

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 908 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY REGAN, ARGALL, BLAKE, GORDNER, MARTIN, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, STEFANO, MASTRIANO, J. WARD, SCHWANK, PITTMAN, KILLION AND BROWNE, OCTOBER 18, 2019

SENATOR REGAN, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 22, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, IN COMMONWEALTH SERVICES, FURTHER <--
3 PROVIDING FOR SCOPE OF SUBCHAPTER, FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS
4 AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR ASSISTANCE
5 TO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES, AMBULANCE SERVICE AND RESCUE
6 SQUADS, FOR VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND, FOR POWERS AND
7 DUTIES OF OFFICE, FOR DISPOSITION AND USE OF PROCEEDS, FOR
8 VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND AND INVESTMENTS, FOR
9 REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST, FOR
10 TEMPORARY FINANCING AUTHORIZATION, FOR AUTHORIZATION OF
11 CONTRACTS, REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE AND AMOUNT AND FOR
12 REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE AND AMOUNT, PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM
13 TO EXPAND LOAN ASSISTANCE AND FOR ANNUAL REPORT AND
14 DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR
15 PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; in volunteer
16 firefighters, further providing for definitions, for
17 statement of purpose, for funds and for audits and providing
18 for fire relief formula study-; IN GRANTS TO FIRE COMPANIES <--
19 AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES, FURTHER PROVIDING
20 FOR SPECIAL PROVISIONS; AND MAKING EDITORIAL CHANGES.

21 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
22 hereby enacts as follows:

23 Section 1. The heading of Subchapter B of Chapter 74 of <--
24 Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to
25 read:

26 SECTION 1. THE HEADING OF SUBCHAPTER E OF TITLE 35 OF THE <--

1 PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES IS AMENDED TO READ:

2 SUBCHAPTER E

3 [VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE SERVICE

4 AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE]

5 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

6 LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

9 § 7361. SCOPE OF SUBCHAPTER.

10 THIS SUBCHAPTER RELATES TO [VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, AMBULANCE
11 SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE] FIRE COMPANIES AND
12 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES.

13 § 7362. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.

14 * * *

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

1 MODERNIZING FACILITIES TO HOUSE FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS
2 EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES, AND RESCUE VEHICLES, AND FOR PURCHASING
3 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES, AND RESCUE
4 VEHICLES, PROTECTIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND ANY OTHER
5 ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF SUCH
6 ORGANIZATIONS' DUTIES," AND SECTION 7378.1(5) (RELATING TO
7 REFERENDUM FOR ADDITIONAL INDEBTEDNESS), AS WELL AS TO IMPLEMENT
8 IN PART SECTION 31.3 OF THE ACT OF JUNE 29, 2002 (P.L.559,
9 NO.89), ENTITLED "AN ACT AMENDING THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1971
10 (P.L.6, NO.2), ENTITLED 'AN ACT RELATING TO TAX REFORM AND STATE
11 TAXATION BY CODIFYING AND ENUMERATING CERTAIN SUBJECTS OF
12 TAXATION AND IMPOSING TAXES THEREON; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR
13 THE PAYMENT, COLLECTION, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT THEREOF;
14 PROVIDING FOR TAX CREDITS IN CERTAIN CASES; CONFERRING POWERS
15 AND IMPOSING DUTIES UPON THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, CERTAIN
16 EMPLOYERS, FIDUCIARIES, INDIVIDUALS, PERSONS, CORPORATIONS AND
17 OTHER ENTITIES; PRESCRIBING CRIMES, OFFENSES AND PENALTIES,'
18 FURTHER PROVIDING, IN SALES AND USE TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR
19 IMPOSITION, FOR EXCLUSIONS, FOR LICENSES, FOR COLLECTION, FOR
20 BULK AND AUCTION SALES AND FOR CRIMES; PROVIDING, IN LOCAL TAX
21 SITUS, FOR SITUS OF MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES; FURTHER
22 PROVIDING, IN PERSONAL INCOME TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR CLASSES
23 OF INCOME, FOR SPECIAL TAX PROVISIONS FOR POVERTY, FOR
24 CONTRIBUTIONS, FOR BULK AND AUCTION SALES AND TRANSFERS; IN
25 CORPORATE NET INCOME TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR IMPOSITION AND
26 FOR INTEREST IN UNINCORPORATED ENTITIES; AND IN CAPITAL STOCK
27 AND FRANCHISE TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR IMPOSITION, FOR DEPOSIT
28 OF PROCEEDS, FOR INTEREST IN UNINCORPORATED ENTITIES AND FOR
29 APPLICABILITY AND EXPIRATION; ESTABLISHING REVENUE-NEUTRAL
30 RECONCILIATION IN UTILITIES GROSS RECEIPTS TAX; PROVIDING, IN

