



## **Pennsylvania Joint Fire Service Law and Legislative Committee**

**Firefighters Association of the State of Pennsylvania**

**Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association**

**Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute**

**Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association**

## **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER RELIEF ASSOCIATION (VFRA) REFORM**

2018's SR 6 Report provided several recommendations in regards to VFRA reform that have yet to be acted upon. A Fire Relief Formula Study is being compiled by the State Fire Advisory Board and due to the Chairs of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee by December 31, 2023 (as per Act 104 of 2022).

All Fire Service Organizations listed above support Relief Association reform and agree that legislation that contains these changes would be helpful:

- Eliminate the requirement to have a 501 (c) corporation in place to administer the funds.
- Eliminate the “approved use lists” that specifically limit the use of Relief funds to specific equipment, equipment types, or specific purposes.
- Eliminate the different rules and allocations between career departments and volunteer departments.
- End the practice of insurers self-reporting their requirement to participate.
- Rebalance allocations: Tax receipts are currently divided among the Legislature, the pension system, and the fire service. If rebalancing is ineffective, the joint committee could be supportive of a 1% increase in tax.

Pennsylvania's Volunteer Firefighter Relief Association (VFRA) Program has provided a valuable source of funding for the protection, safety, and relief of firefighters. VFRAs are funded by a statutory disbursement of foreign fire insurance tax funds. Disbursements are made to the VFRA's local municipality who then will forward the funds to the VFRA.