



Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee

Senator Bob Mensch

Chairman

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Summary of House Bill 2377, P.N. 4094

Prime Sponsor: James

A. Synopsis

Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety) to authorize an exemption from the payment of specific taxes and fees by certain out-of-state businesses and employees when there is a declared disaster emergency.

B. Bill Summary

HB 2377 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to do the following:

- Defines the following terms:
 - Out-of-state businesses
 - Out-of-state employee
 - Disaster emergency-related work
 - Infrastructure
 - Registered business
- Provides that when either the President or Governor declares a disaster emergency anywhere in the Commonwealth and out-of-state businesses or employees are needed to respond to such a disaster to provide disaster emergency related work, such as restoring power lines and power, the following items shall not be required to be remitted by out-of-state businesses and/or employees:
 1. State income taxes/net or gross income or receipts
 2. Local income taxes, local services taxes or licensing fees
 3. State/local business licensing/registration requirements

4. PA Public Utility Commission/regulatory requirements
5. Unemployment insurance
6. Sales and use tax
7. Property tax on equipment brought into state on temporary basis.

- Provides that when disaster emergency related-work is conducted, the period for which the exemption is to apply shall be for a period of not more than 10 days before or not more than 60 calendar days after the end of the declared disaster emergency period.
- The disaster emergency related-work may be extended by the Governor for up to 30 days for each declared disaster emergency.
- Provides that an out-of-state employee does not establish residency or a presence in the Commonwealth when conducting work under the conditions specified under the act.
- Provides that no entity or individual is relieved from liability not explicitly exempted, which includes damages due to negligence.

**HB 2377 was amended by the House to further clarify the utilities and services included in the definition of “infrastructure,” that would qualify under the bill when a disaster emergency has been declared. In addition, the amendment added a liability provision related to damages incurred due to negligence.

Effective in 60 days.

C. Current Law

Title 35 (Health and Safety) provides for the powers and duties of the Governor and local governments during declared disaster emergencies.