1 PUBLIC UTILITY REALTY TAX AND FOR SURCHARGE; FURTHER PROVIDING,
2 IN REALTY TRANSFER TAX, FOR FURNISHING STAMPS; IN CIGARETTE TAX,
3 FOR INCIDENCE AND RATE, FOR FLOOR TAX, FOR COMMISSIONS ON SALES
4 AND FOR DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FUNDS; IN RESEARCH AND
5 DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT, FOR TIME LIMITATIONS AND FOR
6 TERMINATION; IN INHERITANCE TAX, FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR TRANSFERS
7 NOT SUBJECT TO TAX AND FOR ESTATE TAX AND FOR ESTATE TAX
8 RETURNS; PROVIDING FOR IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENT, SETTLEMENT OR
9 COLLECTION AND FOR DEPRECIATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN CITIES OF
10 THE FIRST CLASS; AND MAKING REPEALS," BY PROVIDING FOR LOANS TO
11 VOLUNTEER FIRE, AMBULANCE AND RESCUE COMPANIES TO PROTECT THE
12 LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH PURSUANT
13 TO AND TO EXECUTE THE ABOVE FAVORABLE REFERENDA IN SUBSECTION
14 (A).] THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS DETERMINED THAT [VOLUNTEER] FIRE
15 COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES ARE MOST IN
16 NEED OF LOANS [AND THEREFORE INTENDS THAT, TO THE EXTENT
17 POSSIBLE, A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN
18 FUND BE USED TO PROVIDE LOANS TO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AND
19 THAT THE BALANCE BE ALLOCATED TO PROVIDE LOANS TO VOLUNTEER
20 AMBULANCE AND VOLUNTEER RESCUE COMPANIES]. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
21 INTENDS THAT THE LOANS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER BE USED TO
22 REPLACE OUTMODED OR UNSAFE EQUIPMENT AND BUILDINGS OF
23 [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES AND [THAT THE LOANS BE PROVIDED TO
24 VOLUNTEER COMPANIES WHICH ARE EXPERIENCING A NEED FOR EQUIPMENT
25 OR FACILITIES] EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES TO MEET AN
26 INCREASING DEMAND FOR A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE IN THE
27 COMMUNITIES WHICH THEY SERVE.

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

1 § 7363. DEFINITIONS.

2 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS SUBCHAPTER
3 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
4 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

5 * * *

6 "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY" OR "EMS COMPANY." A
7 CAREER, NONPROFIT OR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
8 COMPANY.

9 * * *

10 "FIRE COMPANY." AN ORGANIZATION SERVING A MUNICIPALITY THAT
11 EMPLOYS FIREFIGHTERS ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS. THE TERM
12 INCLUDES A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY.

13 "FUND." THE EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER
14 SECTION 7365 (RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE
15 FUND).

16 "MUNICIPALITY." A COUNTY, CITY, BOROUGH, INCORPORATED TOWN
17 OR TOWNSHIP.

18 * * *

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

21 SECTION 4. SECTIONS 7364, 7365, 7366(A)(2) AND (3.1) AND (B)
22 (2), 7371, 7374, 7376, 7378(D), 7378.2 AND 7378.3 OF TITLE 35
23 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

24 § 7364. ASSISTANCE TO [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES[, AMBULANCE
25 SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUADS] AND EMS COMPANIES.

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

30 (1) ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING FACILITIES THAT HOUSE

1 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLES. THE
2 AMOUNT OF A LOAN FOR ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING FACILITIES
3 MADE TO ANY ONE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE
4 OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY SHALL NOT EXCEED 50% OF THE
5 TOTAL COST OF THE FACILITIES OR MODERNIZATION OR [\$400,000]
6 500,000, WHICHEVER IS LESS, AND A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL
7 STATEMENT FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) SHALL SHOW THAT THE
8 APPLICANT HAS AVAILABLE 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE
9 FACILITIES IN UNOBLIGATED FUNDS. PROCEEDS OF THE LOAN SHALL
10 BE USED ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF STRUCTURE OR LAND ACQUISITION OR
11 RENOVATION OR CONSTRUCTION AND SHALL NOT BE USED FOR PAYMENT
12 OF FEES FOR DESIGN, PLANNING, PREPARATION OF APPLICATIONS OR
13 ANY OTHER COST NOT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO STRUCTURE OR LAND
14 ACQUISITION OR RENOVATION OR CONSTRUCTION.

