
SR60 Legislative Report Card



Preface

The Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania (AAP) presents the “SR 60 Legislative Report Card “ as we near the final months of the 2005-2006 Session of the General Assembly and the “sine die” period of the legislature.

The Senate Resolution 60 (SR 60) Commission, comprised of representatives of the General Assembly, Fire and EMS, made 23 specific recommendations to improve the infrastructure, funding, delivery and perpetuation of Fire and EMS through the SR 60 Commission Report released in the fall of 2004.

The AAP acknowledges that the General Assembly faced many significant challenges this past spring and early summer with the Budget, Veteran’s issues, minimum wage and property tax issue forcing SR 60 issues to the back burner. The General Assembly, especially the Senate, must take action on SR 60 items this Fall.

The intent of this document is to identify recommendations of the Senate Resolution 60 Commission Report with legislation introduced by the General Assembly this session, the movement or progress of that legislation and action taken by the AAP.

The Report Card is simply graded using three categories or “O” for Outstanding, “I” for Incomplete and “U” for Unsatisfactory. A multitude of factors were considered in the grading of the Report Card including:

- Does the Bill fulfill the recommendation of the SR 60 Commission Report?
- Has the Bill seen any movement in the General Assembly?
- The willingness of the House and Senate to entertain discussion and/or amendments to current language?
- Does the Bill contain an appropriation to address the intent?
- Has a SR 60 recommendation become law?

As you will see, there have been many Bills introduced to answer the recommendations of the SR 60 Commission Report, however, many have seen little or no movement and others fail to appropriate funds or contain fiscal notes to make them viable.

The AAP has and is working tirelessly to move recommended legislation, however, with few legislative working days left in this session the task having Bills pass on every recommendation will be difficult. We will be issuing important “Calls To Action” this Fall to have members contact their local legislators to encourage passage of legislation pertaining to SR 60. We would also encourage you to ask residents and local government leaders to contact their legislators in support of these efforts.

EMS is one of three essential public services relied upon daily providing vital services to residents of this Commonwealth. Failure of legislative support of these initiatives will perpetuate the crisis status facing EMS, fire and other emergency service providers.

Senate Resolution 60 Recommendation	Bills Introduced	Sponsor	Summary	Status	AAP Action/Strategy	Grade
1 - Consistent Statutory Requirements	HB 2312 PN 3273	Sather-R (Blair and Huntington)	An Act amending the Borough Code providing for specific powers of Boroughs relating to emergency services	Reported as amended 1st consideration Re-committed to Rules 6-27-06	Proactive-met with bill sponsors and with PA Township Assoc offered amendment language that was accepted by the Committee	O to House VA&EPC Comm and Leadership
	HB 2313 PN 3274	Sather-R (Blair and Huntington)	An Act amending the 1st Class Township Code providing for specific powers of Boroughs relating to emergency services	Reported as amended 1st consideration Re-committed to Rules 6-27-06	Proactive-met with bill sponsors and with PA Township Assoc offered amendment language that was accepted by the Committee	O to House VA&EPC Comm and Leadership
	HB 2314 PN 3275	Sather-R (Blair and Huntington)	An Act amending the 2nd Class Township Code providing for specific powers of Boroughs relating to emergency services	Reported as amended 1st consideration Re-committed to Rules 6-27-06	Proactive-met with bill sponsors and with PA Township Assoc offered amendment language that was accepted by the Committee	O to House VA&EPC Comm and Leadership
2 - Service Delivery Model	HB 877 PN 1000	Semmel-R (Berks and Lehigh)	An Act amending Pa C.S. Titles 44 and 71 establishing the Department of Public Safety	Passed House 189-0 3-16-05 Referred to Senate State Gov't Committee 4-6-05	None - Not real fit for SR-60 Bill reportedly introduced for PA State Police	No grade
	SB 1236 PN 1861	Donald White-R (Indiana)	An Act establishing a grant program for volunteer emergency services organizations to provide incentives for establishing partnerships; conferring powers on the Governor's Center for Local Gov't Services within DCED; and providing for funding	Referred to Senate Veteran's Affairs and Emergency Preparedness 6-19-06	Although directed at fire as a result of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee Report this is good for EMS services who wish to consolidate	O Great incentive for consolidations Final grade dependent on movement
3 - Act 84 Restructuring (Firemen's Relief)	None				Not aware of legislation	No grade
4 - Tax Credit To Volunteer Firefighters and EMS Services	HB 1448 PN 4385	Gibson C. Armstrong R (Lancaster)	An Act amending the Tax Reform Code authorizing a tax credit for a member of a volunteer emergency service organization who purchases fire equipment with personal income	As reported from the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, as amended, 6-27-06	Proactive-contacted bill sponsor suggesting language accepted by the VA&EPC Committee including all emergency service organization members	O to House VA&EPC Comm Final grade dependent on movement

