

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 453 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY BENHAM, D. MILLER, HILL-EVANS, HARKINS, HANBIDGE, KENYATTA, KHAN, VENKAT, DEASY, SCHLOSSBERG, GIRAL, PROBST, BOROWSKI, OTTEN, MAYES, CERRATO, SANCHEZ, DONAHUE AND HOHENSTEIN, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further
3 providing for definitions; in Commonwealth services, further
4 providing for definitions relating to intrastate mutual aid;
5 and, in emergency responder mental wellness and stress
6 management, further providing for definitions.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 7102 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania
10 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:
11 § 7102. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this part shall
13 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
14 meanings given to them in this section:

15 * * *

16 "Telecommunicator." As follows:

17 (1) An individual employed by a public safety answering
18 point or PSAP, as defined in section 5302 (relating to

1 definitions), whose primary responsibility is to receive,
2 process, transmit or dispatch emergency and nonemergency
3 calls for emergency medical, fire and rescue, law enforcement
4 or other public safety services via telephone, radio or other
5 communication device.

6 (2) The term includes a call taker, emergency dispatcher
7 and supervisor.

8 * * *

9 Section 2. The definition of "emergency responder" in
10 section 7332 of Title 35 is amended to read:

11 § 7332. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter
13 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 * * *

16 "Emergency responder." An individual in the public or
17 private sector who has special skills, qualifications, training,
18 knowledge or experience, whether or not the person possesses a
19 license, certificate, permit or other official recognition for
20 the skills, qualifications, training, knowledge or experience,
21 that would benefit a participating political subdivision in
22 responding to an authorized mutual aid request or participating
23 in an authorized drill or exercise. The term shall include a law
24 enforcement officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical
25 services worker, a telecommunicator, a physician, nurse or other
26 public health worker, an emergency management official, a
27 coroner or medical examiner, a State-certified hazardous
28 materials team member, a public works worker, a building
29 inspector, an architect, an engineer or other design
30 professional or a person with specialized equipment operations

1 skills or training or with any other skills needed to provide
2 aid in a declared emergency.

3 * * *

4 Section 3. The definition of "emergency responder" in
5 section 75A01 of Title 35 is amended to read:

6 § 75A01. Definitions.

7 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
8 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
9 context clearly indicates otherwise:

10 * * *

11 "Emergency responder." Any of the following:

12 (1) A current or former certified emergency medical
13 services provider, current or former member of an emergency
14 medical services agency, fire company or rescue company.

15 (2) A peace officer.

16 (3) A [911 dispatcher] telecommunicator.

17 (4) A coroner or medical examiner who responds in an
18 official capacity to an emergency.

19 (5) A corrections officer.

20 * * *

21 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.