15 (2) PURCHASING FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS, AMBULANCES OR
16 RESCUE VEHICLES. THE AMOUNT OF A LOAN MADE FOR PURCHASING
17 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS TO ANY ONE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY
18 SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$200,000] \$300,000 FOR ANY SINGLE
19 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT OR UTILITY OR SPECIAL
20 SERVICE VEHICLE OR HEAVY DUTY RESCUE VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY
21 REGULATION OR GUIDELINE, OR 50% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE
22 EQUIPMENT OR VEHICLE, WHICHEVER IS LESS, EXCEPT FOR LOANS FOR
23 AERIAL APPARATUS AS DEFINED BY REGULATION OR GUIDELINE, WHICH
24 SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$300,000] \$400,000. THE AMOUNT OF A LOAN
25 MADE TO ANY ONE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE
26 OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY FOR ANY AMBULANCE OR LIGHT
27 DUTY RESCUE VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY REGULATION OR GUIDELINE
28 SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$100,000] \$200,000 AND FOR A WATERCRAFT
29 RESCUE VEHICLE SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$30,000] \$40,000 OR 50% OF
30 THE COST OF THE AMBULANCE OR RESCUE VEHICLE, WHICHEVER IS

1 LESS, AND A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FILED UNDER
2 SUBSECTION (C) SHALL SHOW THAT THE APPLICANT HAS AVAILABLE
3 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE VEHICLE IN UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.

4 (3) PURCHASING PROTECTIVE, ACCESSORY OR COMMUNICATION
5 EQUIPMENT. NO [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE OR
6 RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY SHALL RECEIVE A LOAN FOR
7 PROTECTIVE, ACCESSORY OR COMMUNICATIVE EQUIPMENT MORE THAN
8 ONCE IN ANY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. EACH [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[,
9 AMBULANCE SERVICE OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY MAY APPLY
10 FOR A LOAN FOR A MOBILE AND PORTABLE RADIO UNIT FOR EACH
11 EXISTING SERVICEABLE APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCE OR RESCUE
12 VEHICLE. RADIO EQUIPMENT OBTAINED THROUGH LOANS UNDER THIS
13 SUBCHAPTER SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH A FREQUENCY OR FREQUENCIES
14 LICENSED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR
15 FIREFIGHTING OR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PURPOSES. A NOTARIZED
16 FINANCIAL STATEMENT SHALL BE FILED AND LOANS UNDER THIS
17 SUBCHAPTER FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROTECTIVE, ACCESSORY OR
18 COMMUNICATIVE EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT EXCEED [\$20,000] \$25,000.

19 (4) REFINANCING DEBT INCURRED OR CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO
20 AFTER NOVEMBER 4, 1975, AND USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF
21 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT OR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR MODERNIZATION
22 OF FACILITIES OR FOR MODIFICATION OF APPARATUS EQUIPMENT IN
23 ORDER TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
24 STANDARDS.

25 (5) REPAIR OR REHABILITATION OF APPARATUS EQUIPMENT.
26 WHERE IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT EXISTING APPARATUS
27 EQUIPMENT NO LONGER MEETS THE STANDARDS OF THE NATIONAL FIRE
28 PROTECTION ASSOCIATION AND THE REPAIR OR REHABILITATION OF
29 SUCH EQUIPMENT WILL BRING IT IN COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL FIRE
30 PROTECTION ASSOCIATION STANDARDS, LOANS FOR THE REPAIR OR

1 REHABILITATION FOR A SINGLE APPARATUS EQUIPMENT SHALL BE FOR
2 AT LEAST [~~\$2,000~~] \$2,500 BUT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF
3 [~~\$70,000~~] \$75,000 OR 80% OF THE TOTAL COST OF REPAIR OR
4 REHABILITATION.

5 (6) PURCHASING OF USED FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS,
6 EQUIPMENT, USED AMBULANCES, USED RESCUE VEHICLES, USED
7 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, USED ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT OR USED
8 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, EXCEPT THAT THE USED VEHICLES AND
9 EQUIPMENT SHALL MEET THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
10 (NFPA) STANDARDS AND LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A USED SINGLE
11 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT EXCEED [~~\$120,000~~] \$150,000 OR
12 80% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE EQUIPMENT, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

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

24 (A.1) LIMITATION.--LOANS UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER MAY BE MADE
25 FOR ANY OF THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (A) UNDERTAKEN BY A
26 [~~VOLUNTEER~~] FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE AND
27 VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 4,
28 1975.

29 (B) LOANS.--LOANS MADE BY THE OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF
30 [~~\$30,000~~] \$50,000 OR LESS SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN

1 TEN YEARS. LOANS IN EXCESS OF [\\$30,000] \\$50,000 BUT NOT IN
2 EXCESS OF \$100,000 SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN 15
3 YEARS. THE PAYBACK PERIOD OF ANY LOAN IN EXCESS OF [\\$100,000]
4 \\$500,000, EXCEPT A LOAN FOR ESTABLISHING OR MODERNIZING
5 FACILITIES, SHALL NOT EXCEED 20 YEARS. THE PAYBACK PERIOD FOR
6 ANY LOAN IN EXCESS OF [\\$200,000] \\$500,000 FOR ESTABLISHING OR
7 MODERNIZING FACILITIES SHALL NOT EXCEED 20 YEARS. LOANS SHALL BE
8 SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AT 2% PER YEAR AND SHALL BE
9 SUBJECT TO SUCH SECURITY AS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE
10 COMMISSIONER. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF INTEREST EARNED BY THE
11 INVESTMENT OR REINVESTMENT OF ALL OR ANY PART OF THE PRINCIPAL
12 OF ANY LOAN SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE AND TRANSFERRED TO
13 THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN FUND
14 AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED AS PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL OR INTEREST ON
15 THE LOAN. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) (5) AND (7), THE
16 MINIMUM AMOUNT OF ANY LOAN SHALL BE [\\$10,000] \\$25,000.

