

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1168

To authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make grants to fire departments for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. COYNE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KLINK, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LARSON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. METCALF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEY, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PICKETT, Mr. QUINN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REYES, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. TERRY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. WISE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FROST, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. FORD, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Ms. McKINNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency to make grants to fire departments for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

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 “Firefighter Investment  
 5       and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Increased demands on firefighting personnel  
 9       have made it difficult for local governments to ade-  
 10       quately fund necessary fire safety precautions.

11              (2) The Federal government has an obligation  
 12       to protect the health and safety of the firefighting  
 13       personnel of the United States and to ensure that  
 14       they have the financial resources to protect the pub-  
 15       lic.

16              (3) The high rates in the United States of  
 17       death, injury, and property damage caused by fires  
 18       demonstrates a critical need for Federal investment  
 19       in support of firefighting personnel.

20       **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

21       (a) **AUTHORITY.**—In accordance with this Act, the  
 22       Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency  
 23       (in this Act referred to as the “Director”) may make

1 grants on a competitive basis to fire departments for the  
2 purpose of protecting the health and safety of the public  
3 and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related  
4 hazards.

5 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRA-  
6 TION OF GRANTS.—Before making grants under sub-  
7 section (a), the Director shall establish an office in the  
8 Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish spe-  
9 cific criteria for the selection of grant recipients and to  
10 administer the grants.

11 (c) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—The Director may make  
12 a grant under subsection (a) only if the applicant for the  
13 grant agrees to use grant funds for any of the following:

- 14 (1) To hire additional firefighting personnel.
- 15 (2) To train firefighting personnel in fire-  
16 fighting, emergency response, arson prevention and  
17 detection, or the handling of hazardous materials, or  
18 to train such personnel to provide any of the train-  
19 ing described in this paragraph.
- 20 (3) To fund the creation of rapid intervention  
21 teams to protect firefighting personnel at the scenes  
22 of fires and other emergencies.
- 23 (4) To certify fire inspectors.

1           (5) To establish wellness and fitness programs  
2       for firefighting personnel to ensure that such per-  
3       sonnel can carry out their duties.

4           (6) To fund emergency medical services pro-  
5       vided by fire departments.

6           (7) To acquire additional firefighting vehicles,  
7       including fire trucks.

8           (8) To acquire additional firefighting equip-  
9       ment, including equipment for communications and  
10      monitoring.

11          (9) To acquire personal protective equipment  
12      required for firefighting personnel by the Occupa-  
13      tional Safety and Health Administration, and other  
14      personal protective equipment for firefighting per-  
15      sonnel.

16          (10) To modify fire stations, fire training facili-  
17      ties, and other facilities to protect the health and  
18      safety of firefighting personnel.

19          (11) To enforce fire codes.

20          (12) To fund fire prevention programs.

21          (13) To educate the public about arson preven-  
22      tion and detection.

23      (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Director may  
24      make a grant under subsection (a) only if the applicant  
25      for the grant agrees to match with non-Federal funds 10

1 percent of the funds received under subsection (a) in any  
2 fiscal year.

3 (e) MAINTENANCE OF EXPENDITURES.—The Direc-  
4 tor may make a grant under subsection (a) only if the  
5 applicant for the grant agrees to maintain for the fiscal  
6 year in which the grant will be received its aggregate ex-  
7 penditures for uses described in subsection (c) at or above  
8 the average level of such expenditures in the 2 fiscal years  
9 preceding the fiscal year in which the grant will be re-  
10 ceived.

11 (f) REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—The Director may  
12 make a grant under subsection (a) only if the applicant  
13 for the grant agrees to submit to the Director a report,  
14 including a description of how grant funds were used, with  
15 respect to each fiscal year for which a grant was received.

16 (g) VARIETY OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The Director  
17 shall ensure that grants under subsection (a) for a fiscal  
18 year are made to a variety of fire departments, including,  
19 to the extent that there are eligible applicants—

20 (1) paid, volunteer, and combination fire de-  
21 partments;

22 (2) fire departments located in communities of  
23 varying size; and

24 (3) fire departments located in urban, subur-  
25 ban, and rural communities.

1 (h) LIMITATION ON FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES.—The  
2 Director shall ensure that not more than 25 percent of  
3 the assistance made available under subsection (a) in a  
4 fiscal year is used for purposes authorized under section  
5 (c)(7).

6 (i) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of  
7 amounts made available under section 4 for a fiscal year,  
8 the Director may use not more than 10 percent for the  
9 administrative costs of carrying out this Act.

10 (j) APPLICATION.—The Director may make a grant  
11 under subsection (a) only if the fire department seeking  
12 the grant submits to the Director an application in such  
13 form and containing such information as the Director may  
14 require.

15 (k) FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL DEFINED.—In this  
16 Act the term “firefighting personnel” means individuals,  
17 including volunteers, who are firefighters, officers of fire  
18 departments, or emergency medical service personnel of  
19 fire departments.

20 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 For the purposes of carrying out this Act, there is  
22 authorized to be appropriated to the Director  
23 \$1,000,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through  
24 2005.

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