



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 1877 Printer's No. 3014

Prime Sponsor: Barrar
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

SYNOPSIS:

HB 1877 would amend Title 35 (Health & Safety Code) by reauthorizing the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Grant program for four years.

SUMMARY:

HB 1877 would:

- *Change the name of the Program from "Grants to Fire Companies and Volunteer Services" to "Grants to Fire Companies and Emergency Medical Services Companies."
- *Add/change definitions for "Career Emergency Medical Services," "Emergency Medical Services Company," "Grant Program," and "Volunteer Ambulance Service" (now Volunteer EMS Company).
- *Allow grants to be used for Training and Education of the general public regarding Fire Prevention.
- *Permit the Fire Commissioner to allow for additional uses for Paid Fire Companies after publication in the PA Bulletin and listed on the Fire Commissioner's home page.
- *Provide additional funding to fire companies under a bonus point system that is based on membership certified by the National Professional Qualifications Board or the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress at a minimum level of Fire Fighter 1.
- *Permit merged companies to continue to receive a larger grant for ten years (as opposed to 5 years).
- *Require fire companies to have responded to at least ten fire or rescue emergencies for the prior year (as opposed to one call) and actively participate in the PA Fire Information Reporting System.
- *Change the name from "Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant" to "Emergency Medical Services Grant"
- *Permit merged EMS companies to continue to receive a larger grant for ten years (as opposed to 5 years).
- *Make paid EMS Companies eligible for funding as long as the EMS Company is designated as a municipality's primary EMS carrier.
- *Stipulate that \$22 million is to be spent on Fire Grants and \$8 million for EMS Grants.
- *Permit the Fire Commissioner to utilize up to \$800,000 in unencumbered funds for administration.
- *Extend the Grant Program until June 30, 2020.

Effective Date: Immediately

BILL HISTORY:

HB 1877 was unanimously passed by the House. In 2010, Act 118 codified the grant program under Title 35. In 2012, Act 78 extended the grant program until June 30, 2016.

Prepared by: N. Silcox 5/10/2016