17 (B.1) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.--BEGINNING ONE YEAR AFTER THE
18 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, ALL
19 LOAN LIMITS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCREASE AT THE RATE OF
20 INFLATION AS OUTLINED IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN
21 CONSUMERS IN THE NORTHEAST REGION FOR THE MOST RECENT 12-MONTH
22 PERIOD FOR WHICH THE FIGURES HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY THE UNITED
23 STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS. IF THE
24 RATE OF INFLATION DOES NOT INCREASE, ALL LOAN LIMITS SHALL
25 REMAIN THE SAME AS THEY WERE FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE OFFICE
26 SHALL TRANSMIT NOTICE OF LOAN LIMIT INCREASES TO THE LEGISLATIVE
27 REFERENCE BUREAU FOR PUBLICATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN.

28 (C) APPLICATIONS.--EVERY APPLICATION FOR A LOAN SHALL BE
29 ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE
30 [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR

1 EMS COMPANY AND A FINANCIAL PLAN TO SHOW THE AMOUNT OF ASSETS
2 AND PROJECTED REVENUES FOR THE REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN, ANY OTHER
3 OBLIGATIONS OF THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY AND
4 OPERATING EXPENSES OVER THE PERIOD OF THE LOAN. EVERY
5 APPLICATION SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO SHOW
6 THAT ALL COSTS EXCEPT THE AMOUNT OF THE LOAN HAVE BEEN OBTAINED
7 BY ASSETS OF THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY AND
8 OTHER LOANS OR SOURCES OF REVENUE. IF A [VOLUNTEER] FIRE
9 COMPANY[, AMBULANCE SERVICE OR RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY IS
10 UNABLE TO MEET THE 20% REQUIREMENT OF SUBSECTION (A), THEN A
11 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION WHICH IS SERVED BY THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE
12 COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY MAY PLEDGE ITS CREDIT IN THE AMOUNT OF
13 FUNDS NECESSARY TO SATISFY THE 20% REQUIREMENT AND, IF IT DOES
14 SO, SHALL COSIGN THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE [VOLUNTEER]
15 FIRE COMPANY OR EMS COMPANY.

16 (C.1) APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE.--THE OFFICE SHALL
17 ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REVIEW LOAN
18 APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON LOAN APPLICATIONS UNDER THIS
19 SECTION. THE APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL REGULARLY MEET
20 AT LEAST QUARTERLY TO REVIEW LOAN APPLICATIONS AND MAKE
21 RECOMMENDATIONS ON LOAN APPLICATIONS TO THE OFFICE. THE
22 APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL BE CHAIRED BY THE
23 COMMISSIONER OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE AND INCLUDE THE
24 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

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

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

30 (3) THE CHAIR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY

1 PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR
2 THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE.

3 (4) THE MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND
4 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OR THE MINORITY CHAIR'S
5 DESIGNEE.

6 (5) THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN
7 THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH OR THE
8 DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

9 (6) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE AND
10 EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE.

11 (7) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIREMANS' ASSOCIATION OF THE
12 STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

13 (8) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION OF
14 PENNSYLVANIA.

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

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

1 PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBCHAPTER.

2 (E) PAYMENT.--LOANS MADE BY THE OFFICE SHALL BE PAID FROM
3 THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN
4 ASSISTANCE FUND TO THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES[, AMBULANCE
5 SERVICES AND RESCUE SQUADS] AND EMS COMPANIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH
6 GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES DEVELOPED BY THE OFFICE.

7 (F) DEPOSIT.--ALL PAYMENTS OF INTEREST ON THE LOANS AND THE
8 PRINCIPAL THEREOF SHALL BE DEPOSITED BY THE OFFICE IN THE
9 [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN
10 ASSISTANCE FUND.

11 (G) ELIGIBILITY.--A [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, AMBULANCE
12 SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A
13 LOAN REGARDLESS OF LEGAL OWNERSHIP IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY ANY
14 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF ANY FACILITIES OR APPARATUS EQUIPMENT
15 USED BY THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE AND
16 VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY. ANY EQUIPMENT OR
17 FACILITIES FINANCED MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO A POLITICAL
18 SUBDIVISION SERVED BY THE [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER
19 AMBULANCE SERVICE OR VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD] OR EMS COMPANY
20 SUBJECT TO SUCH SECURITY AS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE
21 COMMISSIONER.

