

Union Calendar No. 229

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7077

[Report No. 117-309]

To require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 2022

Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. MELJER, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

MAY 6, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 15, 2022]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Empowering the U.S.*
5 *Fire Administration Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FIRE INVESTIGATIONS.**

7 *The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974*
8 *(15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end*
9 *the following:*

10 **“SEC. 38. INVESTIGATION AUTHORITIES.**

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

17 *“(b) INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—A fire investigation*
18 *conducted under this section—*

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

24 *“(2) shall examine the determined cause and ori-*
25 *gin of the fire and assess broader systematic matters*

1 to include use of codes and standards, demographics,
2 structural characteristics, smoke and fire dynamics
3 (movement) during the event, and costs of associated
4 injuries and deaths.

5 “(c) *REPORT*.—Upon concluding any fire investiga-
6 tion under this section, the Administrator shall issue a pub-
7 lic report to local, State, and Federal authorities on the
8 findings of such investigation, or collaborate with another
9 investigating Federal agency on that agency’s report, in-
10 cluding recommendations on—

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

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

14 “(3) improving civilian safety practices;

15 “(4) assessing the costs and benefits to the com-
16 munity of adding fire safety features; and

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

18 “(d) *DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY*.—In addition to in-
19 vestigations conducted pursuant to subsection (a), the Ad-
20 ministrator may send fire investigators to conduct inves-
21 tigations at the site of any fire with unusual or remarkable
22 context that results in losses less severe than those occurring
23 as a result of a major fire, in coordination with appropriate
24 Federal, State, and local authorities, including Federal

1 *agencies that are authorized to investigate a major fire or*
2 *an incident of which the major fire is a part.*

3 “(e) *MAJOR FIRE DEFINED.*—*For purposes of this sec-*
4 *tion, the term ‘major fire’ shall have the meaning given such*
5 *term under regulations to be issued by the Administrator.’.*”

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