

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2413 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, STRUZZI, ROTHMAN, CONKLIN, DONATUCCI, OBERLANDER, CAUSER, BOBACK, SCHMITT, WARNER, OWLETT, HILL-EVANS, O'MARA, BOROWICZ, BURNS, HELM, GLEIM, READSHAW, SONNEY AND KIRKLAND, APRIL 17, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, APRIL 17, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), entitled
 2 "An act relating to the finances of the State government;
 3 providing for cancer control, prevention and research, for
 4 ambulatory surgical center data collection, for the Joint
 5 Underwriting Association, for entertainment business
 6 financial management firms, for private dam financial
 7 assurance and for reinstatement of item vetoes; providing for
 8 the settlement, assessment, collection, and lien of taxes,
 9 bonus, and all other accounts due the Commonwealth, the
 10 collection and recovery of fees and other money or property
 11 due or belonging to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
 12 including escheated property and the proceeds of its sale,
 13 the custody and disbursement or other disposition of funds
 14 and securities belonging to or in the possession of the
 15 Commonwealth, and the settlement of claims against the
 16 Commonwealth, the resettlement of accounts and appeals to the
 17 courts, refunds of moneys erroneously paid to the
 18 Commonwealth, auditing the accounts of the Commonwealth and
 19 all agencies thereof, of all public officers collecting
 20 moneys payable to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
 21 and all receipts of appropriations from the Commonwealth,
 22 authorizing the Commonwealth to issue tax anticipation notes
 23 to defray current expenses, implementing the provisions of
 24 section 7(a) of Article VIII of the Constitution of
 25 Pennsylvania authorizing and restricting the incurring of
 26 certain debt and imposing penalties; affecting every
 27 department, board, commission, and officer of the State
 28 government, every political subdivision of the State, and
 29 certain officers of such subdivisions, every person,
 30 association, and corporation required to pay, assess, or
 31 collect taxes, or to make returns or reports under the laws
 32 imposing taxes for State purposes, or to pay license fees or

1 other moneys to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
2 every State depository and every debtor or creditor of the
3 Commonwealth," in additional special funds and restricted
4 accounts, providing for COVID-19 response transfers for
5 assistance to the Commonwealth's volunteer service
6 organizations.

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

9 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known
10 as The Fiscal Code, is amended by adding a section to read:

11 Section 1737-A.1. COVID-19 response transfers for assistance to
12 the Commonwealth's volunteer service organizations.

13 (a) Transfers.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law
14 to the contrary, the Secretary of the Budget may transfer the
15 sum of \$10,000,000 from special funds under the Governor's
16 jurisdiction to a restricted account as provided under
17 subsection (b) to assist the operations of the Commonwealth's
18 volunteer service organizations.

19 (b) Deposit.--The funds transferred under subsection (a)
20 shall be deposited by the Secretary of the Budget into a
21 restricted account within the General Fund of the State Treasury
22 as necessary to make payments under this section and, when
23 transferred, are hereby appropriated to carry out the provisions
24 of this section related to the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response.

25 (c) Deficit.--The Secretary of the Budget may not make a
26 transfer of funds if the transfer would result in a deficit in
27 any of the funds.

28 (d) Authorization.--The Secretary of the Budget shall only
29 be authorized to make transfers under subsection (a) to the
30 extent that written approval for the transfer is received from
31 the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the
32 House of Representatives.

33 (e) Distribution of funds.--The Secretary of the Budget, in

1 consultation with the State Fire Commissioner, shall distribute
2 the funds in the restricted account under subsection (b) to each
3 volunteer service organization in this Commonwealth in the form
4 of a grant equal to the amount of funds available in the
5 restricted account divided by the number of applications
6 received for a grant program under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 (relating
7 to grants to fire companies and emergency medical services
8 companies) for the application period beginning on September 1,
9 2019. An agreement or application by a volunteer service
10 organization shall not be required to receive a grant under this
11 subsection.

12 (f) Report.--No later than September 30, 2020, the Secretary
13 of the Budget shall provide a report detailing all spending
14 related to the COVID-19 response the Commonwealth has made under
15 this section, including the name of each recipient of funds and
16 the dollar amount issued. The Secretary of the Budget shall
17 provide the report to the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of
18 the Senate, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the House
19 of Representatives, the chairperson and minority chairperson of
20 the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the chairperson and
21 minority chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the
22 House of Representatives, the chairperson and minority
23 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
24 Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and minority
25 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
26 Committee of the House of Representatives.

27 (g) Expiration.--The authority to transfer funds under
28 subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2020.

29 (h) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
30 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this

1 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the
3 Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on March 6,
4 2020.

5 "Volunteer service organization." A volunteer EMS company,
6 volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue company as defined in
7 35 Pa.C.S. § 7802 (relating to definitions).

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.