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

29 (I) AGGREGATION OF LOANS.--

30 (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2), A FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER

1 RESCUE SERVICE OR VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE] OR EMS COMPANY
2 SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR MORE THAN THREE LOANS AT ONE TIME.

3 (2) IF MORE THAN ONE FIRE COMPANY[, VOLUNTEER RESCUE
4 SERVICE OR VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE] OR EMS COMPANY MERGE
5 OR CONSOLIDATE INTO A SINGLE ENTITY, AS DETERMINED BY THE
6 COMMISSIONER, THE ENTITY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR NOT MORE THAN
7 TEN LOANS AT ONE TIME FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE
8 OF THE MERGER OR CONSOLIDATION.

9 § 7365. [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN
10 ASSISTANCE FUND.

11 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THERE IS CREATED A SPECIAL FUND IN THE
12 TREASURY DEPARTMENT TO BE KNOWN AS THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN
13 FUND] EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE FUND TO WHICH SHALL BE
14 CREDITED ALL APPROPRIATIONS MADE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OTHER
15 THAN APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXPENSES OF ADMINISTERING THIS
16 SUBCHAPTER OR GRANTS FROM OTHER SOURCES TO THE OFFICE AS WELL AS
17 REPAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON LOANS MADE UNDER THIS
18 SUBCHAPTER.

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

1 PURPOSES OF THIS SUBCHAPTER.

2 (C) ADMINISTRATION.--EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE STATE FIRE
3 COMMISSIONER MAY USE AN AMOUNT UP TO \$250,000 FROM THE
4 [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COST
5 OF IMPLEMENTING THE LOAN PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER.

6 (D) RESTRICTION.--MONEY IN THE FUND SHALL NOT BE TRANSFERRED
7 FOR GENERAL FUND USE BY THE COMMONWEALTH.

8 § 7366. POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICE.

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

10 * * *

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

14 * * *

15 (3.1) TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA TO DETERMINE NEED FOR
16 FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS, AMBULANCES AND RESCUE VEHICLES AND TO
17 ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR [VOLUNTEER] FIRE
18 COMPANIES OR EMS COMPANIES TO SHOW JUST CAUSE TO DETERMINE
19 THAT NEED.

20 * * *

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

22 * * *

23 (2) TO SPECIFY PRIORITY OF LIENS AGAINST ANY FACILITIES,
24 APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES, RESCUE VEHICLES OR ANY
25 EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY [VOLUNTEER] FIRE COMPANIES USING FUNDS
26 LOANED UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER TO PAY ALL OR ANY PART OF THE
27 PURCHASE PRICE, AS THE OFFICE MAY REQUIRE BY ESTABLISHED
28 GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES. THE COMMISSIONER MAY SPECIFY THE
29 TYPE OF LIENS OR COLLATERAL AUTHORIZED AS SECURITY UNDER THIS
30 PARAGRAPH.

1 * * *

2 § 7371. DISPOSITION AND USE OF PROCEEDS.

3 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE PROCEEDS REALIZED FROM THE SALE OF
4 BONDS UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL BE PAID INTO THE [VOLUNTEER
5 COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND AND ARE SPECIFICALLY DEDICATED TO THE
6 PURPOSES OF THE REFERENDA OF NOVEMBER 4, 1975, NOVEMBER 3, 1981,
7 NOVEMBER 6, 1990, AND NOVEMBER 5, 2002, AND THE REFERENDUM
8 SPECIFIED UNDER SECTION 7378.4 (RELATING TO REFERENDUM TO EXPAND
9 LOAN ASSISTANCE), AS IMPLEMENTED BY THIS SUBCHAPTER. THE MONEYS
10 SHALL BE PAID BY THE STATE TREASURER PERIODICALLY TO THOSE
11 AGENCIES OR AUTHORITIES AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND THE MONEYS AT SUCH
12 TIMES AND IN SUCH AMOUNTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO SATISFY THE
13 FUNDING NEEDS OF THE AGENCY OR AUTHORITY.

14 (B) INVESTING.--PENDING THEIR APPLICATION TO THE PURPOSES
15 AUTHORIZED, MONEYS HELD OR DEPOSITED BY THE STATE TREASURER MAY
16 BE INVESTED OR REINVESTED AS ARE OTHER FUNDS IN THE CUSTODY OF
17 THE STATE TREASURER IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY LAW. ALL EARNINGS
18 RECEIVED FROM THE INVESTMENT OR DEPOSIT OF SUCH FUNDS SHALL BE
19 PAID INTO THE STATE TREASURY TO THE CREDIT OF THE [VOLUNTEER
20 COMPANIES LOAN FUND] FUND.

21 § 7374. [VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND] EMERGENCY
22 SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE SINKING FUND AND
23 INVESTMENTS.

