



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 1122

PRINTERS NO. 1699
AS AMENDED BY: A05864

PRIME SPONSOR: Pittman

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 1122, Printer's Number 1699, as amended by A05864, amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to provide for the COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program.

ANALYSIS: Section 7416(f) of Title 35 is amended to add language that volunteer firefighters' relief associations may spend funds "to pay for expenses for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting of equipment and property, or other expenses incurred to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses."

The bill also amends Chapter 78 of Title 35 to establish the COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program which shall be administered by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to provide grants to fire and EMS companies to provide services during the novel coronavirus pandemic as identified in the emergency declaration.

The agency shall make grant awards from the program to eligible fire and EMS companies in the same manner and amount in which funds were provided under sections 7813 and 7823 relating to the Fire Company Grant Program and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program, respectively. Eligible companies that did not apply for or receive a fire and EMS grant in fiscal year 2019-20 would be required to submit an application for this funding.

The following shall apply to any appropriation of money received by the Commonwealth from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the grants under the COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program:

- \$44 million shall be expended for grants to eligible fire companies;
- \$6 million shall be expended for grants to eligible EMS companies; and
- Up to \$200,000 of unencumbered funds may be used by PEMA to cover administrative costs for the implementation of this program. The agency's authority under this grant program shall expire six months after the effective date of this legislation.

This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation establishes the COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program which shall be administered by PEMA to award grants in the same amounts as awarded in fiscal year 2019-20 under sections 7813 and 7823 of Title 35. A total of \$50 million is distributed from funds received by the Commonwealth under the federal CARES Act for fiscal year 2019-20 with \$44 million being dedicated to eligible fire companies and \$6 million for eligible EMS companies. PEMA may use up to \$200,000 of unencumbered funds from the amount appropriated for administrative costs.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 28, 2020

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.