Senate Resolution 60 Recommendation	Bills Introduced	Sponsor	Summary	Status	AAP Action/Strategy	Grade
	SB 23 PN 16	O'Pake-D (Berks)	An Act amending the Tax Reform Code authorizing a tax credit for volunteer firefighters for purposes of personal income tax	Referred to Senate Finance Committee 1-13-05	Support	U Concept is great but a year of inactivity results in low grade
	SB 24 PN 35	O'Pake-D (Berks)	An Act amending the Tax Reform Code authorizing a tax credit for volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) personnel for purposes of personal income tax	Referred to Senate Finance Committee 1-13-05	Support the concept but have not had discussion with bill sponsor	U Concept is great but a year of inactivity results in low grade
	SB 95 PN 87	Logan-D (Allegheny)	An Act exempting all fire, rescue and ambulance companies from all State and local taxes	Referred to Senate Finance Committee 1-31.05	Support	U Concept is great but a year of inactivity results in low grade
5 - EMS Act 45 Reform	None	Sponsors being obtained for the future	Bureau of EMS Director Schmider and workgroup have issued 3rd draft 5-16-06 Draft appears substantive yet flexible	Submit comments on 3rd draft to DOH-Bureau of EMS, www.aa-pa.org or www.pehsc.org immediately	AAP traveled to majority of town hall meetings. Formal comments delivered to DOH Bureau of EMS as approved by AAP Board of Directors	O to DOH Bureau of EMS for holding 40+ town hall meetings and using an open process for comments
	HB 2393 PN 3421	Costa-D (Allegheny)	An Act to amend the EMS Act to provide for license fees, permit fees and inspections of ambulances	Referred to House Health and Human Services 1-26-06	AAP, PEHSC, EMSI, Allegheny EMS Council and City of Pittsburgh met with Rep Costa who agreed not to move bill	U While we applaud any member who responds to a constituents concern, this bill would not resolve that issue
6 - Volunteer Fire Service and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program	HB 599	Nailor-R (Cumberland)	An Act amending the VFC&VAS Grant Act; further providing for award of grants and expiration of authority and making an appropriation	ACT 13 OF 2006 SIGNED BY GOVERNOR RENDELL 2-21-06	AAP secured amendment permitting ambulance services that consolidated to receive grants for each entity as though they had not	Two Grades Here O to House members an leadership. U to appropriations and Governor's office for last minute funding

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	HB 1888 PN 2579	Sturla-D (Lancaster)	An Act establishing a grant program for municipal fire and emergency services organizations; and providing for grant funding	Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee 7-13-05	Support - future strategy to provide one grant program for all 911 providers?	I concept good municipal entities forgotten - no movement
	HB 2022 PN 2799	Solobay-D (Washington)	An Act making an appropriation to PEMA for enhancing certain capabilities of volunteer fire companies	Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee 10-17-05	AAP would have supported any fix to funding of the VFC&VAS Grant program	O Kudos to Rep Solobay for stepping up to find a fix for the grant funding issue
	HB 2197 PN 3065	Fleagle-R (Franklin)	An Act making an appropriation to PEMA for the purpose of funding grants under the VFC&VAS Grant program	Referred to Appropriations 11-04-05	AAP would have supported any fix to funding of the VFC&VAS Grant program	O Kudos to Rep Fleagle for stepping up to find a fix for the grant funding issue
	HB 2258 PN 3146	Haluska-D (Cambria)	An Act establishing the Fire and Emergency Service Grant Program; uses revenue from domestic fire insurance tax and excess foreign fire tax revenue to fund program; creates Statewide Advisory Board under PEMA	Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee 11-21-05	AAP is interested in any bill that opens funding to stand alone EMS services from fire insurance and fire tax revenue	I concept good to fund all emergency services - no movement
	SB 846 PN 1131	Donald White-R (Indiana)	An Act amending Pa C.S. Title 4 reenacting provision relating to transfers from State Gaming Fund to Volunteer Fire Company Grant Program	Referred to Senate Veteran's Affairs and Emergency Preparedness 9-23-05	AAP would support funding if State Gaming Revenue was available	I concept good to fund all emergency services - no movement
	SB 867 PN 1132	Tomlinson R (Bucks)	An Act making an appropriation to PEMA for the purpose of funding grants under the VFC&VAS Grant program	Passed Senate 48-0 Referred to House Appropriations 10-13-05	AAP would have supported any fix to funding of the VFC&VAS Grant program	O Kudos to Sen Tomlinson and the Senate for stepping up to find a fix for the grant funding issue

