

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL**No. 114** Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, ARGALL, BREWSTER, STEFANO, DILLON,
BARTOLOTTA, KANE, DUSH, TARTAGLIONE, BROWN, MASTRIANO,
SANTARSIERO, L. WILLIAMS, ROBINSON, J. WARD AND FARRY,
JANUARY 9, 2023

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED,
OCTOBER 31, 2023

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 Secondary Education Fire
8 Training Pilot Program and the Fire Training Fund.

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

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

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

15 (a) [Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year and each school
16 year thereafter, a school district] A school entity or nonpublic
17 school may offer firefighter and emergency service training as
18 credit-earning courses to students of the age of sixteen (16)

1 years or older, except as otherwise provided in subsection (c).

2 Such courses may include:

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

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

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

16 (c) The Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program is
17 established. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide high
18 school students with instruction through a partnership between
19 institutions of higher education OR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL <--
20 SERVICE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS and school entities or nonpublic
21 schools, or both, to increase the number of individuals capable
22 of becoming CAREER OR volunteer firefighters. The pilot program <--
23 shall be implemented in accordance with section 7 of the act of
24 October 24, 2012 (P.L.1209, No.151), known as the Child Labor
25 Act, and the following:

26 ~~(1) The State Fire Commissioner shall accept proposals from~~ <--
27 ~~institutions of higher education in this Commonwealth for the~~
28 ~~pilot program. From the proposals submitted, the State Fire~~
29 ~~Commissioner shall select three institutions of higher education~~
30 ~~to offer the pilot program. The State Fire Commissioner, to the~~

~~1 greatest extent practicable, shall select one institution of
2 higher education each from the eastern, central and western
3 regions of this Commonwealth. Nothing in this section shall
4 prohibit an institution of higher education from incorporating
5 emergency medical services instruction in the pilot program.~~

6 (1) (I) THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER SHALL ACCEPT PROPOSALS <--
7 FROM INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR FIRE AND EMERGENCY
8 MEDICAL SERVICE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN THIS COMMONWEALTH FOR
9 THE PILOT PROGRAM.

10 (II) FROM THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I),
11 THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER SHALL SELECT FOUR INSTITUTIONS OF
12 HIGHER EDUCATION OR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE TRAINING
13 INSTITUTIONS TO OFFER THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE STATE FIRE
14 COMMISSIONER, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE, SHALL SELECT
15 ONE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR FIRE AND EMERGENCY
16 MEDICAL SERVICE TRAINING INSTITUTION EACH FROM:

17 (A) THE EASTERN REGION OF THIS COMMONWEALTH;

18 (B) THE CENTRAL REGION OF THIS COMMONWEALTH;

19 (C) THE WESTERN REGION OF THIS COMMONWEALTH; AND

20 (D) ANYWHERE IN THIS COMMONWEALTH, SO LONG AS THE

21 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL
22 SERVICE TRAINING INSTITUTION HAD ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH
23 AN UNDERREPRESENTED SCHOOL ENTITY.

24 (III) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT AN INSTITUTION
25 OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
26 TRAINING INSTITUTION FROM INCORPORATING EMERGENCY MEDICAL
27 SERVICES INSTRUCTION IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.

28 (2) An institution of higher education OR FIRE AND EMERGENCY <--
29 MEDICAL SERVICE TRAINING INSTITUTION selected by the State Fire
30 Commissioner shall operate the pilot program by entering into an

1 agreement with a school entity or nonpublic school, or both, for
2 the provision of fire instruction to students who are in at
3 least the ninth grade and leading to Firefighter I
4 certification.

5 (3) A nonlapsing, restricted account is established in the
6 State Treasury, to be known as the Fire Training Fund. The State
7 Fire Commissioner may accept monetary donations and other money
8 for deposit into the Fire Training Fund from a person, business,
9 foundation, tax-exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c) (3)
10 (relating to exemption from tax on corporations, certain trusts,
11 etc.) or government entity on behalf of the Commonwealth.

12 (4) Money may be appropriated to the State Fire Commissioner
13 to carry out the provisions of this subsection. Each institution
14 of higher education OR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE <--
15 TRAINING INSTITUTION offering the pilot program shall receive at
16 least one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the
17 duration of the pilot program.

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

21 (6) During the pilot program, the Legislative Budget and
22 Finance Committee shall conduct a survey of volunteer fire
23 companies in the municipalities surrounding the school entities
24 and nonpublic schools that participate in the pilot program to
25 determine whether the pilot program is increasing the number of
26 volunteer firefighters and any additional recommendations. The
27 results of the survey shall be submitted to the chair and
28 minority chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency
29 Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority
30 chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

1 Committee of the House of Representatives within six (6) months
2 of the expiration of the pilot program.

3 (7) The pilot program shall expire four (4) years from the
4 effective date of this paragraph.

5 (d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
6 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
7 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE TRAINING INSTITUTION." A <--
9 CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL
10 SERVICE TRAINING FACILITY.

11 "Institution of higher education." A community college
12 operating under Article XIX-A, a college operating under Article
13 XIX-G or a university within the State System of Higher
14 Education.

15 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a public
16 school in this Commonwealth, wherein a resident of this
17 Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school
18 attendance requirements of this act and which meets the
19 applicable requirements of 42 U.S.C. § 2000(d) et seq. (Civil
20 Rights Act of 1964).

21 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
22 career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter
23 school or regional charter school.

24 "UNDERREPRESENTED SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL ENTITY OR <--
25 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR BOTH, WHERE FIFTY PERCENT OR MORE OF THE
26 STUDENT POPULATION IS COMPRISED OF RACIAL OR ETHNIC MINORITIES.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2024, or
28 immediately, whichever is later.