
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 911 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY WAUGH, COSTA, BREWSTER, PILEGGI AND SOLOBAY,
MAY 3, 2013

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
MAY 3, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for grants to municipal fire
3 and emergency services organizations; and imposing a
4 pyrotechnic public safety fee.

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

7 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 79

10 GRANTS TO MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY

11 SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS

12 Subchapter

13 A. Preliminary Provisions

14 B. Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization

15 Grant Program

16 C. Grant Funding Provisions

17 D. Miscellaneous Provisions

18 SUBCHAPTER A

1 Program).

2 "Invalid coach." A vehicle which is primarily maintained,
3 operated and intended to be used for routine transport of
4 persons who are convalescent or otherwise nonambulatory and do
5 not ordinarily require emergency medical treatment while in
6 transit. The vehicles will not be considered ambulance or
7 emergency medical service vehicles.

8 "Municipal fire and emergency services organization." As
9 follows:

10 (1) A fire department, ambulance service or rescue squad
11 established, operated and funded by a municipality within
12 this Commonwealth which meets all of the following:

13 (i) Provides fire protection or emergency services.

14 (ii) Has personnel which consists of all paid
15 employees or a combination of paid employees and unpaid
16 volunteers.

17 (iii) Provides 24-hour, 365-days-per-year staffing
18 by full-time, paid employees.

19 (2) Emergency services provided by a municipal fire and
20 emergency services organization may include:

21 (i) Ambulance services, which may include basic life
22 support or advanced life support services and the
23 transportation of patients within this Commonwealth.

24 (ii) Rescue services, which may include response to
25 fire, vehicle accidents and water rescue efforts.

26 (3) The term does not include any corporation,
27 association or organization that is primarily engaged in the
28 operation of invalid coaches which are intended for the
29 routine transport of persons who are convalescent or
30 otherwise nonambulatory and do not ordinarily require

1 emergency medical treatment while in transit.

2 SUBCHAPTER B

3 MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

4 ORGANIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

5 Sec.

6 7911. Establishment.

7 7912. Publication and notice.

8 7913. Award of grants.

9 § 7911. Establishment.

10 The Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization Grant
11 Program is established and shall be administered by the agency
12 in consultation with the commissioner. Grants provided under
13 this program shall be used to improve and enhance the
14 capabilities of municipal fire and emergency services
15 organizations to provide services.

16 § 7912. Publication and notice.

17 The agency shall publish notice of the grant program
18 availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for
19 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin:

20 (1) within 30 days of June 28, 2013, for the fiscal year
21 beginning July 1, 2013; and

22 (2) by August 8 for fiscal years beginning after June
23 30, 2014.

24 § 7913. Award of grants.

25 (a) Authorization.--The agency is authorized to make a grant
26 award to each municipal fire and emergency services organization
27 for the following:

28 (1) Construction and renovation of the municipal fire
29 and emergency services organization's facility and purchase
30 or repair of fixtures and furnishings necessary to maintain

1 or improve the capability of the organization to provide
2 services.

3 (2) Repair of equipment or purchase thereof.

4 (3) Debt reduction associated with paragraph (1) or (2).

5 (4) Training and certification of members.

6 (b) Limits.--

7 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), grants shall be
8 not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$15,000 per municipal
9 fire and emergency services organization company.

10 (2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the
11 total dollar amount of the approved application exceeds the
12 amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this
13 purpose.

14 (3) In a municipality where there are two or more
15 municipal fire and emergency services organizations and if
16 two or more municipal fire and emergency services
17 organizations consolidated their use of equipment,
18 firefighters and services within five years preceding the
19 date of the current year application submission deadline, the
20 consolidated entity shall be deemed eligible to receive a
21 grant not to exceed the amount of the combined total for
22 which the individual companies would have been eligible had
23 they not consolidated.

24 (c) Time for filing application and agency action.--

25 (1) Within 30 days of June 28, 2013, for the fiscal year
26 beginning July 1, 2013, and by September 1 of each year
27 thereafter, the agency shall provide written instructions for
28 grants under this chapter to the president of every municipal
29 fire and emergency services organization in this
30 Commonwealth.

1 the consumer fireworks.

2 (b) Distribution.--Money collected as a result of the fee
3 imposed under subsection (a) shall be distributed as follows:

4 (1) One million dollars shall be appropriated annually
5 to fund grants to eligible municipal fire and emergency
6 services organizations in accordance with this chapter.

7 (2) Remaining funds shall be allocated in accordance
8 with section 7833(b) (relating to allocation of appropriated
9 funds).

10 § 7922. Prohibition.

11 No money from the appropriation under section 7921(b)
12 (relating to pyrotechnic public safety fee) for municipal fire
13 and emergency services organization grants may be used for
14 expenses or costs incurred by the agency for the administration
15 of the grant program authorized under Subchapter B (relating to
16 Municipal Fire and Emergency Services Organization Grant
17 Program).

18 SUBCHAPTER D

19 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

20 Sec.

21 7931. Expiration of authority.

22 7932. Special provisions.

23 § 7931. Expiration of authority.

24 The authority of the agency to award grants under Subchapter
25 B (relating to Municipal Fire and Emergency Services
26 Organization Grant Program) shall expire June 30, 2022.

27 § 7932. Special provisions.

28 (a) Claim.--An applicant for a grant under this chapter who
29 failed to return a signed agreement for the preceding year shall
30 not be permitted to apply for a grant in the current year unless

1 the applicant has provided the commissioner with a reasonable
2 written explanation as to why it did not claim its grant.

3 (b) Demonstration.--An applicant for a grant under this
4 chapter must demonstrate that it complied with all of the terms
5 of its grant agreement in the previous year regarding the use of
6 the grant money it received in previous years or it shall not be
7 eligible to receive a grant in the current year.

8 (c) Approval.--An applicant shall not be approved for a
9 grant to be used for purposes other than those stated in section
10 7913(a) (relating to award of grants).

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.