24 ALL BONDS ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL BE REDEEMED AT
25 MATURITY AND ALL INTEREST DUE FROM TIME TO TIME ON SUCH BONDS
26 SHALL BE PAID FROM THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND]
27 EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE SINKING FUND, WHICH IS HEREBY
28 CREATED. FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF REDEEMING BONDS ISSUED
29 UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER AT MATURITY AND PAYING ALL INTEREST
30 THEREON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE

1 GOVERNOR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEYS TO THE
2 [VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND] EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN
3 ASSISTANCE SINKING FUND FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON SUCH
4 BONDS AND THE PRINCIPAL THEREOF AT MATURITY. ALL MONEYS PAID
5 INTO THE [VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND] EMERGENCY
6 SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE SINKING FUND AND ALL OF SUCH MONEYS NOT
7 NECESSARY TO PAY ACCRUING INTEREST SHALL BE INVESTED BY THE
8 BOARD OF FINANCE AND REVENUE IN SUCH SECURITIES AS ARE PROVIDED
9 BY LAW FOR THE INVESTMENT OF THE SINKING FUNDS OF THE
10 COMMONWEALTH.

11 § 7376. REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST.

12 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO
13 MONEYS RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE UNDER SECTION 7365 (RELATING TO
14 [VOLUNTEER COMPANIES LOAN FUND] EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN
15 ASSISTANCE FUND) AND SUCH OTHER MONEYS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO
16 MEET REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST INTO THE
17 [VOLUNTEER COMPANY LOAN SINKING FUND] EMERGENCY SERVICES LOAN
18 ASSISTANCE SINKING FUND.

19 § 7378. TEMPORARY FINANCING AUTHORIZATION.

20 * * *

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

23 § 7378.2. AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACTS, REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE
24 AND AMOUNT.

25 THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

26 (1) THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES IS AUTHORIZED TO
27 ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH LOCAL [VOLUNTEER FIRE, AMBULANCE
28 AND RESCUE COMPANIES] FIRE COMPANIES OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
29 SERVICES COMPANIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES NECESSARY TO
30 EXTINGUISH FIRES OR PERFORM ANY OTHER ALLIED SERVICES ON

1 STATE-OWNED PROPERTY.

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

8 § 7378.3. REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE AND AMOUNT.

9 THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

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

28 (2) A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL
29 SERVICES OR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND A [LOCAL
30 VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE OR RESCUE] EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

1 COMPANY SHALL ALSO PROVIDE THAT THE AMBULANCE OR RESCUE
2 COMPANY REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT FROM COLLECTIBLE INSURANCE
3 PROCEEDS AVAILABLE AS A RESULT OF THE FIRE OR EMERGENCY
4 SITUATION FOR WHICH THE [AMBULANCE OR RESCUE] EMERGENCY
5 MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY PROVIDED ALLIED SERVICES. PROCEEDS
6 PAYABLE TO THE [AMBULANCE OR RESCUE] EMERGENCY MEDICAL
7 SERVICES COMPANY SHALL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE REIMBURSEMENT FOR
8 SERVICES PROVIDED PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT ENTERED INTO UNDER
9 THIS SUBCHAPTER. PRIOR TO PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED, THE
10 [LOCAL VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE OR RESCUE] EMERGENCY MEDICAL
11 SERVICES COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE PROOF THAT THEY REQUESTED
12 REIMBURSEMENT FROM COLLECTIBLE INSURANCE PROCEEDS.

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

19 SECTION 5. TITLE 35 IS AMENDED BY ADDING SECTIONS TO READ:
20 § 7378.4. REFERENDUM TO EXPAND LOAN ASSISTANCE.

21 (A) REFERENDUM.--THE QUESTION OF EXPANDING THE USE OF THE
22 INDEBTEDNESS AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTIONS 7367 (RELATING TO
23 AUTHORITY TO BORROW) AND 7378.1 (RELATING TO REFERENDUM FOR
24 ADDITIONAL INDEBTEDNESS) FOR VOLUNTEER LOAN ASSISTANCE UNDER
25 THIS SUBCHAPTER TO INCLUDE PAID FIRE COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY
26 MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AND
27 MODERNIZING FACILITIES TO HOUSE FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS
28 EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES AND RESCUE VEHICLES, PROTECTIVE AND
29 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND ANY OTHER ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT
30 NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS'

1 DUTIES, SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE NEXT
2 PRIMARY, MUNICIPAL OR GENERAL ELECTION HELD AFTER NOVEMBER 5,
3 2019.