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7 - Tax Rate Modification for EMS - Local	HB 726 PN 817	Solobay-D (Washington)	An Act amending the 3rd Class City Code for funding fire and EMS	Referred to House Finance Committee 3-1-05	No current strategy	I concept good to fund all emergency services - no movement
	HB 780 PN 942	Corrigan-D (Bucks)	An Act amending the PA Municipalities Planning Code for increase in use and occupancy permit fees for support of volunteer fire and ambulance and rescue squads	Referred to House Local Government Committee 3-14-05	No current strategy	I concept good to fund all emergency services - no movement
	HB 1496 PN 1812	Benninghoff R (Centre and Mifflin)	An Act amending the Local Tax Enabling Act further restricting the use of funds derived from the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax	Referred to House Finance Committee 5-2-05	AAP would support but primarily fire only bill	I concept good but funds only purchase, rental or maintenance of fire training equipment - no movement
	HB 1778 PN 2292	Zug-R (Dauphin and Lebanon)	An Act amending the Local Tax Enabling Act further restricting the use of funds derived from the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax	Referred to House Finance Committee 6-22-05	AAP would support but bill does not change name of Emergency and Municipal Services Tax	U concept good to fund all emergency services but no EMS Tax name change - no movement
	HB 1962 PN 2695	Gergely-D (Allegheny)	An Act amending the 2nd Class County Code providing for volunteer fire company and ambulance service grant funding	Referred to House Local Government Committee 9-26-05	No current strategy	I concept good to fund all emergency services - no movement
	HB 2149 PN 2972	DeLuca-D (Allegheny)	An Act amending the Tax Reform Code dedicating certain tax revenues for a grant program for volunteer fire companies and ambulance services; and establishing the Volunteer Company Account	Referred to House Finance Committee 11-31-05	No current strategy	I concept good to fund all emergency services - no movement

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	HB 2174 PN 3013	Gingrich-R (Lebanon)	An Act amending the Borough Code providing for millage and imposition of Borough taxes related to fire protection and ambulance and rescue squad purposes	Referred to House Finance Committee 11-1-05	No current strategy	I concept good to fund all emergency services - no movement
	SB 157 PN 1989	Browne-R (Lehigh, Monroe and Northampton)	An Act amending the Local Tax Enabling Act further providing for delegation of taxing powers and restrictions thereon	Referred to Senate Rules and Executive Nominations, re-reported on concurrence, as amended Laid on table 7-1-06	AAP secured name change of EMS Tax and EMS addition to restricted use amendments in House - Bill gutted in Senate	Two Grades Here O to House members an leadership. U to Senate - EMS Tax name is killing EMS services
8 - Authorize/Enable Regional Fire/EMS Board, Districts and/or Authorities	HB 1194 PN 1400	Yudichak-D (Luzerne)	An Act establishing a grant program for shared municipal services; conferring powers and duties on DCED; and making an appropriation	Referred to House Appropriations 3-29-05	No current strategy - While not a direct reflection of recommendation, bill does promote alternative funding and design	O Great incentive for consolidations Final grade dependent on movement
	SB 1236 PN 1861	Donald White-R (Indiana)	An Act establishing a grant program for volunteer emergency services organizations to provide incentives for establishing partnerships; conferring powers on the Governor's Center for Local Gov't Services within DCED; and providing for funding	Referred to Senate Veteran's Affairs and Emergency Preparedness 6-19-06	Although directed at fire as a result of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee Report this is good for EMS services who wish to consolidate	O Great incentive for consolidations Final grade dependent on movement
9 - Establish/Permit A Service Longevity Program	HB 577 PN 605	Grucela-D (Northamp- ton)	An Act providing for postsecondary education tuition reimbursement program for volunteer firefighters and emergency services personnel	Referred to House Education Committee 2-15-05	AAP supports any efforts for retention of personnel	O Great incentive for retention. Final grade dependent on movement
	HB 875 PN 2658	Hutchinson R (Butler and Venango)	An Act amending the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, further providing for death benefit eligibility and for definitions	ACT 59 OF 2005 SIGNED BY GOVERNOR RENDELL 10-6-05	AAP acknowledges Rep Hutchinson extending death benefits with 24 hours of duty event	O to House, Senate and Administration

