

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1463 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY BENHAM, D. MILLER, MADDEN, PROBST, HILL-EVANS, DELLOSO, SANCHEZ, D. WILLIAMS, SCOTT, GREEN, OTTEN AND BOROWSKI, JUNE 21, 2023

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 15, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further
3 providing for definitions; in Commonwealth services, further
4 providing for definitions relating to intrastate mutual aid
5 and for definitions relating to Fire and Emergency Medical <--
6 Services Loan Program; in volunteer firefighters, further
7 providing for definitions relating to fire relief-
8 association;; AND, in emergency responder mental wellness and <--
9 stress management, further providing for definitions.; in- <--
10 grants to fire companies and emergency medical services-
11 companies, further providing for definitions; and, in-
12 incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and-
13 nonprofit emergency medical services agencies, further-
14 providing for definitions.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. Section 7102 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania
18 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions A <--
19 DEFINITION to read:

20 § 7102. Definitions.

21 The following words and phrases when used in this part shall
22 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the

1 meanings given to them in this section:

2 \* \* \*

3 ~~"Airport fire company." A fire company that does all of the <--~~  
4 ~~following:~~

5 ~~(1) Is associated with an airport.~~

6 ~~(2) Has a mutual aid agreement with a neighboring~~  
7 ~~municipality.~~

8 ~~(3) Has responded to at least 15 fire or rescue~~  
9 ~~emergency calls annually to neighboring fire companies as~~  
10 ~~provided in documentation requested by the State Fire~~  
11 ~~Commissioner.~~

12 \* \* \*

13 ~~"Emergency medical services company" or "EMS company." A~~  
14 ~~career, nonprofit or volunteer emergency medical services~~  
15 ~~agency, as defined in section 8103 (relating to definitions).~~

16 \* \* \*

17 ~~"Fire company." As follows:~~

18 ~~(1) A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire company~~  
19 ~~or a combined volunteer and municipal fire company located in~~  
20 ~~this Commonwealth.~~

21 ~~(2) The term includes an airport fire company.~~

22 ~~"Firefighter." A member of a fire company.~~

23 ~~"First responder." Any of the following public servants:~~

24 ~~(1) An emergency medical services provider or EMS~~  
25 ~~provider, as defined in section 8103 (relating to~~  
26 ~~definitions).~~

27 ~~(2) A firefighter.~~

28 ~~(3) A telecommunicator.~~

29 \* \* \*

30 ~~"Municipal fire company." A municipal owned fire department~~

1 ~~or other municipal owned firefighting service.~~

2 \* \* \*

3 "Telecommunicator." As follows:

4 (1) An individual employed by a public safety answering  
5 point or PSAP, as defined in section 5302 (relating to  
6 definitions), whose primary responsibility is to receive,  
7 process, transmit or dispatch emergency and nonemergency  
8 calls for emergency medical, fire and rescue, law enforcement  
9 or other public safety services via telephone, radio or other  
10 communication device.

11 (2) The term includes a call taker, emergency dispatcher  
12 and supervisor.

13 ~~"Volunteer fire company." As follows:~~ <--

14 ~~(1) A nonprofit chartered corporation, association or~~  
15 ~~organization located in this Commonwealth that:~~

16 ~~(i) Provides fire protection or rescue services.~~

17 ~~(ii) May offer other voluntary emergency services~~  
18 ~~within this Commonwealth.~~

19 ~~(2) Voluntary emergency services provided by a volunteer~~  
20 ~~fire company may include voluntary ambulance and voluntary~~  
21 ~~rescue services.~~

22 ~~"Volunteer rescue service." A nonprofit chartered~~  
23 ~~corporation, association or organization located in this~~  
24 ~~Commonwealth that provides rescue services in this Commonwealth.~~

25 \* \* \*

26 Section 2. The definition of "emergency responder" in  
27 section 7332 of Title 35 is amended to read:

28 § 7332. Definitions.

29 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
30 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 \* \* \*

3 "Emergency responder." An individual in the public or  
4 private sector who has special skills, qualifications, training,  
5 knowledge or experience, whether or not the person possesses a  
6 license, certificate, permit or other official recognition for  
7 the skills, qualifications, training, knowledge or experience,  
8 that would benefit a participating political subdivision in  
9 responding to an authorized mutual aid request or participating  
10 in an authorized drill or exercise. The term shall include a law  
11 enforcement officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical  
12 services worker, a telecommunicator, a physician, nurse or other  
13 public health worker, an emergency management official, a  
14 coroner or medical examiner, a State-certified hazardous  
15 materials team member, a public works worker, a building  
16 inspector, an architect, an engineer or other design  
17 professional or a person with specialized equipment operations  
18 skills or training or with any other skills needed to provide  
19 aid in a declared emergency.

