

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 146 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, SCARNATI, GORDNER, BROWNE, ARGALL, REGAN, ALLOWAY, AUMENT, FOLMER, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, MARTIN, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, VOGEL, J. WARD, K. WARD, YAW, COSTA, DINNIMAN, KEARNEY, SANTARSIERO, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, MUTH AND IOVINO, JANUARY 31, 2019

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, providing
3 for online training for firefighters; and making a related
4 repeal.

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 section to read:

9 § 7388. Online training for firefighters.

10 (a) Duty to establish guidelines. The commissioner shall <--
11 establish guidelines for developing, delivering and sustaining
12 training programs for volunteer firefighters and career
13 firefighters. The guidelines shall include, at a minimum, the
14 following:

15 (1) Participation in the training shall be on a
16 voluntary basis.

1 ~~(2) The training shall be offered free of charge.~~

2 ~~(3) The training shall be incorporated into the Train PA~~
3 ~~system or any other system approved by the commissioner.~~

4 (A) DUTY TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES.--THE COMMISSIONER SHALL <--
5 ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, DELIVERY AND
6 MAINTENANCE OF AN ONLINE SYSTEM OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FOR
7 FIREFIGHTERS. THE GUIDELINES SHALL STATE, AT A MINIMUM, THAT THE
8 TRAINING IS VOLUNTARY AND OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE.

9 (B) PRIORITIZATION TRAINING PROGRAM.--THE TRAINING PROGRAM
10 SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE TRAIN PA SYSTEM OR ANY OTHER
11 SYSTEM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER AND THE COURSES OR PROGRAMS
12 OFFERED MUST BE, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, COURSES OR
13 PROGRAMS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE HANDS-ON OR FIELD TRAINING AND
14 PROVIDE, AT A MINIMUM, BASIC LEVEL TRAINING FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

15 ~~(b)~~ (C) Prioritization.--In establishing online training <--
16 courses, the commissioner shall prioritize specific topics.

17 ~~(c)~~ (D) Certificate of completion.--The commissioner shall <--
18 provide a certificate of completion to an individual A <--
19 FIREFIGHTER who successfully completes an online FIREFIGHTER <--
20 training program.

21 ~~(d)~~ (E) Publication.--The Office of the State Fire <--
22 Commissioner shall post a complete listing of the available
23 online FIREFIGHTER training courses on the office's publicly <--
24 accessible Internet website.

25 ~~(e)~~ (F) Funding.--The commissioner shall use money in the <--
26 Online Training Educator and Training Reimbursement Account
27 established under section 2413(a)(2) of the act of March 4, 1971
28 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, for the
29 purpose of administering this section.

30 ~~(f)~~ (G) Reporting.--By December 31 each year, the <--

1 commissioner shall provide a written report detailing the use of
2 the Online Training Educator and Training Reimbursement Account
3 from the prior fiscal year to the chairperson and minority
4 chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of
5 the Senate, the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
6 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the
7 Senate, the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
8 Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the House of
9 Representatives and the Veterans Affairs and Emergency
10 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives.

11 Section 2. Repeals are as follows:

12 (1) The General Assembly finds that the repeals under
13 paragraphs (2) and (3) are necessary to effectuate ~~this act~~ <--
14 THE ADDITION OF 35 PA.C.S. § 7388. <--

15 (2) Section 2413(a)(3) of the act of March 4, 1971
16 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, is
17 repealed.

18 (3) Section 2413(a)(2) of the Tax Reform Code of 1971 is
19 repealed to the extent of any inconsistency with this act.

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.