
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1613 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY ARMANINI, HILL-EVANS, KULIK, CAUSER, SMITH,
CONKLIN, GAYDOS, HERSHEY, MADDEN, ZIMMERMAN, JAMES,
D. WILLIAMS, STRUZZI, McNEILL, ROAE, PISCIOTTANO, ROWE AND
BOROWICZ, JUNE 11, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 11, 2021

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

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

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

9 hereby enacts as follows:

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

12 Section 1739-A.1. COVID-19 response transfers for assistance to
13 the Commonwealth's emergency service organizations.

14 (a) Transfers.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law
15 to the contrary, the Secretary of the Budget may transfer the
16 sum of \$30,000,000 from funds received under the American Rescue
17 Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 4) to assist the
18 operations of the Commonwealth's emergency service
19 organizations.

20 (b) Deposit.--The funds transferred under subsection (a)
21 shall be deposited by the Secretary of the Budget into a
22 restricted account within the General Fund of the State Treasury
23 as necessary and is hereby appropriated to the Office of the
24 State Fire Commissioner for the purpose of making grants under
25 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 (relating to grants to fire companies and
26 emergency medical services companies). The sum of \$22,000,000
27 shall be expended for the purpose of making grants to eligible
28 fire companies under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 Subch. B (relating to
29 Fire Company Grant Program). The sum of \$3,000,000 shall be
30 expended for the purpose of making grants to eligible emergency
31 services companies under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 Subch. C (relating to
32 Emergency Medical Services Grant Program).

33 (c) Deficit.--The Secretary of the Budget may not make a

1 transfer of funds if the transfer would result in a deficit in
2 any of the funds.

3 (d) (Reserved).

4 (e) Distribution of funds.--The State Fire Commissioner
5 shall distribute the funds to emergency service organizations
6 that received a grant under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78 Subch. C.1
7 (relating to COVID-19 crisis fire company and emergency medical
8 services grant program), but in accordance with the provisions
9 of 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78. To receive a grant under this subsection,
10 emergency service organizations must make application and
11 provide agreements as required under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78.

12 (f) Report.--No later than April 30, 2022, the Secretary of
13 the Budget, in consultation with the Office of State Fire
14 Commissioner, shall provide a report detailing all spending
15 related to the COVID-19 response the Commonwealth has made under
16 this section, including the name of each recipient of funds and
17 the dollar amount issued. The Secretary of the Budget shall
18 provide the report to the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of
19 the Senate, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the House
20 of Representatives, the chairperson and minority chairperson of
21 the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the chairperson and
22 minority chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the
23 House of Representatives, the chairperson and minority
24 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
25 Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and minority
26 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
27 Committee of the House of Representatives.

28 (g) Expiration.--The authority to transfer funds under
29 subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2021.

30 (h) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following

1 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
2 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the
4 Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on March 6,
5 2020.

6 "Eligible emergency service organization." An EMS company or
7 fire company as defined in 35 Pa.C.S. § 7802 (relating to
8 definitions) and which received a grant under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 78
9 Subch. C.1 (relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and
10 Emergency Medical Services Grant Program).

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.