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## THE PA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE STATE WIDE ADVISORY BOARD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2009-2010 PA GENERAL ASSEMBLY (JANUARY 2009)

The PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute's State Wide Advisory Board met on December 13, 2008, as reported in the November issue of the PA FIREMAN, to identify and discuss Emergency Services issues and concerns and to develop their Legislative Priorities for the 2009-2010 PA General Assembly.

While recognizing the tough economic times that we are all experiencing, it is imperative that the decisions made regarding Fire and EMS issues and concerns consider the direct and potentially life threatening impact that they will have on the citizens and visitors to Pennsylvania.

These legislative priorities, if acted upon, will dramatically sustain and improve the continued delivery of emergency services within our communities and the Commonwealth; while insuring the continuation of the volunteer or paid system delivery of services, depending on the community being served.

There are also several recommendations from the SR60 Commission report and the legislative priorities contained in this document that are not costly, but will enable us to effectively make progress in fine tuning existing legislation and administrative processes that directly impact the successful delivery of emergency services across Pennsylvania.

- **The SR60 Commission Report recommendations**, approved in November 2004, continue to be strongly supported for the current Legislative Session, with the exception of the recommendation to relocate the EMS Director from the Department of Health to the Governor's Office. Although significant progress was made during the last session, more needs to be done in this current session to meet the recommendations of the Commission. A complete copy of the SR60 Commission Report can be found on our website at [www.pfesi.org](http://www.pfesi.org). The General Assembly Budget and Finance Committee Study, HR148, should be revisited and acted upon as there were recommendations in the report that warrant further study. A complete copy of the HR148 Recommendation can be found at <http://lbfc.legis.state.pa.us/> under reports released.
- Continued support for the **Volunteer Fire Tax Credit and the Education credit** for those active in the volunteer organizations.
- The passage of the EMS Rewrite, whose draft has been reviewed and approved by the EMS organizations across Pennsylvania including the Ambulance Association and Pa Emergency Health Services Council.
- Legislation needs to be passed to extend the **Wireless 911** authorization, including consolidation of charges.
- Establishment of a **Career Fire Grant program** for paid emergency responders.

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**PFESI will continue to keep you informed at PESLA.org and provide opportunities for you to personally support all legislation affecting every Emergency Responder in Pennsylvania. If you would like to support our mission, we ask that you visit the PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute website at PFESI.org and contribute as an Individual or Departmental member. You can also sign up to be on the Executive Director's E-List Serve to receive regular updates about all issues affecting you in PA!**

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## THE PA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE STATE WIDE ADVISORY BOARD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2009-2010 PA GENERAL ASSEMBLY (JANUARY 2009)

- Legislation to adequately sustain funding for the delivery of EMS services across Pennsylvania.
- The Passage of legislation to **rewrite Title 35, Act 227**, the regional counter terrorism funding which includes the recommendations previously submitted by PFESI during the 2007-2008 Legislative Session.
- Review and revise **ACT 84**, the relief act, to provide more equitable funding for smaller departments, and more effective use of the already mandated funding to provide for the health and safety protection and support to the Volunteer Emergency Responders.
- The study of and revision to the **Volunteer Loan Assistance Program (VLAP)** to insure continued effective use of the already mandated funding to support Pennsylvania's Volunteer Fire and EMS community and to consider additional funding opportunities to support the changing Fire and EMS operating environment.
- Passage of the **Cancer Presumption** legislation passed last year in the House to provide protection to both career and volunteer emergency responders across Pennsylvania.
- The passage of legislation to update the Uniform Construction Code to provide for **Residential Sprinkler** requirements for all new home construction in Pennsylvania to implement the recent modifications to the ICC National Code Standard regarding sprinklers in residential construction.
- Permit by Law the establishment of **Fire Districts and Authorities** across Pennsylvania to provide for the delivery of Emergency Services.
- That an intensive effort be undertaken by the General Assembly, working with Emergency Responder organizations **to reduce burdensome administrative processes, policies and procedures**, that negatively impact the delivery of services or operation of the Fire and EMS organizations across Pennsylvania. The results would be a more productive use of responder resources and additional cost savings to the State of PA, freeing up those resources to accomplish other more important activities. Some examples of items to be looked at would be:
  - Penn Dot inspection issues (fleet inspection), return to permanent EV tags
  - Permanent tax exemption for relief Associations
  - Bingo/Small Games of Chance...raise limits and modify requirements to sustain this funding source for Fire and EMS organizations (as well as other non profit community groups)
  - Modification of Title 35 regulation to permit the use of JNET for background and security checks on potential and practicing emergency responders.
- Other items identified in SR60 Commission Report

**These recommendations were approved by the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services State Wide Advisory Board on December 13, 2008.** The State Wide Advisory Board is comprised of all state wide Fire and EMS organizations, Regional Fire and EMS organizations, Industry representatives who work to support emergency responders across Pennsylvania.

A list of the member organizations of the State Wide Advisory Board are on page 3

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**FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE STATE WIDE ADVISORY BOARD** *from Page 2*

Allegheny Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Allegheny Co. Fire Fighters Assoc.  
Ambulance Assoc of Pennsylvania  
Beaver Co. Fire Fighters Assoc.  
Bradford Co Firemen's Assoc.  
Bucks Co. Community College  
Bucks Co. Emergency Health Services Council  
Bucks Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Bucks Co. Fire Marshals Assoc.  
Central District Vol. Firemen's Assoc. of PA  
Centre Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Centre Region Code Administration  
Chester Co. EMS Council  
Chester Co. Emergency Services  
Chester Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Commonwealth Fire Equipment Co. Inc.  
Cumberland Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Cumberland Co. Fire Fighters Assoc.  
Cumberland Co. Joint Fire Rescue Training  
Dauphin Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Delaware Co. Board of Fire & Life Safety  
Delaware Co. Fire Police  
Delaware Co. Firemen's Assoc.  
Erie Co. Fire Fighters Assoc.  
Fire Safety Consultants, Inc.  
Fireman's Legislative Federation of PA  
Firemen's Assoc. State of Pennsylvania  
Franklin Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Harrisburg Area Community College  
Huntingdon Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
International Code Council  
Keystone Chapter Fire Service Instructors  
Keystone Emergency Mgt Assoc.  
Keystone State Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Lancaster Co. EMS Council  
Lancaster Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Lancaster Co. Firemen's Assoc.  
Lebanon Co. Firemen's Assoc.  
M/A-COM- Tyco Electronics  
Marco Fire Protection Specialist  
Municipal Marketing Services  
National Fire Sprinkler Assoc.  
Northeastern PA Vol. Firemen's Federation  
PA Assoc. of Arson Investigators  
PA Assoc of Hazardous Materials Technicians  
PA Dept. of Health  
PA Emergency Health Services Council  
PA Fire Police Assoc.  
PA Fireman Magazine  
PA Professional Fire Fighters Assoc.  
PA State Assoc. of Boroughs  
PA Turnpike Commission  
Penn State University, Agricultural Emergency Management  
Personal Protection Equipment Specialist  
Provident Agency  
Schuylkill Co. Emergency Mgt Agency  
Schuylkill Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Somerset & Cambria Co. Fire Police Assoc.  
Southern Chester Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Third Class City Chief's Assoc.  
VFIS  
Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. of Cambria Co.  
Volunteer's Financial Services, Inc.  
Washington Co. Firemen's Assoc.  
Western PA Firemen's Assoc.  
Westmoreland Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
York City Fire/Rescue Services  
York Co. Fire School

If your organization is not on this list call PFESI for details joining and attending the State Wide Legislative Advisory Board at 1-800-FIRE-LINE.