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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 765 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, SCARNATI, RAFFERTY, ALLOWAY, BAKER,  
BOSCOLA, EICHELBERGER, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, PILEGGI, SCHWANK,  
TEPLITZ, WARD, YAW AND YUDICHAK, MAY 1, 2015

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REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, MAY 1, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for  
3 the definition of "emergency service responder" and providing  
4 for the definitions of "electric cooperative personnel" and  
5 "electric utility personnel"; and, in rules of the road in  
6 general, further providing for duty of driver in emergency  
7 response areas.

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

10 Section 1. The definition of "emergency service responder"  
11 in section 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
12 Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph and the section is  
13 amended by adding definitions to read:

14 § 102. Definitions.

15 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent  
16 provisions of this title which are applicable to specific  
17 provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when  
18 used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly  
19 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

20 \* \* \*

1 "Electric cooperative personnel." Individuals who:

2 (1) work as employees or contractors of an electric  
3 cooperative;

4 (2) provide disaster emergency-related services,  
5 including repair, renovation, installation, construction and  
6 activities related to damaged, impaired or destroyed  
7 infrastructure; and

8 (3) perform services under paragraph (2) within the  
9 first 72 hours after a declared emergency or until the  
10 expiration of a declared emergency, whichever is later.

11 \* \* \*

12 "Electric utility personnel." Individuals who:

13 (1) work as employees or contractors of an electric  
14 utility;

15 (2) provide disaster emergency-related services,  
16 including repair, renovation, installation, construction and  
17 activities related to damaged, impaired or destroyed  
18 infrastructure; and

19 (3) perform services under paragraph (2) within the  
20 first 72 hours after a declared emergency or until the  
21 expiration of a declared emergency, whichever is later.

22 \* \* \*

23 "Emergency service responder." An individual acting in an  
24 official capacity as any of the following:

25 \* \* \*

26 (14) Electric cooperative personnel and electric utility  
27 personnel.

28 \* \* \*

29 Section 2. Section 3327(f) of Title 75 is amended to read:  
30 § 3327. Duty of driver in emergency response areas.

1 \* \* \*

2 (f) Definition.--As used in this section, the term  
3 "emergency response area" means [the] any of the following:

4 (1) The area in which emergency service responders  
5 render emergency assistance to individuals on or near a  
6 roadway or a police officer is conducting a traffic stop or  
7 systematic check of vehicles or controlling or directing  
8 traffic as long as the emergency vehicle is making use of  
9 visual signals meeting the requirements of Subchapter D of  
10 Chapter 45.

11 (2) The area in which electric cooperative personnel or  
12 electric utility personnel provide disaster emergency-related  
13 services within the first 72 hours after a declared emergency  
14 or until the expiration of a declared emergency, whichever is  
15 later, as long as the electric cooperative personnel or  
16 electric utility personnel vehicle is making use of visual  
17 signals as authorized under section 4572(b) (relating to  
18 visual signals on authorized vehicles).

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.