

CHAPTER 292**(HB 293)**

AN ACT relating to the provision of thermal vision devices to fire departments.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 95A IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The thermal vision grant program, which is administered pursuant to Sections 1 to 5 of this Act and appropriations for the thermal vision grant program in the state budget, is designed to:

- (1) Reduce and prevent the loss of life by creating better equipped firefighters throughout the Commonwealth; and*
- (2) Upgrade the capabilities of local firefighters by providing financial assistance to be used to purchase thermal vision devices.*

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 95A IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The commission shall have overall responsibility for policy, guidance, administration, implementation, and proper utilization of the thermal vision grant program. The commission with the advice of the advisory committee, shall make determinations relating to thermal vision grant program applications and releasing equipment to fire departments.

SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 95A IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

For the purposes of Sections 1 to 5 of this Act "thermal vision device" means any portable electronic device that displays a visible image from the infrared portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 95A IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The commission shall:

- (1) Create the necessary application forms, any necessary supporting documents, compliance documents, or reporting documents for the thermal vision grant program as may be necessary by promulgating administrative regulations under KRS Chapter 13A;*
- (2) Make a determination of the characteristics of the most cost-effective thermal vision systems for use by fire departments participating in the thermal vision grant program;*
- (3) Make a determination of the manufacturer or manufacturers of thermal vision devices to be purchased by the thermal vision grant program;*
- (4) Make a determination of the most cost-effective purchase mechanism and price, under KRS Chapter 45A, for thermal vision systems;*
- (5) Accept and process applications for the purchase of thermal vision systems through the thermal vision grant program;*
- (6) Award eligible fire departments grants equal to fifty percent (50%), but not to exceed the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), of the agreed price for the purchase of thermal vision systems;*

- (7) *Require recipients of thermal vision devices purchased through the thermal vision grant program to file any reports deemed necessary by the commission concerning usage, maintenance, or property accounting or loss with the commission; and*
- (8) *Maintain these reports for evaluation by the commission.*

SECTION 5. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 95A IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

All fire departments formed under KRS Chapter 65, 75, 95, or 273 shall be eligible to receive grants through the thermal vision grant program. These fire departments may make application for a grant to purchase thermal vision devices through the thermal vision grant program to the commission. The application shall be made on forms provided by the commission. A fire department that receives a grant through the thermal vision grant program shall not make another application to the commission for a grant for a period of two (2) years. Fire departments receiving grants for the purchase of thermal vision devices through the thermal vision grant program shall comply with all administrative regulations concerning reporting requirements established by the commission. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements shall disqualify a fire department from participation in the thermal vision grant program for a period of five (5) years.

Approved April 9, 2002