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

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

8 DO YOU FAVOR EXPANDING THE USE OF THE INDEBTEDNESS
9 AUTHORIZED UNDER THE REFERENDUM FOR LOANS TO VOLUNTEER
10 FIRE COMPANIES, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICES AND
11 VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS UNDER 35 PA.C.S. § 7378.1
12 (RELATING TO REFERENDUM FOR ADDITIONAL INDEBTEDNESS) TO
13 INCLUDE LOANS TO FIRE COMPANIES THAT PROVIDE SERVICES
14 THROUGH PAID PERSONNEL AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
15 COMPANIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AND MODERNIZING
16 FACILITIES TO HOUSE FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT,
17 AMBULANCES AND RESCUE VEHICLES, PROTECTIVE AND
18 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND ANY OTHER ACCESSORY
19 EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF THE
20 DUTIES OF THE FIRE COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL
21 SERVICES COMPANIES?

22 (D) ELECTION PROCEDURE.--THE REFERENDUM UNDER THIS SECTION
23 SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT OF JUNE 3, 1937
24 (P.L.1333, NO.320), KNOWN AS THE PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION CODE,
25 EXCEPT THAT THE TIME LIMITS FOR ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE
26 REFERENDUM MAY BE WAIVED AS TO THE QUESTION.

27 (E) CONSTRUCTION.--THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AS
28 AUTHORIZING ANY ADDITIONAL BORROWING FOR LOAN ASSISTANCE TO FIRE
29 COMPANIES OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES.
30 § 7378.5. ANNUAL REPORT AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.

1 (A) ANNUAL REPORT.--

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

4 (I) HOW MUCH MONEY IS IN THE FUND AT THE BEGINNING
5 OF EACH FISCAL YEAR AND THE BALANCE IN THE FUND AT THE
6 END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.

7 (II) HOW MANY LOAN APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE
8 OFFICE.

9 (III) HOW MANY LOANS WERE ISSUED UNDER THE PROGRAM.

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

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

13 (VI) THE NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF LOANS FOR FACILITIES,
14 APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT.

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

17 (I) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS
18 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE
19 SENATE.

20 (II) THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS
21 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE
22 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

23 (B) DISTRIBUTION.--THE OFFICE SHALL ANNUALLY DISTRIBUTE
24 INFORMATION ON THE FUND TO ALL FIRE COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY
25 MEDICAL SERVICES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH, INCLUDING NOTICE OF THE
26 PROGRAM AND THE AMOUNTS THAT CAN BE BORROWED UNDER THE PROGRAM.

27 SECTION 6. SECTION 7385 HEADING, (A) AND (C) OF TITLE 35 ARE
28 AMENDED TO READ:

29 § 7385. PENNSYLVANIA [VOLUNTEER] FIRE AND EMERGENCY LOAN
30 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

15 * * *

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

27 SECTION 7. THE HEADING OF SUBCHAPTER B OF CHAPTER 74 OF
28 TITLE 35 IS AMENDED TO READ:

29 SUBCHAPTER B
30 FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

1 Section ~~2~~ 8. Section 7412 of Title 35 is amended by adding <--

2 definitions to read:

3 § 7412. Definitions.

4 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
6 context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner.

8 * * *

9 "Length of service award program." A program established to
10 provide tax-deferred income benefits to active volunteer members
11 of a fire service.

12 * * *

13 Section ~~3~~ 9. Section 7413 introductory paragraph and (1) of <--

14 Title 35 are amended and the section is amended by adding a
15 paragraph to read:

16 § 7413. Statement of purpose.

17 The purpose of this subchapter is to encourage individuals to
18 take part in the fire service as volunteer firefighters by
19 establishing criteria and standards for orderly administration
20 and conduct of affairs of firefighters' relief associations to
21 ensure, as far as circumstances will reasonably permit, that
22 funds shall be available for the assistance to and protection of
23 volunteer firefighters and their heirs in order to provide:

24 (1) Financial assistance to volunteer firefighters who
25 may suffer physical or mental injury or misfortune by reason
26 of their participation in the fire service.

27 * * *

28 (8) Financial assistance to recruit and retain volunteer
29 firefighters.

30 Section ~~4~~ 10. Section 7416(a) and (f) (13) and (14) of Title <--

1 35 are amended and subsection (f) is amended by adding
2 paragraphs to read:

3 § 7416. Funds.

4 (a) General rule.--A volunteer firefighters' relief
5 association may solicit and receive gifts and contributions from
6 any source, including municipal corporations, but shall not have
7 the right to receive any portion of the money distributed to
8 political subdivisions of this Commonwealth under Chapter 7 of
9 the act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1005, No.205), known as the
10 Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, unless
11 and until the governing body of at least one political
12 subdivision shall have certified to the [Auditor General]
13 commissioner that the association is a bona fide volunteer
14 firefighters' relief association, affiliated with a fire company
15 which affords protection against fire to all or a portion of the
16 political subdivision.

17 * * *

18 (f) Use.--Funds of any volunteer firefighters' relief
19 association may be spent:

20 * * *

21 (13) To maintain comprehensive health, physical fitness
22 and physical monitoring programs that provide for physical
23 fitness activities, nutrition education and supplies and
24 instruction and health and fitness evaluation and monitoring,
25 provided that the programs have been approved by the nearest
26 State-licensed health care facility which is authorized to
27 provide that service.

