

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1041

To amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide grants to States to stabilize and remove large tire piles that are near drinking water sources and sensitive populations.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide grants to States to stabilize and remove large tire piles that are near drinking water sources and sensitive populations.

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 “Tire Pile Improvement  
5 and Remediation Effectiveness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Solid Waste Disposal Act does not pro-  
2       vide for the current stabilization and removal of tire  
3       piles.

4           (2) There are currently 3,000,000,000 scrap  
5       tires located in tire piles in the United States, and  
6       250,000,000 tires are added to tire piles each year.

7           (3) Tires, once burning, are difficult to extin-  
8       guish because tires contain oil (providing fuel), and  
9       the interstitial spaces between the tires trap air  
10      (providing a source of oxygen).

11          (4) Tire pile fires can burn at 2,000 degrees  
12      Fahrenheit and put a column of black smoke tens of  
13      thousands of feet in the air.

14          (5) Burning tires may produce oil as a byprod-  
15      uct of combustion, and it is estimated that one tire  
16      can produce one quart of light fraction oil, an ex-  
17      tremely toxic form of oil containing toxic substances  
18      such as benzene, toluene, and xylene, which are list-  
19      ed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air  
20      Act.

21          (6) At any site where there is a pile of millions  
22      of tires, there is a potential for a large amount of  
23      oil and other pollutants to be released, presenting a  
24      profound threat to public health and the environ-  
25      ment. In the past such piles have caught fire, caus-

1       ing extensive damage to property and the environ-  
2       ment.

3               (7) Tire piles containing more than 5,000,000  
4       tires pose an immediate potential threat to public  
5       health and the environment and should be stabilized  
6       and removed with all practicable speed.

7       **SEC. 3. STABILIZATION AND REMOVAL OF SCRAP TIRE**  
8               **PILES.**

9       Section 2004 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42  
10      U.S.C. 6914) is amended—

11              (1) by striking out the heading and designation  
12      for both the section and subsection (a) of the section  
13      and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14      **“SEC. 2004. TIRE GRANTS.**

15              “(a) GRANTS FOR DISCARDED TIRE DISPOSAL.—  
16      (1)”;

17              (2) by striking out “(b) AUTHORIZATION.—”  
18      and inserting in lieu thereof “(2)”;

19              (3) by adding at the end the following:

20              “(b) GRANTS FOR TIRE PILE STABILIZATION AND  
21      REMOVAL.—

22              “(1) GRANTS.—The Administrator shall make  
23      available grants to States for purposes of construct-  
24      ing fire lanes in, and removing, tire piles containing  
25      1,000,000 or more tires.

1 “(2) PRIORITY.—

2 “(A) FIRE LANE CONSTRUCTION IN PILES  
3 CONTAINING 5,000,000 OR MORE TIRES.—In  
4 awarding grants under this subsection, the Ad-  
5 ministrator shall give first priority to grants for  
6 the construction of fire lanes in tire piles that  
7 contain 5,000,000 or more tires and that meet  
8 the following criteria:

9 “(i) The tire pile is located within 10  
10 miles of a community water system, as de-  
11 fined by section 1401 of the Public Health  
12 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300f).

13 “(ii) The tire pile is located near an  
14 area or building, such as a senior retire-  
15 ment community or school, populated by  
16 persons who are more sensitive to environ-  
17 mental contaminants.

18 “(iii) The tire pile is on or adjacent to  
19 a facility listed on the National Priorities  
20 List under this Act.

21 “(B) FIRE LANE CONSTRUCTION IN PILES  
22 CONTAINING BETWEEN 1,000,000 AND 5,000,000  
23 TIRES.—In awarding grants under this sub-  
24 section, the Administrator shall give second pri-  
25 ority to grants for the construction of fire lanes

1           in tire piles that contain 1,000,000 or more  
2           tires but less than 5,000,000 tires and that  
3           meet the criteria listed under subparagraph  
4           (A).

5           “(3) COMPLIANCE WITH GUIDELINES.—Fire  
6           lanes constructed using a grant under this sub-  
7           section shall be in compliance with the guidelines of  
8           the National Fire Prevention Association.

9           “(4) SUPPLEMENT TO EXISTING STATE PRO-  
10          GRAMS.—A grant provided under this subsection  
11          shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, any State  
12          funding provided for tire pile stabilization and re-  
13          moval through a State tire program existing on the  
14          date of the enactment of this subsection.

15          “(5) APPLICATION.—A grant may not be  
16          awarded under this subsection unless an application  
17          is submitted to, and approved by, the Administrator.  
18          Such an application shall be submitted in such form  
19          and manner, and contain such information, as the  
20          Administrator by regulation prescribes.

21          “(6) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall  
22          promulgate regulations to administer grants under  
23          this subsection.

1           “(7) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to  
2           be appropriated \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 to  
3           provide grants under this subsection.”.

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