

Public Law 96-121  
96th Congress

## An Act

To authorize appropriations for the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

Nov. 16, 1979

[S. 1160]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. Section 17 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216) is amended to read as follows:

Federal Fire  
Prevention and  
Control Act of  
1974,  
amendment.

## "AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

"SEC. 17. (a) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the foregoing provisions of this Act, except as otherwise specifically provided, with respect to the payment of claims, under section 11 of this Act, an amount not to exceed \$25,210,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980, which amount includes—

15 USC 2210.

"(1) \$4,781,000 for programs which are recommended in the report submitted to the Congress by the Administrator pursuant to section 24(b)(1);

92 Stat. 932.

15 USC 2220.

"(2) \$9,430,000 for the National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control;

"(3) \$307,000 for adjustments required by law in salaries, pay, retirement, and employee benefits;

"(4) \$500,000 for additional rural firefighting technical assistance and information activities;

"(5) \$500,000 for the study required by section 26 of this Act; and

Post, p. 864.

"(6) \$110,000 for the study required by section 27 of this Act.

Post, p. 865.

"(b) There are authorized to be appropriated for the additional administrative expenses of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which are related to this Act and which result from Reorganization Plan Numbered 3 of 1978 (submitted June 19, 1978) and related Executive orders, an amount not to exceed \$600,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980."

92 Stat. 3790.

3 CFR 1978

Comp., p. 329.

SEC. 2. Section 21(b)(4) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(b)(4)) is amended by striking out: "\$100 a day" and inserting in lieu thereof "the daily equivalent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay then in effect for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5332(a))".

SEC. 3. Section 16(b) of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the National Bureau of Standards", approved March 3, 1901 (15 U.S.C. 278f(b)), is amended to read as follows:

"(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of this section, there are authorized to be appropriated an amount not to exceed \$5,650,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980, which amount includes—

"(1) \$525,000 for programs which are recommended in the report submitted to the Congress by the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration pursuant to section 24(b)(1) of

the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2220(b)(1)); and

“(2) \$119,000 for adjustments required by law in salaries, pay, retirement, and employee benefits.”.

SEC. 4. The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

“SEC. 26. (a) The Administrator shall, within ten months of the date of enactment of this section, complete a study of the effectiveness of smoke detectors, heat detectors, and sprinkler suppression systems in saving lives, preventing injuries, and limiting property damage in fires, which report shall be submitted to the Congress and the President. In conducting such study, the Administrator shall consider, among other factors—

“(1) whether and the extent to which such devices and systems have been and are effective in reducing the severity of fires, including estimates with respect to the potential for savings in lives, and injury prevention attributable to the operation of such systems and devices;

“(2) the experience of Federal organizations, States, localities, and other political subdivisions which have required the use of such systems and devices; and

“(3) a description of Administration programs regarding smoke detectors, heat detectors, sprinkler suppression systems and other systems, together with an analysis of the utilization of these systems and devices as a result of these programs.

“(b) If the Administrator determines, as a result of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, that smoke detectors, heat detectors, sprinkler suppression systems or other similar systems or devices either have been or may be of assistance in the detection and control of fire, the Administrator shall include, as part of the report conducted pursuant to this section, recommendations regarding what should be the Federal role, if any, with respect to creating incentives for the use of such devices or systems by the public, by business concerns, and by Federal, State, and local governments. In making such recommendations, the Administrator shall consider—

“(1) the incentives, including financial incentives, which might be developed to require or facilitate installation within new or existing buildings of smoke detectors, heat detectors, sprinkler suppression systems, or any combination of such systems, or other similar systems and devices; and

“(2) the benefits, if any, of demonstration or other such programs directed at residents in high impact fire areas in order to increase the use of smoke detectors, heat detectors, sprinkler suppression systems, or other systems or devices.

“(c) As part of its report submitted pursuant to this section, the Administrator shall provide specific legislative proposals to the Congress for implementing any recommendations made pursuant to this section.

“(d) Upon request of the Administrator, each Federal department and agency shall furnish to the Administrator such information, data, estimates, and statistics, and allow the Administrator access to all information in its possession, as the Administrator may reasonably determine to be necessary for the conduct of the study required by this section.”.

Study, report to Congress and President.  
15 USC 2222.

Legislative proposals.

**SEC. 5.** The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

**“FIREFIGHTER SAFETY STUDY**

**“SEC. 27. (a)** The Administrator shall conduct a review of firefighter safety. Such review shall include, but need not be limited to—

15 USC 2223.

**“(1)** an analysis of the current situation with respect to the safety of firefighters;

**“(2)** an analysis of the effectiveness of protective garments, firefighting breathing equipment, personal communications systems, and other protective subsystems, together with recommendations for improving such equipment in order to further firefighting safety;

**“(3)** development of a plan for increased technology transfer to firefighting units of more effective technologies in the areas identified in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

**“(b)** The Administrator shall submit to Congress the results of such review, together with appropriate recommendations for legislation, not later than March 31, 1980.”

Submission to Congress.

Approved November 16, 1979.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

**HOUSE REPORT** No. 96-176 accompanying H.R. 4016 (Comm. on Science and Technology).

**SENATE REPORT** No. 96-186 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD**, Vol. 125 (1979):

May 23, considered and passed Senate.

June 4, H.R. 4016 considered and passed House; passage vacated and S. 1160 passed in lieu; that passage was vacated, the bill was amended, and then passed in lieu of H.R. 4016.

Oct. 31, Senate concurred in House amendment with an amendment.

Nov. 8, House concurred in Senate amendment.