28 (14) To purchase exercise and fitness equipment for use
29 by volunteer firefighters[, except that expenditures for
30 exercise and fitness equipment shall not exceed \$2,000 in any

1 two-year period].

2 * * *

3 (18) To provide financial assistance for activities and
4 materials needed to aid in the recruitment and retention of
5 volunteer firefighters.

6 (19) To establish and pay for length of service award
7 programs.

8 (20) To pay for facilities for storage of emergency
9 vehicles, equipment, training and meetings.

10 (21) To pay for vehicles used for emergency response.

11 (22) To purchase equipment used for emergency response.

12 (23) To defray the cost of obtaining or renewing a
13 commercial driver's licenses under 75 Pa.C.S. Ch. 16
14 (relating to commercial drivers) for volunteer firefighters
15 who are residents of this Commonwealth to operate fire or
16 emergency vehicles registered to fire departments or
17 municipalities.

18 (24) TO PAY FOR STIPENDS TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, NOT <--
19 TO EXCEED \$1,500 PER YEAR.

20 Section 5 11. Section 7418(b) of Title 35 is amended to <--
21 read:

22 § 7418. Audits.

23 * * *

24 (b) Findings.--If the Auditor General finds that any money
25 received by a volunteer firefighters' relief association has
26 been expended for a purpose other than one authorized by this
27 subchapter, the commissioner, upon receiving notice of the
28 findings from the Auditor General, shall [immediately notify the
29 Governor and shall] decline to approve [further requisitions
30 calling for] payment to the volunteer firefighters' relief

1 association until the improperly expended amount has been
2 reimbursed to the relief association fund.

3 Section 6 12. Title 35 is amended by adding a section to <--
4 read:

5 § 7419.1. Fire relief formula study.

6 (a) Study.--The Fire Safety Advisory Committee shall have
7 the following duties:

8 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations
9 regarding the fire relief funding formula and fire relief
10 services in this Commonwealth.

11 (2) Hold public meetings regarding the fire relief
12 funding formula and fire relief services in different regions
13 of this Commonwealth.

14 (3) Consult with and utilize experts to assist the
15 committee in carrying out its duties under this section.

16 (4) Receive input from interested parties and take into
17 consideration the diverse nature of fire services in this
18 Commonwealth.

19 (5) Draft proposed legislation based on the committee's
20 findings and recommendations regarding the fire relief
21 funding formula and fire relief services.

22 (6) No later than November 30, 2020, issue a report on
23 the committee's findings and recommendations regarding the
24 fire relief funding formula and fire relief services to all
25 of the following:

26 (i) The Governor.

27 (ii) The commissioner.

28 (iii) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

29 (iv) The Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
30 Senate.

1 (v) The Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
2 Committee of the Senate.

3 (vi) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

4 (vii) The Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
5 House of Representatives.

6 (viii) The Veterans Affairs and Emergency
7 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives.

8 (b) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
9 construed to authorize a fire relief funding formula to go into
10 effect without being approved by an act of the General Assembly.

11 SECTION 13. SECTION 7842(B) OF TITLE 35 IS AMENDED TO READ: <--

12 § 7842. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

13 * * *

14 (B) DELINQUENCY.--AN APPLICANT FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS
15 CHAPTER WHO IS DELINQUENT IN LOAN PAYMENTS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
16 [VOLUNTEER LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ACT OF
17 JULY 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, NO.208), KNOWN AS THE VOLUNTEER FIRE
18 COMPANY, AMBULANCE SERVICE AND RESCUE SQUAD ASSISTANCE ACT,]
19 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
20 MUST USE ITS GRANT FUNDS TO PAY ANY ARREARS TO THE COMMONWEALTH
21 OR IT WILL NOT BE QUALIFIED TO RECEIVE A GRANT. ANY ORGANIZATION
22 THAT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED
23 FROM APPLYING TO THE GRANT PROGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF [THREE] FIVE
24 YEARS.

25 * * *

26 Section 7 14. This act shall take effect ~~in six months.~~ AS <--
27 FOLLOWS:

28 (1) THE AMENDMENT OR ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING SHALL
29 TAKE EFFECT IN SIX MONTHS:

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

1 (II) 35 PA.C.S. § 7412.
2 (III) 35 PA.C.S. § 7413 INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH, (1)
3 AND (8)
4 (IV) 35 PA.C.S. § 7416(A) AND (F) (13), (14), (18),
5 (19), (20), (21), (22), (23) AND (24).
6 (V) 35 PA.C.S. § 7418(B).
7 (VI) 35 PA.C.S. § 7419.1.
8 (2) THIS SECTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.
9 (3) THE REMAINDER OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60
10 DAYS.