6           SHALL INCLUDE:

7                   (I) EACH MUNICIPALITY THAT PROVIDES THE TAX CREDIT.

8                   (II) THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT.

9           SECTION 25. THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
10 BEGINNING AFTER JUNE 30, 2020, AND ENDING BEFORE JULY 1, 2021:

11           (1) THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO FIRE COMPANY GRANTS  
12 UNDER 35 PA.C.S. CH. 78 SUBCH. B:

13                   (I) NOTWITHSTANDING 35 PA.C.S. § 7812, THE STATE  
14 FIRE COMMISSIONER SHALL, WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF THE  
15 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, TRANSMIT NOTICE OF THE  
16 FIRE COMPANY GRANT PROGRAM AVAILABILITY TO THE  
17 LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FOR PUBLICATION IN THE  
18 PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN.

19                   (II) NOTWITHSTANDING 35 PA.C.S. § 7813(C), THE  
20 FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

21                           (A) WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF  
22 THE NOTICE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I), THE STATE FIRE  
23 COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR  
24 GRANTS UNDER 35 PA.C.S. CH. 78 SUBCH. B TO:

25                                   (I) EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBCLAUSE (II),  
26 THE FIRE CHIEF AND PRESIDENT OF EVERY FIRE  
27 COMPANY; OR

28                                   (II) IN THE CASE OF A MUNICIPAL FIRE  
29 COMPANY, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

30                           (B) WITHIN 45 DAYS OF THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF



1 THE NOTICE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I), THE STATE FIRE  
2 COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE APPLICATIONS TO  
3 INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED IN CLAUSE (A). FIRE COMPANIES  
4 SEEKING GRANTS UNDER 35 PA.C.S. CH. 78 SUBCH. B SHALL  
5 SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO THE STATE FIRE  
6 COMMISSIONER. THE APPLICATION PERIOD SHALL REMAIN  
7 OPEN FOR 45 DAYS. THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER SHALL  
8 ACT TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE APPLICATIONS WITHIN 60  
9 DAYS OF THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE.  
10 APPLICATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED OR  
11 DISAPPROVED BY THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER WITHIN 60  
12 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE APPLICATION PERIOD SHALL  
13 BE DEEMED APPROVED.

14 (2) THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
15 SERVICES GRANTS UNDER 35 PA.C.S. CH. 78 SUBCH. C:

16 (I) NOTWITHSTANDING 35 PA.C.S. § 7822, THE STATE  
17 FIRE COMMISSIONER SHALL, WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF THE  
18 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, TRANSMIT NOTICE OF THE  
19 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM AVAILABILITY TO  
20 THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FOR PUBLICATION IN THE  
21 PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN.

22 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING 35 PA.C.S. § 7823(C), THE  
23 FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

24 (A) WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF  
25 THE NOTICE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I), THE STATE FIRE  
26 COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR  
27 GRANTS UNDER 35 PA.C.S. CH. 78 SUBCH. C TO THE  
28 PRESIDENT OF EVERY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY  
29 IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

30 (B) WITHIN 45 DAYS OF THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF

1 THE NOTICE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I), THE STATE FIRE  
2 COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE APPLICATIONS TO  
3 INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED IN CLAUSE (A). EMERGENCY  
4 MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES SEEKING GRANTS UNDER 35  
5 PA.C.S. CH. 78 SUBCH. C SHALL SUBMIT COMPLETED  
6 APPLICATIONS TO THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER. THE  
7 APPLICATION PERIOD SHALL REMAIN OPEN FOR 45 DAYS. THE  
8 STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER SHALL ACT TO APPROVE OR  
9 DISAPPROVE APPLICATIONS WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE  
10 APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE. APPLICATIONS WHICH  
11 HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY THE STATE  
12 FIRE COMMISSIONER WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF  
13 THE APPLICATION PERIOD SHALL BE DEEMED APPROVED.

14 SECTION 26. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS FOLLOWS:

15 (1) THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS SHALL TAKE EFFECT  
16 IMMEDIATELY:

17 (I) SECTION 25 OF THIS ACT.

18 (II) THIS SECTION.

19 (III) THE AMENDMENT OF 35 PA.C.S. § 7841.

20 (2) THE AMENDMENT OR ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING SHALL  
21 TAKE EFFECT IN SIX MONTHS:

22 (I) 35 PA.C.S. CH. 74 SUBCH. B HEADING.

23 (II) 35 PA.C.S. § 7412.

24 (III) 35 PA.C.S. § 7413 INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH, (1),

25 (4) AND (6.1).

26 (IV) 35 PA.C.S. § 7416(A) AND (F) (13), (14), (19),  
27 (20), (21), (22), (23), (24) AND (25).

28 (V) 35 PA.C.S. § 7418(B).

29 (VI) 35 PA.C.S. § 7419.1.

30 (3) THE AMENDMENT OF 35 PA.C.S. § 7383(C) SHALL TAKE

1 EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2022.

2 (4) THE REMAINDER OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60  
3 DAYS.