

Significant revisions to Senate Bill 1019 - PEMA

7307.2 Disaster Emergency Fund (pg. 28)

- Establishes a non-lapsing, restricted revenue account within the state treasury to be used to assist in non-federally declared disasters in accordance with standards and guidelines set by PEMA
- This fund would allow PEMA to aid counties when disasters do not reach the \$18.2 million threshold for the Commonwealth to apply for federal assistance.
- The amount of money in the fund would depend on allocations from the General Assembly.

7502 County and local emergency management coordinators (pg. 49)

- (a.1) Certification refusal (pg. 49)
 - New language provides PEMA with the right to refuse certification of an emergency management coordinator for incompetence, dishonesty, or commitment of a felony or an offense involving moral turpitude under Federal, state, or local laws or ordinances.
- (b) County coordinator (pgs. 49-50)
 - Language is removed that requires the PEMA Director to approve County EMCs
 - Removes the Governor from the appointment process for County EMCs
- (c) Local Coordinator (pgs. 50-51)
 - Chief elected official of a municipality appoints the coordinator and provides notice to the county.
- (d) Qualifications and removal (pg. 51)
 - Strengthens the provisions to remove county and local coordinators. Allows an appointing authority to remove a coordinator for a commitment of a felony; additionally, it allows an appointing authority to remove a county or local coordinator for any reason.
- (e) In-service training (pgs. 52)
 - Coordinators must successfully complete basic certification no later than one year after appointment
 - Coordinators must successfully complete advanced certification no later than three years after appointment
- (e.1) Credit (pg. 52)
 - Provides the PEMA director with the discretion to give a coordinator credit towards meeting their requirements based on prior experience and training.

New Subchapter related to Regional Task Forces

7521 Regional Task Forces (pgs. 69-74)

- Adds new language to expand the makeup of the regional task forces to include additional members of the emergency management community by adding one member from the health,

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law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) to be chosen in a manner determined by the regional task force.

- Allows regional task forces to designate themselves for purposes of contract and grant administration, by majority vote of the executive board as a:
 - Designated County Model;
 - Distributed Funds Model; or
 - Regional County Model.
- Designated County Model
 - Member counties may organize their regional task force as a COG. In lieu of a COG, member counties must enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement.
 - The task force must designate one member county as its agent responsible for entering contracts and grant agreements.
- Distributed County Model
 - PEMA shall enter into contracts and grant agreements with each of the member counties individually. Each task force member county will be responsible for administering any funds, grants it receive, or expenses it incurs.
 - Member counties may organize their regional task force as a COG
- Regional County Model
 - PEMA shall enter into cooperative contracts and grant agreements with the regional task force. Each regional task force member county will be represented in a cooperative contract or grant agreement, and be responsible for executing the contract or grant agreement on behalf of the member county it represents in the region
 - PEMA will distribute funds to one regional task force member county, or to each regional task force county as outlined in a cooperative contract or grant agreement, as required.
 - Each county will be responsible for regional task force expenditure of grant funds and purchases that are maintained, delivered or reside in the respective regional task force county.
- Adds language to ensure that members of the regional task force are paid during an activation and deployment by the entity that activated and deployed them.
 - Language is in § 7521. Regional task forces (h). Activation and Deployment
 - During an activation and deployment, the administrative and operational costs of the regional task force will be negotiated.
 - If payment is required, it will be borne by the entity that activated and deployed the regional task force or the subset of the regional task force.

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7522 Specialized regional task force teams/specialized statewide response teams (pgs. 74-75)

- Adds language to the activations and deployment sections which allow these teams to negotiate payments for individual members and their employers during an activation and deployment.
- Allows specialized teams to receive grants directly if they are organized as a contract or grant administrator.
- Authorizes PEMA to award grants and funding to regional task forces and response teams or political subdivisions that make up these entities.

7605 Protections (pg. 78)

- Extends protections provided to commonwealth employees to individuals that are not employees of the Commonwealth but are deployed.
- Immunity and workers' compensation protections are waived for any individual that self-deploys on a mission.

7704 Immunity from civil liability (pg. 84-86)

- Extends immunity from civil liability to volunteers engaged in emergency services activities; adds gross negligence, recklessness or bad faith to cases where immunity from civil liability does not extend.

7706 Workers' Compensation (pgs. 87-88)

- Extends the benefits to volunteers of urban search and rescue task force, a regional task force, specialized regional task force established by PEMA and are deployed or participating in a scheduled training, exercise or official capacity as an emergency management official.