20 \* \* \*

21 ~~Section 3. The definitions of "emergency medical services~~ <--  
22 ~~company" or "EMS company," "fire company," "volunteer fire~~  
23 ~~company" and "volunteer rescue service" in section 7363 of Title~~  
24 ~~35, amended February 10, 2022 (P.L.41, No.10), are amended to~~  
25 ~~read:~~

26 ~~§ 7363. Definitions.~~

27 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter~~  
28 ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~  
29 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

30 \* \* \*

1 ~~["Emergency medical services company" or "EMS company." A~~  
2 ~~career, nonprofit or volunteer emergency medical services~~  
3 ~~company.]~~

4 \* \* \*

5 ~~["Fire company." A volunteer nonprofit chartered fire~~  
6 ~~company or municipal owned fire company or department.]~~

7 \* \* \*

8 ~~["Volunteer fire company." Any nonprofit chartered~~  
9 ~~corporation, association or organization located in this~~  
10 ~~Commonwealth which provides fire protection services and other~~  
11 ~~voluntary emergency services within this Commonwealth. Voluntary~~  
12 ~~emergency services provided by a volunteer fire company may~~  
13 ~~include voluntary ambulance and voluntary rescue services.~~

14 ~~"Volunteer rescue service." Any nonprofit chartered~~  
15 ~~corporation, association or organization located in this~~  
16 ~~Commonwealth which provides rescue services in this~~  
17 ~~Commonwealth.]~~

18 ~~Section 4. The definitions of "fire company" and "volunteer~~  
19 ~~fire company" in section 7412 of Title 35 are amended to read:~~  
20 ~~§ 7412. Definitions.~~

21 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter~~  
22 ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~  
23 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

24 \* \* \*

25 ~~["Fire company." A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire~~  
26 ~~company or a combined volunteer and municipal fire company~~  
27 ~~located in this Commonwealth.]~~

28 \* \* \*

29 ~~["Volunteer fire company." As defined in section 7802~~  
30 ~~(relating to definitions).]~~

1       \* \* \*

2       Section 5 3. The definition of "emergency responder" in       <--  
3 section 75A01 of Title 35 is amended to read:

4       § 75A01. Definitions.

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

8       \* \* \*

9       "Emergency responder." Any of the following:

10       (1) A current or former ~~certified emergency medical~~       <--  
11       services provider, current or former member of an emergency  
12       medical services agency, fire company or rescue company~~]~~       <--  
13       first responder.

14       (2) A peace officer.

15       (3) A [911 dispatcher] telecommunicator.

16       (4) A coroner or medical examiner who responds in an  
17       official capacity to an emergency.

18       (5) A corrections officer.

19       \* \* \*

20       ~~Section 6. The definitions of "airport fire company,"~~       <--  
21       ~~"emergency medical services company" or "EMS company," "fire~~  
22       ~~company," "volunteer fire company" and "volunteer rescue~~  
23       ~~company" in section 7802 of Title 35 are amended to read:~~

24       ~~§ 7802. Definitions.~~

25       ~~The following words and phrases when used in this chapter~~  
26       ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~  
27       ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

28       \* \* \*

29       ~~["Airport fire company." A fire company that does all of the~~  
30       ~~following:~~

1           ~~(1) Is associated with an airport.~~

2           ~~(2) Has a mutual aid agreement with a neighboring~~  
3           ~~municipality.~~

4           ~~(3) Has responded to at least 15 fire or rescue~~  
5           ~~emergency calls annually to neighboring fire companies as~~  
6           ~~provided in documentation requested by the State Fire~~  
7           ~~Commissioner.]~~

8           ~~\* \* \*~~

9           ~~["Emergency medical services company" or "EMS company." A~~  
10          ~~career or volunteer emergency medical services company.]~~

11          ~~\* \* \*~~

12          ~~["Fire company." A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire~~  
13          ~~company or a combined volunteer and municipal fire company~~  
14          ~~located in this Commonwealth. The term includes an airport fire~~  
15          ~~company.]~~

16          ~~\* \* \*~~

17          ~~["Volunteer fire company." A nonprofit chartered~~  
18          ~~corporation, association or organization located in this~~  
19          ~~Commonwealth which provides fire protection or rescue services~~  
20          ~~and which may offer other voluntary emergency services within~~  
21          ~~this Commonwealth. Voluntary emergency services provided by a~~  
22          ~~volunteer fire company may include voluntary ambulance and~~  
23          ~~voluntary rescue services.~~

24          ~~"Volunteer rescue company." A nonprofit chartered~~  
25          ~~corporation, association or organization located in this~~  
26          ~~Commonwealth that provides rescue services as part of the~~  
27          ~~response to fires or vehicle accidents within this~~  
28          ~~Commonwealth.]~~

29          ~~Section 7. The definition of "volunteer fire company" in~~  
30          ~~section 79A03 of Title 35 is amended to read:~~

1 ~~§ 79A03. Definitions.~~

2 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this chapter~~  
3 ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~  
4 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

5 ~~\* \* \*~~

6 ~~["Volunteer fire company." A nonprofit chartered~~  
7 ~~corporation, association or organization located in this~~  
8 ~~Commonwealth that provides fire protection services and may~~  
9 ~~offer other voluntary emergency services within this~~  
10 ~~Commonwealth.]~~

11 ~~\* \* \*~~

12 Section ~~§~~ 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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