Senate Resolution 60 Recommendation	Bills Introduced	Sponsor	Summary	Status	AAP Action/Strategy	Grade
	SB 23 PN 16	O'Pake-D (Berks)	An Act amending the Tax Reform Code authorizing a tax credit for volunteer firefighters for purposes of personal income tax	Referred to Senate Finance Committee 1-13-05	AAP supports any efforts for retention of personnel	U Concept is great but a year of inactivity results in low grade
	SB 24 PN 35	O'Pake-D (Berks)	An Act amending the Tax Reform Code authorizing a tax credit for volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) personnel for purposes of personal income tax	Referred to Senate Finance Committee 1-13-05	AAP supports any efforts for retention of personnel	U Concept is great but a year of inactivity results in low grade
	SB 540 PN 573	Greenleaf R (Montgomery)	An Act establishing the Volunteer Emergency Service Personnel Education Assistance and Loan Forgiveness Program	Referred to Senate Education Committee 3-30-05	AAP supports any efforts for retention of personnel	O Great incentive for retention. Final grade dependent on movement
	SB 541 PN 5574	Greenleaf R (Montgomery)	An Act establishing a tuition credit program for certain members of volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance services and volunteer rescue squads and their dependent children and spouses	Referred to Senate Education Committee 3-30-05	AAP supports any efforts for retention of personnel	I Great incentive for retention. No Appropriation made. Final grade dependent on movement
	SB 1034 PN 1398	Orie-R (Allegheny)	An Act amending the Act increasing the appropriation for law enforcement and emergency response personnel death benefits	ACT 40A OF 2005 SIGNED BY GOVERNOR RENDELL 12-22-05	AAP acknowledges Senator Orie for her work on increasing the appropriation for death benefits	O to House, Senate and Administration
10 - Mutual Aid Agreement Model	None				Not aware of legislation	U
11- Education Tuition Credit	SB 540 PN 573	Greenleaf R (Montgomery)	An Act establishing the Volunteer Emergency Service Personnel Education Assistance and Loan Forgiveness Program	Referred to Senate Education Committee 3-30-05	AAP supports any efforts for retention of personnel	O Great incentive for retention. Final grade dependent on movement

Senate Resolution 60 Recommendation	Bills Introduced	Sponsor	Summary	Status	AAP Action/Strategy	Grade
	SB 541 PN 5574	Greenleaf R (Montgomery)	An Act establishing a tuition credit program for certain members of volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance services and volunteer rescue squads and their dependent children and spouses	Referred to Senate Education Committee 3-30-05	AAP supports any efforts for retention of personnel	I Great incentive for retention. No Appropriation made. Final grade dependent on movement
12 - Business Tax Credit For Supporting Volunteer Fire/EMS Staff	None				Not aware of legislation	U
13 - Public Safety Service Fee	None				Not aware of legislation	U
14- Permit Direct Reimbursement To EMS And Fire Agencies	HB 109 PN 101	Payne-R (Dauphin)	An Act amending the Insurance Company Law further providing for prompt payment to health care providers of clean claims	Referred to House Insurance Committee 1-25-05	AAP has actively pursued and testified on the necessity of direct pay issues	U Lack of movement is crippling EMS services
	HB 636 PN 729	Rohrer-R (Bucks)	An Act amending the Insurance Company Law further providing for prompt payment to health care providers of clean claims	Referred to House Insurance Committee 3-1-05	AAP has actively pursued and testified on the necessity of direct pay issues	U Lack of movement is crippling EMS services
	HB 721 PN 812	Solobay-D (Washington)	An Act requiring insurers that approve claims for emergency services to directly reimburse organizations that provide such services	Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee 3-1-05	AAP has actively pursued and testified on the necessity of direct pay issues	U Lack of movement is crippling EMS services
	HB 1224 PN 1437	Sather-R (Blair and Huntington)	An Act amending the Insurance Company Law prohibiting discrimination against willing ambulance service providers by health insurers	Referred to House Insurance Committee 3-30-05	AAP testified at hearing on HB 1224 before House Insurance Committee	U Lack of movement is crippling EMS services
	HB 1420 PN 1715	Gibson C. Armstrong R (Lancaster)	An Act amending the Insurance Company Law further providing for prompt payment to health care providers of clean claims	Referred to House Insurance Committee 4-26-05	AAP has actively pursued and testified on the necessity of direct pay issues	U Lack of movement is crippling EMS services

