

# Fire / EMS / SR 6 Legislative Planning Session 2020

## December 19, 2019

### GOVERNOR'S DESK

SR 6 bills passed by the full House and Senate and signed by the Governor:

- SB 146- M. Brooks- Online training for firefighters - Act 106 of 2019

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SR 6 bills passed by the full House of Representatives and sent to the Senate for consideration:

- HB 269- Driscoll- provide an exemption from the Realty Transfer Tax for the surviving spouse/children of a first responder.
  - Referred to Senate Finance Committee
- HB 732- Quinn- provide an exemption from the Realty Transfer Tax for volunteer service providers.
  - Referred to Senate Finance Committee
- HB 1448- Sturla- voter referendum to expand loan assistance
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1758- Ortity- exempts both volunteer fire and EMS companies from the payment of PSP accident report fee; adds both to municipal police accident reports
  - Referred to Senate Transportation Committee
- HB 1834- Sainato- Extends and expands grant for recruitment and retention
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1838- Causer- Increase funding for EMSOF
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1869- Owlett- Ambulance staffing waiver
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1673- Farry- Volunteer Firefighters Length of Service Award Program
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1773- Struzzi- First responder tuition assistance
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1786- Sainato- First Responder Loan Forgiveness Program
  - Referred to Senate Education Committee

- HB 1816- Schlegel-Culver- Increase Volunteer Loan Assistance Program loan limits
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1839- Brooks- Tax credits for volunteer first responders
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1705- Gabler,M- Title 35/ tax credits for volunteer first responder
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1780- James,R- Title 35/ volunteer fire/EMS companies and the Right-to-Know Law (exempts from RTKL)
  - Referred to Senate State Government Committee
- HB 1459- Schlossberg- establishes a mental wellness and stress management protocol within the PA Department of Health
  - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee

SR 6 bills not yet passed by the House, but are in a position for final passage:

- HB 1347- Masser- Direct reimbursement of EMS providers
- HB 759- Dush- Fire department reimbursements
- HB 432- Barrar- Amends Workers' Compensation Act re PTSI
- HB 1189- Knowles- First responders and employers tax credit
- HB 376- Owlett- tax credit for equipment

## **SENATE**

Senate Appropriations:

- SB 94- Martin- This legislation would ensure workers' compensation coverage for all active duty Volunteer Firefighters, Fire, Police, officers or directors of a Volunteer Fire Company, and integral members of a volunteer fire company if injured in the performance of their duties.
  - This bill is now in a position to be considered by the full Senate

Senate Education:

- SB 331- Brooks- Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Fire Training Fund.
  - This bill is now in the Senate appropriations committee. Once the committee considers the bill for a fiscal review it will be in a position to be considered by the full Senate.

Senate VA&EP:

- SB 908- Regan- Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety), in volunteer firefighters for funds and for audits and providing for fire relief formula study.
  - This bill is now in the Senate appropriations committee. Once the committee considers the bill for a fiscal review it will be in a position to be considered by the full Senate.
- SB 910- Mastriano- Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety), in grants to fire & EMS companies establishing award of grants, for Grant Program, additional funding, & expiration of authority.
  - This bill is now in the Senate appropriations committee. Once the committee considers the bill for a fiscal review it will be in a position to be considered by the full Senate.

Senate co-sponsorship memos:

- Volunteer Fire Company Reimbursements - Killion
  - Allowing volunteer fire companies to bill for real and reasonable costs incurred when responding to a 911 emergency. Currently, there is no state law that authorizes or prohibits volunteer fire companies from billing for their services. This legislation would specify that an individual who is involved in an emergency, that necessitates a response from a volunteer emergency services organization, shall be liable for the actual and reasonable response costs, when services are rendered.
- Office of the State Fire Commissioner Restructuring - Hutchinson
  - This proposed piece of legislation advances a major goal by restructuring and enhancing the Office of the State Fire Commissioner by:
    - Requiring Senate Confirmation of the State Fire Commissioner
    - Establishing a State Fire Advisory Board
    - Charging the Office of the Fire Commissioner as the lead agency for fire services in the Commonwealth, including Act 13/Alternative Energy Funds