
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2903 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SNYDER, OCTOBER 2, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, OCTOBER 2, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' organizations, providing
3 for COVID-19 mitigation order exemption and for COVID-19
4 crisis veterans' organization grant program.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding sections to read:

9 § 9305. COVID-19 mitigation order exemption.

10 Any national veterans' organization, incorporated unit of a
11 national veterans' organization or affiliated organization who
12 holds a restaurant, club or catering club license under the act
13 of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code,
14 shall be exempt from section 1(A) of the 20200715 TWW Targeted
15 Mitigation Order, except that:

16 (1) All service must be at a table or booth and bar
17 service shall be prohibited.

18 (2) Occupancy shall be limited to 25% of stated fire
19 code maximum occupancy or 50% of stated fire code maximum

1 occupancy if the licensee is a participant in the Open &
2 Certified Pennsylvania Program.

3 (3) A discrete indoor event or gathering within a bar
4 shall be limited to 25 individuals.

5 § 9306. COVID-19 Crisis Veterans' Organization Grant Program.

6 (a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 Crisis Veterans'
7 Organization Grant Program is established in the department.
8 Grants provided under the program shall be used by any eligible
9 organization during the novel coronavirus pandemic as identified
10 in the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor
11 on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020),
12 and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

13 (b) Publication and notice.--The department shall transmit
14 notice of the COVID-19 Crisis Veterans' Organization Grant
15 Program availability to the Legislative Reference Bureau for
16 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin within 30 days of the
17 effective date of this section.

18 (c) Grant applications.--The department shall develop an
19 application for the COVID-19 Crisis Veterans' Organization Grant
20 Program available to any eligible organization within 30 days of
21 the effective date of this section. The application shall be
22 made available and posted on the authority's publicly accessible
23 Internet website and be in a form that can be completed
24 electronically or through the United States mail.

25 (d) Appropriation.--The following shall apply to any
26 appropriation from money received by the Commonwealth under the
27 Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
28 (Public Law 116-136) for purposes of making grants under this
29 section:

30 (1) The sum of \$10,000,000 of the amount appropriated

1 shall be expended for the purpose of making grants to
2 eligible organizations.

3 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the department may
4 use up to \$60,000 of unencumbered funds from the amount
5 appropriated for administrative costs for the implementation
6 of this section.

7 (e) Expiration of authority.--The authority of the
8 department to award grants under this section shall expire six
9 months after the effective date of this section.

10 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
11 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
12 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Eligible organization." Any branch, post or camp of
14 honorably discharged servicemen or servicewomen or an affiliated
15 organization thereof that is deemed eligible to receive grants
16 under section 9304(d) (relating to grants to veterans' service
17 officer programs).

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.