



PENNSYLVANIA FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE

223 State Street • Harrisburg, PA 17101 • Phone: 717.236.5995 • Website: www.pfesi.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Steve Bair, President
Chad Deardorff, Vice President
Janette Swade, Treasurer
Dave Michaels
Duane Hagelgans
Jared Renshaw
Jerry Brant
Kevin Ressler
Ed Mann
Anthony Deaven
Thomas O'Donnell

STATEWIDE ADVISORY

BOARD CHAIRMAN
Frank Zangari

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jerry Ozog

Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute (PFESI) and Firemen's Association State of Pennsylvania (FASP) we wanted to thank you for passing meaningful legislation this legislative session that has been extremely beneficial to emergency services:

- Act 106 of 2019 - Online Firefighter Training (SB 146)
- Act 17 of 2020 - Department of Health Waivers for BLS Staffing (HB 1869)
- Act 22 of 2020 - Junior Firefighter Training exemption (HB 1522)
- Act 26 of 2020 - \$50 million in crisis grants of federal funds to Fire & EMS (SB 1122)
- Act 29 of 2020 - Exempts liquor license surcharges for volunteer fire depts. (HB 1048)

There are still several pieces of legislation that have made their way through the legislative process that could be acted upon this legislative session. These pieces of legislation stem from recommendations from the SR 6 report which was adopted prior to the start of the 19-20 legislative session.

In the House of Representatives we collectively support these bills:

- SB 94 (Martin) – Workers Compensation Coverage for Fire Police
 - House Labor and Industry
- SB 908 (Regan) - Places Fire Relief Administration under Fire Commissioner and Increases VLAP Loan Amounts
 - House VA&EP
- SB 910 (Mastriano) - Renews the Fire & EMS Grant
 - House VA&EP
- HB 376 (Owlett) Authorizes up to a \$500 tax credit for volunteers who purchase firefighting equipment
 - House tabled Calendar
- HB 432 (Barrar) – Workers Compensation for PTSD
 - House Calendar



PENNSYLVANIA FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE

223 State Street • Harrisburg, PA 17101 • Phone: 717.236.5995 • Website: www.pfesi

- HB 759 (Dush) Fire Department Billing
 - House Calendar
- HB 1347 (Masser) Requires insurance carriers to reimburse ambulance companies directly that are not in the insurance carrier's network
 - House Calendar

In the Pennsylvania Senate we collectively support these bills:

- SB 331 (Brooks) – Community College/SD Fire Training Pilot Program
 - Senate Calendar
- SB 932 (Boscola) - Permits Fire Relief Funding for Combo Departments
 - Senate Calendar
- SB 987 (Hutchinson) - Restructuring of the Office of Fire Commissioner
 - Senate Calendar
- HB 732 (C. Quinn) Exempts volunteer service providers from the PA Realty Transfer Tax
 - Senate Appropriations
- HB 1189 (Knowles) Authorizes Tax Credits for employers who allow their employees who are first responders to leave work for training and/or emergency calls
 - Senate VA&EP
- HB 1448 (Sturla) Authorizes Voter Referendum to include Career Fire in VLAP
 - Senate VA&EP
- HB 1459 (Schlossberg) First Responder Mental Wellness & Stress Management Program
 - Senate VA&EP
- HB 1673 (Farry) Volunteer Loan Assistance Program
 - Senate VA&EP
- HB 1705 (Gabler) Authorizes school districts to provide a property tax credit up to 100% for a volunteer emergency responder
 - Senate VA&EP
- HB 1758 (Ortitay) Exempts both volunteer fire and EMS companies from the payment of the vehicle accident report fee
 - Senate Transportation
- HB 1773 (Struzzi) First Responder Tuition Assistance Program
 - Senate VA&EP
- HB 1780 (James) Exempts Volunteer Fire/EMS from Right-to-Know Law
 - Senate State Government



PENNSYLVANIA FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE

223 State Street • Harrisburg, PA 17101 • Phone: 717.236.5995 • Website: www.pfesi

- HB 1786 (Sainato) First Responder College Loan Forgiveness Program
 - Senate Education
- HB 1816 (Culver) Increase VLAP Amounts
 - Senate VA&EP
- HB 1838 (Causer) Increase in EMSOF Fines
 - Senate Appropriations
- HB 1834 (Sainato) Reauthorizes the Fire & EMS Grant Program
 - Senate VA&EP
- HB 1839 (Brooks) Authorizes counties to provide a property tax credit up to 100% for volunteer emergency responders
 - Senate VA&EP

We are hopeful that in the remaining days of the 2019-2020 legislative session that we will see some affirmative movement on these pieces of legislation, many of which are poised for final passage or are already in the opposite chamber.

Thank you for your continued support of Pennsylvania's Fire and Emergency Services.

Jerry Ozog
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute (PFESI)

Donald Konkle & James Carstater
Co-chairs, Legislative and Law Committee
Firemen's Association State of Pennsylvania (FASP)