

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4661

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 15, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States Fire
5 Administration, AFG, and SAFER Program Reauthoriza-
6 tion Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES FIRE**
2 **ADMINISTRATION.**

3 Section 17(g)(1)(M) of the Federal Fire Prevention
4 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216 (g)(1)(M)) is
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking “fiscal year 2017” and inserting
7 “for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023”; and

8 (2) by inserting “for each such fiscal year”
9 after “\$2,753,672”.

10 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO FIRE-**
11 **FIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM AND THE FIRE**
12 **PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANTS PRO-**
13 **GRAM.**

14 (a) SUNSET.—Section 33(r) of the Federal Fire Pre-
15 vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(r)) is
16 amended by striking “the date that is 5 years after the
17 date of the enactment of the Fire Grants Reauthorization
18 Act of 2012” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

19 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
20 33(q)(1)(B) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control
21 Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(q)(1)(B)) is amended, in the
22 matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2017” and insert-
23 ing “2023”.

24 (c) AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN TRAINING UNDER
25 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM.—Sec-
26 tion 33(c)(3) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control

1 Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(c)(3)) is amended by adding
2 at the end the following:

3 “(N) To provide specialized training to
4 firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical
5 service workers, and other first responders to
6 recognize individuals who have mental illness
7 and how to properly intervene with individuals
8 with mental illness, including strategies for
9 verbal de-escalation of crisis.”.

10 **SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE**
11 **FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT**
12 **PROGRAM.**

13 (a) SUNSET.—Section 34(k) of the Federal Fire Pre-
14 vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(k))
15 is amended by striking “the date that is 5 years after the
16 date of the enactment of the Fire Grants Reauthorization
17 Act of 2012” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

18 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
19 34(j)(1)(I) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act
20 of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(j)(1)(I)) is amended, in the
21 matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2017” and insert-
22 ing “2023”.

23 (c) MODIFICATION OF APPLICATION REQUIRE-
24 MENTS.—Section 34(b)(3)(B) of the Federal Fire Preven-
25 tion and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(b)(3)(B))

1 is amended by striking “of subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii) and
2 (F)” and inserting “of subsection (a)(1)(F)”.

3 (d) MODIFICATION OF LIMITATION.—Section
4 34(c)(2) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act
5 of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(c)(2)) is amended by striking
6 “prior to the date of enactment of this section” and insert-
7 ing “prior to the date of the application for the grant”.

8 (e) MODIFICATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Section
9 34(d)(1)(B) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control
10 Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(d)(1)(B)) is amended by
11 striking “subsection (a)(1)(E) or subsection (c)(2)” and
12 inserting “subsection (a)(1)(E), (c)(2), or (c)(4)”.

13 (f) EXPANSION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE
14 AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM; REPEAL
15 OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS
16 TRANSFERRED TO ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS
17 GRANTS PROGRAM.—Section 34(a)(1)(B) of the Federal
18 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
19 2229a(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

20 (1) by inserting “or to change the status of
21 part-time or paid-on-call (as defined in section
22 33(a)) firefighters to full-time firefighters” after
23 “firefighters”; and

24 (2) by striking “and to provide” and all that
25 follows through “of crises”.

1 **SEC. 5. TRAINING ON ADMINISTRATION OF FIRE GRANT**
2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Federal
4 Emergency Management Agency, acting through the Ad-
5 ministrator of the United States Fire Administration, may
6 develop and make widely available an electronic, online
7 training course for members of the fire and emergency re-
8 sponse community on matters relating to the administra-
9 tion of grants under sections 33 and 34 of the Federal
10 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229
11 and 2229a).

12 (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Administrator of the Fed-
13 eral Emergency Management Agency shall ensure that
14 any training developed and made available under sub-
15 section (a) is—

16 (1) tailored to the financial and time con-
17 straints of members of the fire and emergency re-
18 sponse community; and

19 (2) accessible to all individuals in the career,
20 combination, paid-on-call, and volunteer fire and
21 emergency response community.

1 **SEC. 6. FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING**
2 **OF THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS**
3 **GRANTS PROGRAM, THE FIRE PREVENTION**
4 **AND SAFETY GRANTS PROGRAM, AND THE**
5 **STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMER-**
6 **GENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) FRAMEWORK.—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
9 Federal Emergency Management Agency, acting through
10 the Administrator of the United States Fire Administra-
11 tion, shall develop and implement a grant monitoring and
12 oversight framework to mitigate and minimize risks of
13 fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement relating to the
14 grants programs under sections 33 and 34 of the Federal
15 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229
16 and 2229a).

17 (b) ELEMENTS.—The framework required under sub-
18 section (a) shall include the following:

19 (1) Developing standardized guidance and
20 training for all participants in the grant programs
21 described in subsection (a).

22 (2) Conducting regular risk assessments.

23 (3) Conducting desk reviews and site visits.

24 (4) Enforcement actions to recoup potential
25 questionable costs of grant recipients.

1 (5) Such other oversight and monitoring tools
2 as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
3 Management Agency considers necessary to mitigate
4 and minimize fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanage-
5 ment relating to the grant programs described in
6 subsection (a).

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