

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 83 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, MUTH, MARTIN, SCAVELLO, AUMENT, STEFANO,
J. WARD, ARNOLD, TARTAGLIONE, PITTMAN, BAKER, REGAN, COSTA,
K. WARD AND KANE, JANUARY 22, 2021

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 7, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for firefighter and emergency service
7 training and establishing the Fire Training Fund.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1550 of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended to read:

13 Section 1550. Firefighter and Emergency Service Training.--

14 (a) [Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year and each school
15 year thereafter, a] ~~A~~ school district] A SCHOOL ENTITY OR <--

16 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL may offer firefighter and emergency service
17 training as credit-earning courses to students of the age of
18 sixteen (16) years or older, except as otherwise provided in
19 subsection (c). Such courses may include:

1 (1) Training as a Firefighter I from the National Board on
2 Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

3 (2) Training as an emergency medical technician pursuant to
4 the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45), known as the
5 "Emergency Medical Services Act."

6 (b) A school [~~district~~] ENTITY OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL that <--
7 offers firefighter and emergency service training as credit-
8 earning courses shall provide transportation to and supervision
9 during any firefighter and emergency service training program
10 that takes place off school grounds. Supervision of training
11 shall be conducted as a cooperative education program in
12 accordance with the provisions of 22 Pa. Code § 11.28 (relating
13 to out-of-school programs).

14 (c) The Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program is
15 established. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide high
16 school students with instruction through a partnership between
17 institutions of higher education and ~~school districts or area~~ <--
18 ~~career and technical schools~~ SCHOOL ENTITIES OR NONPUBLIC <--
19 SCHOOLS, or both, to increase the number of individuals capable
20 of becoming volunteer firefighters. The pilot program shall be
21 implemented in accordance with section 7 of the act of October
22 24, 2012 (P.L.1209, No.151), known as the Child Labor Act, and
23 the following:

24 (1) The State Fire Commissioner shall accept proposals from
25 institutions of higher education in this Commonwealth for the
26 pilot program. From the proposals submitted, the State Fire
27 Commissioner shall select three institutions of higher education
28 to offer the pilot program. The State Fire Commissioner, to the
29 greatest extent practicable, shall select one institution of
30 higher education each from the eastern, central and western

1 regions of this Commonwealth. Nothing in this section shall
2 prohibit an institution of higher education from incorporating
3 emergency medical services instruction in the pilot program.

4 (2) An institution of higher education selected by the State
5 Fire Commissioner shall operate the pilot program by entering
6 into an agreement with a ~~school district or an area career and~~ <--
7 ~~technical school~~ SCHOOL ENTITY OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, or both, for <--
8 the provision of fire instruction to students who are in at
9 least the ninth grade and leading to Firefighter I
10 certification.

11 (3) A nonlapsing, restricted account is established in the
12 State Treasury, to be known as the Fire Training Fund. The State
13 Fire Commissioner may accept monetary donations and other money
14 for deposit into the Fire Training Fund from a person, business,
15 foundation, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of
16 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C.
17 § 501(c)(3)) or government entity on behalf of the Commonwealth.

18 (4) Money may be appropriated to the State Fire Commissioner
19 to carry out the provisions of this subsection. Each institution
20 of higher education offering the pilot program shall receive at
21 least one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the
22 duration of the pilot program.

23 (5) Any funds appropriated, donated or transferred under
24 this subsection and interest earned on the Fire Training Fund
25 shall be deposited into the Fire Training Fund.

26 (6) During the pilot program, the Legislative Budget and
27 Finance Committee shall conduct a survey of volunteer fire
28 companies in the municipalities surrounding the ~~school districts~~ <--
29 and area career and technical schools SCHOOL ENTITIES AND <--
30 NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS that participate in the pilot program to

1 determine whether the pilot program is increasing the number of
2 volunteer firefighters and any additional recommendations. The
3 results of the survey shall be submitted to the chair and
4 minority chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency
5 Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority
6 chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
7 Committee of the House of Representatives within six (6) months
8 of the expiration of the pilot program.

9 (7) The pilot program shall expire four (4) years from the
10 effective date of this subsection.

11 ~~(d) As used in this section, the term "institution of higher~~ <--
12 ~~education" means a community college operating under Article~~
13 ~~XIX-A, a college operating under Article XIX-G or a university~~
14 ~~within the State System of Higher Education.~~

15 (D) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES <--
16 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION UNLESS
17 THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

18 "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION." A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
19 OPERATING UNDER ARTICLE XIX-A, A COLLEGE OPERATING UNDER ARTICLE
20 XIX-G OR A UNIVERSITY WITHIN THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER
21 EDUCATION.

22 "NONPUBLIC SCHOOL." A NONPROFIT SCHOOL, OTHER THAN A PUBLIC
23 SCHOOL IN THIS COMMONWEALTH, WHEREIN A RESIDENT OF THIS
24 COMMONWEALTH MAY LEGALLY FULFILL THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL
25 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT AND WHICH MEETS THE
26 APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF
27 1964 (PUBLIC LAW 88-352, 78 STAT. 241).

28 "SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, INTERMEDIATE UNIT, AREA
29 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER
30 SCHOOL OR REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2022, or
2 immediately, whichever is later.