

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1899

To redesignate the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the “Federal Fire and Emergency Management Agency”, and to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Fire and Emergency Management Agency to make grants to fire departments for the purpose of protecting the public and fire-fighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 10, 1999

Mr. CAMPBELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To redesignate the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the “Federal Fire and Emergency Management Agency”, and to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Fire and 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.

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

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) increased demands on firefighting personnel
7 have made it difficult for local governments to ade-
8 quately fund necessary fire safety precautions;

9 (2) the Federal Government has an obligation
10 to protect the health and safety of the firefighting
11 personnel of the United States and to help ensure
12 that the personnel have the financial resources to
13 protect the public;

14 (3) the United States has serious fire losses, in-
15 cluding a fire death rate that is one of the highest
16 per capita in the industrialized world;

17 (4) in the United States, fire kills more than
18 4,000 people and injures more than 25,000 people
19 each year;

20 (5) in any single day in the United States, on
21 the average—

22 (A) 11 people will die because of fire;

23 (B) 2 of those people are likely to be chil-
24 dren under the age of 5;

25 (C) 68 people will be injured because of
26 fire; and

1 (D) over \$9,000,000,000 in property losses
2 will occur from fire; and
3 (6) those statistics demonstrate a critical need
4 for Federal investment in support of firefighting
5 personnel.

6 **SEC. 3. REDESIGNATION OF FEDERAL EMERGENCY MAN-**
7 **AGEMENT AGENCY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Emergency Manage-
9 ment Agency is redesignated as the “Federal Fire and
10 Emergency Management Agency”.

11 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
12 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
13 States to the Federal Emergency Management Agency
14 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Federal Fire and
15 Emergency Management Agency.

16 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO FEDERAL FIRE
17 PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1974.—Sections
18 4(4), 17, and 31(a)(5)(B) of the Federal Fire Prevention
19 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203(4), 2216, and
20 2227(a)(5)(B)) are amended by striking “Federal Emer-
21 gency Management Agency” each place it appears and in-
22 serting “Federal Fire and Emergency Management Agen-
23 cy”.

1 **SEC. 4. FIREFIGHTER INVESTMENT AND RESPONSE EN-**
 2 **HANCEMENT.**

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

6 **“SEC. 33. FIREFIGHTER INVESTMENT AND RESPONSE EN-**
 7 **HANCEMENT.**

8 “(a) DEFINITION OF FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL.—
 9 In this section, the term ‘firefighting personnel’ means in-
 10 dividuals, including volunteers, who are firefighters, offi-
 11 cers of fire departments, or emergency medical service per-
 12 sonnel of fire departments.

13 “(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

14 “(1) AUTHORITY.—In accordance with this sec-
 15 tion, the Director may make grants on a competitive
 16 basis to fire departments for the purpose of pro-
 17 tecting the health and safety of the public and fire-
 18 fighting personnel against fire and fire-related haz-
 19 ards.

20 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE FOR ADMIN-
 21 ISTRATION OF GRANTS.—Before making grants
 22 under paragraph (1), the Director shall establish an
 23 office in the Federal Fire and Emergency Manage-
 24 ment Agency that shall have the duties of estab-
 25 lishing specific criteria for the selection of grant re-

1 cipients, and administering the grants, under this
2 section.

3 “(3) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—The Director
4 may make a grant under paragraph (1) only if the
5 applicant for the grant agrees to use grant funds—

6 “(A)(i) to train firefighting personnel in
7 firefighting, emergency response, arson preven-
8 tion and detection, or the handling of hazardous
9 materials, which shall include, at a minimum,
10 the removal of any hazardous substance or pol-
11 lutant or contaminant associated with the ille-
12 gal manufacture of amphetamine or meth-
13 amphetamine; or

14 “(ii) to train firefighter personnel to pro-
15 vide any of the training described in clause (i);

16 “(B) to make effective use of the capabili-
17 ties of the National Institute of Standards and
18 Technology, the Department of Commerce, the
19 Consumer Product Safety Commission, and
20 other public and private sector entities, for re-
21 search and development aimed at advancing—

22 “(i) the health and safety of fire-
23 fighters;

24 “(ii) information technologies for fire
25 management;

1 “(iii) technologies for fire prevention
2 and protection;
3 “(iv) firefighting technologies; and
4 “(v) burn care and rehabilitation;
5 “(C) to fund the creation of rapid interven-
6 tion teams to protect firefighting personnel at
7 the scenes of fires and other emergencies;
8 “(D) to certify fire inspectors;
9 “(E) to establish wellness and fitness pro-
10 grams for firefighting personnel to ensure that
11 the firefighting personnel can carry out their
12 duties;
13 “(F) to fund emergency medical services
14 provided by fire departments;
15 “(G) to acquire additional firefighting vehi-
16 cles, including fire trucks;
17 “(H) to acquire additional firefighting
18 equipment, including equipment for communica-
19 tions and monitoring;
20 “(I) to acquire personal protective equip-
21 ment required for firefighting personnel by the
22 Occupational Safety and Health Administra-
23 tion, and other personal protective equipment
24 for firefighting personnel;

1 “(J) to modify fire stations, fire training
2 facilities, and other facilities to protect the
3 health and safety of firefighting personnel;

4 “(K) to enforce fire codes;

5 “(L) to fund fire prevention programs; or

6 “(M) to educate the public about arson
7 prevention and detection.

8 “(4) APPLICATION.—The Director may make a
9 grant under paragraph (1) only if the fire depart-
10 ment seeking the grant submits to the Director an
11 application in such form and containing such infor-
12 mation as the Director may require.

13 “(5) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Director
14 may make a grant under paragraph (1) only if the
15 applicant for the grant agrees to match with an
16 equal amount of non-Federal funds 10 percent of
17 the funds received under paragraph (1) for any fis-
18 cal year.

19 “(6) MAINTENANCE OF EXPENDITURES.—The
20 Director may make a grant under paragraph (1)
21 only if the applicant for the grant agrees to main-
22 tain in the fiscal year for which the grant will be re-
23 ceived the applicant’s aggregate expenditures for the
24 uses described in paragraph (3) at or above the av-
25 erage level of such expenditures in the 2 fiscal years

1 preceding the fiscal year for which the grant will be
2 received.

3 “(7) REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—The Direc-
4 tor may make a grant under paragraph (1) only if
5 the applicant for the grant agrees to submit to the
6 Director a report, including a description of how
7 grant funds were used, with respect to each fiscal
8 year for which a grant was received.

9 “(8) VARIETY OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The Di-
10 rector shall ensure that grants under paragraph (1)
11 for a fiscal year are made to a variety of fire depart-
12 ments, including, to the extent that there are eligible
13 applicants—

14 “(A) paid, volunteer, and combination fire
15 departments;

16 “(B) fire departments located in commu-
17 nities of varying sizes; and

18 “(C) fire departments located in urban,
19 suburban, and rural communities.

20 “(9) LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES FOR FIRE-
21 FIGHTING VEHICLES.—The Director shall ensure
22 that not more than 25 percent of the assistance
23 made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year
24 is used for the use described in paragraph (3)(G).

25 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
2 appropriated to the Director such sums as are nec-
3 essary to carry out this section.

4 “(2) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—
5 Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1)
6 for a fiscal year, the Director may use not more
7 than 10 percent for the administrative costs of car-
8 rying out this section.”.

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