



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2407

PRINTER'S NO. 3420

PRIME SPONSOR: Solomon

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
Property Tax Relief Reserve Fund	\$0	\$30,000,000

SUMMARY:

Reauthorizes and expands the Fire Company and EMS Grant Program established in Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 2407, Printer's Number 3420 amends Title 35 to reauthorize the Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program (Program) until December 31, 2029, and makes several other changes to the Program. It changes the grant limits for fire companies and ambulance services to between \$10,000 and \$40,000 while guaranteeing that no current grantee receives less than it did in the 2023/24 grant cycle. It also expands Program eligibility to include non-transport emergency medical services.

The bill also creates a new Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant Program to be overseen by the State Fire Commissioner. These grants will be available to hazardous materials teams certified by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in accordance with Act 165 of 1990, known as the Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act. They will also be available to wilderness search and rescue and wildland firefighting teams recognized by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and to squads performing water rescue, technical rope rescue, confined space rescue, or trench rescue.

The legislation expands the allowable uses of grant funds to include personnel costs, utility costs, cancer screenings and preventative health measures, and mental health awareness and training. It also allows grant funds deposited in a construction savings account to be used for renovation of existing facilities in addition to new facilities.

Finally, the bill creates new funding factors to be considered when considering requests for additional grant funding, such as the number of certified Firefighter 1 level or higher.

The addition of the Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant Program shall take effect in 180 days. The remainder of the act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill expands the grant program by \$30 million per year. The additional funding is appropriated from the Property Tax Relief and Reserve Fund. Of the additional \$30 million, \$20.7 million is directed to the Fire Company Grant Program, \$8.1 million is directed to the EMS Grant Program, and \$1.2 million is directed to the Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant Program.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

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