

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3183

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to improve safety standards for wildland firefighters, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to improve safety standards for wildland firefighters, 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 “Healthy Lungs for He-
5 roes Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. SAFETY STANDARDS FOR WILDLAND FIRE-** 7 **FIGHTERS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED PERMISSIBLE EXPOSURE LIM-
 2 ITS.—The term “covered permissible exposure lim-
 3 its” means—

4 (A) the permissible smoke exposure limit
 5 established by the National Institute for Occu-
 6 pational Safety and Health; and

7 (B) the permissible occupational smoke ex-
 8 posure limit established by the Occupational
 9 Health and Safety Administration.

10 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 11 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
 12 Chief of the Forest Service.

13 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
 14 retary concerned” means—

15 (A) the Secretary, with respect to wildland
 16 firefighters under the direction of the Secretary;
 17 and

18 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
 19 spect to wildland firefighters under the direc-
 20 tion of the Secretary of the Interior.

21 (4) WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.—The term
 22 “wildland firefighter” means any person who partici-
 23 pates in wildland firefighting activities under the di-
 24 rection of the Secretary or the Secretary of the Inte-

rior, including under a contract with the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) SAFETY STANDARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)—

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, the Secretary of the Interior, and other appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop a strategy to make commercially available appropriate respiratory personal protective equipment for wildland firefighters and supporting staff in settings in which smoke exposure surpasses covered permissible exposure limits;

(B) the Secretary, in consultation with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, shall determine appropriate respiratory personal protective equipment for wildland firefighters and supporting staff in settings in which smoke exposure surpasses covered permissible exposure limits; and

(C) the Secretary concerned shall require each wildland firefighter and supporting staff to use the respiratory personal protective equip-

1 ment determined under subparagraph (B) in
2 settings in which smoke exposure surpasses cov-
3 ered permissible exposure limits.

4 (2) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

5 (A) in consultation with the National Insti-
6 tute for Occupational Safety and Health and
7 the Occupational Safety and Health Adminis-
8 tration—

9 (i) periodically review standards relat-
10 ing to personal protective equipment and
11 other safety standards for wildland fire-
12 fighters and supporting staff, including the
13 respiratory personal protective equipment
14 determined under paragraph (1)(B); and

15 (ii) develop an appropriate permissible
16 exposure limit or occupational exposure
17 limit for wildfire smoke for wildland fire-
18 fighters and supporting staff participating
19 in settings described in paragraph (1)(A) if
20 the Secretary determines that the covered
21 permissible exposure limits are not tailored
22 to those settings; and

23 (B) incorporate into the standards de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (A)(i), by reference,
25 the most recent edition of standard NFPA

1 1984, entitled “Standard on Respirators for
2 Wildland Fire-Fighting and Wildland Urban
3 Interface Operations” (and any subsequent edi-
4 tions), as necessary, for the safety and personal
5 protection of wildland firefighters and sup-
6 porting staff, subject to the limit described in
7 subsection (a)(1)(A).

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
10 sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each
11 fiscal year.

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