

No. 1981-133

AN ACT

SB 114

Amending the act of May 21, 1937 (P.L.774, No.211), entitled "An act to facilitate vehicular traffic between the eastern and western sections of the Commonwealth by providing for the construction, operation and maintenance of a turnpike from a point at or near Middlesex in Cumberland County to a point at or near Irwin in Westmoreland County; providing for the creation of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, and conferring powers and imposing duties on said commission; authorizing the issuance of turnpike revenue bonds of the Commonwealth, payable solely from tolls, to pay the cost of such turnpike; providing that no debt of the Commonwealth shall be incurred in the exercise of any of the powers granted by this act; providing for the collection of tolls for the payment of such bonds and for the cost of maintenance, operation and repair of the turnpike; making such bonds exempt from taxation; constituting such bonds legal investments in certain instances; prescribing conditions upon which such turnpike shall become free; providing for condemnation; granting certain powers and authority to municipal subdivisions and agencies of the Commonwealth to cooperate with the commission; and authorizing the issuance of turnpike revenue refunding bonds," providing for a panel of review, monitor and aid in improving ambulance service available to travelers of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and for access and exit by emergency vehicles.

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

Section 1. The act of May 21, 1937 (P.L.774, No.211), referred to as the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Act, is amended by adding sections to read:

Section 5.2. (a) The commission, in consultation with the Department of Health, shall establish a panel whose composition and size shall be determined by the commission.

(b) The panel shall review and monitor ambulance service available to travelers of the turnpike and advise the commission as to the following objectives:

(1) Achieving the capability of approximately ten-minute maximum response time by ambulance service to every location on the turnpike under ordinary driving conditions.

(2) Assuring that every ambulance responding to an emergency incident on the turnpike is staffed by at least one emergency medical technician.

(3) Assuring that every ambulance responding to an emergency incident on the turnpike complies with Federal Specification No. KKK-A-1822 as amended and updated.

(4) Assuring that every ambulance responding to an emergency incident on the turnpike carries the minimum essential equipment for ambulances recommended by the American College of Surgeons, Department of Transportation and Department of Health and light rescue extrication equipment recommended by the Department of Health.

(c) *The panel may accomplish the objectives set forth in subsection (b) by reviewing the ambulance services provided by the commission, or that available from professional and volunteer service in areas adjacent to the turnpike.*

(d) *The panel may establish reasonable trial periods to evaluate and compare potential services in particular areas of the turnpike. The panel may implement off-pike services to completely replace existing commission services, as such off-pike services, in the panel's determination, meet the above objectives: Provided, however, That the panel shall not terminate existing commission services on any section of the turnpike unless it has entered an agreement pursuant to which ambulance services will be provided in that section by a professional or volunteer service or services in the area adjacent to the turnpike.*

(e) *The panel may remain convened to evaluate the changing availability and quality of service.*

Section 5.3. Emergency vehicles while on an emergency call and while displaying audible and visual signals as required by 75 Pa.C.S. § 4571 (relating to visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles), shall be granted immediate entrance to and exit from any turnpike or highway under the supervision and control of the commission, and no such emergency vehicle shall be required to stop at a toll booth or for any other reason except on order of a member of the Pennsylvania State Police for a legitimate law enforcement function. The commission shall notify all employees of the commission who are assigned duties of toll booths of the provisions of this section.

Section 2. Nothing herein shall supersede, waive, exempt or supplement the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. § 8332 (relating to nonmedical good samaritan civil immunity). The immunity from liability provided by said section 8332 shall continue to apply during and following any action taken by the panel.

Section 3. The panel shall implement the objectives set forth in section 5.2 (b)(2), (3) and (4) of the act within one year from the effective date of this act.

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

APPROVED—The 16th day of December, A. D. 1981.

DICK THORNBURGH