

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7077

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To require the United States Fire Administration to conduct
on-site investigations of major fires, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Empowering the U.S.
3 Fire Administration Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FIRE INVESTIGATIONS.**

5 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
6 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
7 the following:

8 **“SEC. 38. INVESTIGATION AUTHORITIES.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any major fire,
10 the Administrator may send incident investigators, which
11 may include safety specialists, fire protection engineers,
12 codes and standards experts, researchers, and fire training
13 specialists, to the site of the fire to conduct an investiga-
14 tion as described in subsection (b).

15 “(b) INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—A fire investiga-
16 tion conducted under this section—

17 “(1) shall be conducted in coordination and co-
18 operation with appropriate Federal, State, and local
19 authorities, including Federal agencies that are au-
20 thorized to investigate a major fire or an incident of
21 which the major fire is a part; and

22 “(2) shall examine the determined cause and
23 origin of the fire and assess broader systematic mat-
24 ters to include use of codes and standards, demo-
25 graphics, structural characteristics, smoke and fire

1 dynamics (movement) during the event, and costs of
2 associated injuries and deaths.

3 “(c) REPORT.—Upon concluding any fire investiga-
4 tion under this section, the Administrator shall issue a
5 public report to local, State, and Federal authorities on
6 the findings of such investigation, or collaborate with an-
7 other investigating Federal agency on that agency’s re-
8 port, including recommendations on—

9 “(1) any other buildings with similar character-
10 istics that may bear similar fire risks;

11 “(2) improving tactical response to similar fires;

12 “(3) improving civilian safety practices;

13 “(4) assessing the costs and benefits to the
14 community of adding fire safety features; and

15 “(5) how to mitigate the causes of such fire.

16 “(d) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY.—In addition to
17 investigations conducted pursuant to subsection (a), the
18 Administrator may send fire investigators to conduct in-
19 vestigations at the site of any fire with unusual or remark-
20 able context that results in losses less severe than those
21 occurring as a result of a major fire, in coordination with
22 appropriate Federal, State, and local authorities, including
23 Federal agencies that are authorized to investigate a
24 major fire or an incident of which the major fire is a part.

1 “(e) MAJOR FIRE DEFINED.—For purposes of this
2 section, the term ‘major fire’ shall have the meaning given
3 such term under regulations to be issued by the Adminis-
4 trator.”.

Passed the House of Representatives May 11, 2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.