

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1272

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 1997

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation

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## AN ACT

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999  
for the United States Fire Administration, 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 “Fire Administration  
3 Authorization Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and  
6 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-  
8 graph (E);

9 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-  
10 paragraph (F) and inserting in lieu thereof a semi-  
11 colon; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
13 paragraphs:

14 “(G) \$29,600,000 for the fiscal year ending  
15 September 30, 1998; and

16 “(H) \$30,500,000 for the fiscal year ending  
17 September 30, 1999.”.

18 **SEC. 3. SUCCESSOR FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS.**

19 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
20 is amended—

21 (1) in section 29(a)(1), by inserting “, or any  
22 successor standard thereto,” after “Association  
23 Standard 74”;

24 (2) in section 29(a)(2), by inserting “or any  
25 successor standards thereto,” after “whichever is ap-  
26 propriate,”;

1           (3) in section 29(b)(2), by inserting “, or any  
2       successor standards thereto” after “Association  
3       Standard 13 or 13-R”;

4           (4) in section 31(c)(2)(B)(i), by inserting “or  
5       any successor standard thereto,” after “Life Safety  
6       Code),”; and

7           (5) in section 31(c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting “or  
8       any successor standard thereto,” after “Association  
9       Standard 101,”.

10 **SEC. 4. TERMINATION OR PRIVATIZATION OF FUNCTIONS.**

11       The Administrator of the United States Fire Admin-  
12       istration shall transmit to Congress a report providing no-  
13       tice at least 60 days in advance of the termination or  
14       transfer to a private sector entity of any significant func-  
15       tion of the United States Fire Administration.

16 **SEC. 5. LIMITATIONS.**

17       (a) PROHIBITION OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.—None  
18       of the funds authorized by the amendments made by this  
19       Act shall be available for any activity whose purpose is  
20       to influence legislation pending before the Congress, ex-  
21       cept that this subsection shall not prevent officers or em-  
22       ployees of the United States or of its departments or agen-  
23       cies from communicating to Members of Congress on the  
24       request of any Member or to Congress, through the proper  
25       channels, requests for legislation or appropriations which

1 they deem necessary for the efficient conduct of the public  
2 business.

3 (b) LIMITATION ON APPROPRIATIONS.—No sums are  
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the  
5 United States Fire Administration for fiscal years 1998  
6 and 1999 for the activities for which sums are authorized  
7 by the amendments made by this Act, unless such sums  
8 are specifically authorized to be appropriated by the  
9 amendments made by this Act.

10 (c) ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
12 United States Fire Administration shall exclude  
13 from consideration for grant agreements made by  
14 the Administration after fiscal year 1997 any person  
15 who received funds, other than those described in  
16 paragraph (2), appropriated for a fiscal year after  
17 fiscal year 1997, under a grant agreement from any  
18 Federal funding source for a project that was not  
19 subjected to a competitive, merit-based award proc-  
20 ess. Any exclusion from consideration pursuant to  
21 this subsection shall be effective for a period of 5  
22 years after the person receives such Federal funds.

23 (2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not  
24 apply to the receipt of Federal funds by a person  
25 due to the membership of that person in a class

1 specified by law for which assistance is awarded to  
2 members of the class according to a formula pro-  
3 vided by law.

4 (3) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-  
5 section, the term “grant agreement” means a legal  
6 instrument whose principal purpose is to transfer a  
7 thing of value to the recipient to carry out a public  
8 purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a  
9 law of the United States, and does not include the  
10 acquisition (by purchase, lease, or barter) of prop-  
11 erty or services for the direct benefit or use of the  
12 United States Government. Such term does not in-  
13 clude a cooperative agreement (as such term is used  
14 in section 6305 of title 31, United States Code) or  
15 a cooperative research and development agreement  
16 (as such term is defined in section 12(d)(1) of the  
17 Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of  
18 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(d)(1))).

19 **SEC. 6. NOTICE.**

20 (a) NOTICE OF REPROGRAMMING.—If any funds au-  
21 thorized by the amendments made by this Act are subject  
22 to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be pro-  
23 vided to the Appropriations Committees of the House of  
24 Representatives and the Senate, notice of such action shall  
25 concurrently be provided to the Committee on Science of

1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-  
2 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

3 (b) NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION.—The Adminis-  
4 trator of the United States Fire Administration shall pro-  
5 vide notice to the Committees on Science and Appropria-  
6 tions of the House of Representatives, and the Committees  
7 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appro-  
8 priations of the Senate, not later than 15 days before any  
9 major reorganization of any program, project, or activity  
10 of the United States Fire Administration.

11 **SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM.**

12 With the year 2000 fast approaching, it is the sense  
13 of Congress that the United States Fire Administration  
14 should—

15 (1) give high priority to correcting all 2-digit  
16 date-related problems in its computer systems to en-  
17 sure that those systems continue to operate effec-  
18 tively in the year 2000 and beyond;

19 (2) assess immediately the extent of the risk to  
20 the operations of the United States Fire Administra-  
21 tion posed by the problems referred to in paragraph  
22 (1), and plan and budget for achieving Year 2000  
23 compliance for all of its mission-critical systems; and

1           (3) develop contingency plans for those systems  
2           that the United States Fire Administration is unable  
3           to correct in time.

4 **SEC. 8. BUY AMERICAN.**

5           (a) COMPLIANCE WITH BUY AMERICAN ACT.—No  
6 funds appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by  
7 this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity  
8 agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will  
9 comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3,  
10 1933 (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c, popularly known as the “Buy  
11 American Act”).

12          (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—In the case of any equip-  
13 ment or products that may be authorized to be purchased  
14 with financial assistance provided under the amendments  
15 made by this Act, it is the sense of Congress that entities  
16 receiving such assistance should, in expending the assist-  
17 ance, purchase only American-made equipment and prod-  
18 ucts.

19          (c) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.—In  
20 providing financial assistance under the amendments  
21 made by this Act, the Administrator of the United States  
22 Fire Administration shall provide to each recipient of the

- 1 assistance a notice describing the statement made in sub-
- 2 section (a) by the Congress.

Passed the House of Representatives April 23, 1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,  
*Clerk.*