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	HB 2044 PN 2821	Haluska-D (Cambria)	An Act amending the Health Maintenance Organization Act, providing for submittal of claim payments	Referred to House Insurance Committee 10-17-05	AAP has actively pursued and testified on the necessity of direct pay issues	U Lack of movement is crippling EMS services
	HB 2209 PN 3084	DiGirolamo R (Bucks)	An Act amending the Insurance Company Law further providing for direct payment for ambulance services	Referred to House Insurance Committee 11-14-05	AAP worked with leadership to get this bill to House floor, stopped by Insurance Committee Chair	U Lack of movement is crippling EMS services
	HB 2252 PN 3140	O'Neill-R (Bucks)	An Act amending the Insurance Company Law prohibiting discrimination against volunteer ambulance services	Reported with request to re-refer to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee 11-22-05	AAP to testify in August 2006	I AAP commends re-referral from Insurance Committee
	SB 22 PN 15	Tomlinson R (Bucks)	An Act amending the Insurance Company Law further providing for joint payment for emergency service organization	Referred to Senate Banking and Insurance Committee 1-13-05	AAP has actively pursued and testified on the necessity of joint pay issues but prefers direct pay	U Lack of movement is crippling EMS services
	SB 604 PN 636	Orie-R (Allegheny)	An Act amending the Insurance Company Law further providing for prompt payment to health care providers of clean claims	Referred to Senate Banking and Insurance Committee 4-4-05	AAP has actively pursued and testified on the necessity of direct pay issues	U Lack of movement is crippling EMS services
15 - Establish Position Of EMS Commissioner	HB 1282 PN 1526	Causer-R (Cameron, McKean and Potter)	An Act amending the EMS Act, amending the title of the Act; creating the PA EMS Agency; and providing for transfer of duties of the DOH under the Act to PA EMS Agency and establishing position of EMS Director	Reported with request to re-refer to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee 4-12-05	AAP has testified on HB 1282 and will be part of the workgroup task with providing comment and language for future amendments	I AAP realizes original language is problematic and working to correct issue
16 - Expand State Contract For Fire And EMS	HB 105 PN 3028	Payne-R (Dauphin)	An Act amending Pa C.S. Title 62 providing for cooperative purchase of fire, rescue and ambulance company supplies	Passed House 197-0 11-1-05, Re-referred to Senate Appropriations after 1st consideration 4-3-06	Support	I Great concept that will save countless dollars. Final grade dependent on movement

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17 - Reimburse Cities For Career Fire Staff Training	HB 1888 PN 2579	Sturla-D (Lancaster)	An Act establishing a grant program for municipal fire and emergency services organizations; and providing for grant funding	Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee 7-13-05	Support - future strategy to provide one grant program for all 911 providers?	I concept good municipal entities forgotten - no movement
18 - Billing Services	HB 643 PN 736	McCall-D (Carbon)	An Act providing for volunteer fire company reimbursements	Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee 3-1-05	Support	U Concept is great but a year of inactivity results in low grade
19 - Volunteer Loan Assistance Program Restructuring	None				Not aware of legislation	U
20 - Regional Emergency Service Consultant	None		DCED does provide peer-to-peer program		Not aware of legislation	U
21 - Create Permissible Benefits Spending Program	None		May be part of Act 84 restructuring		Not aware of legislation	U
22 - Provide Health Care Benefit Program Opportunity	None		May be part of Act 84 restructuring		Not aware of legislation	U
23 - State Legislature Should Eliminate Unnecessary Administrative Reporting Required For Fire And EMS Organizations	None				Not aware of legislation	U

