

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2587

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to provide assistance to firefighting task forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6, 2006

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to provide assistance to firefighting task forces, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Firefighters Special
5 Operation Task Force Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR FIREFIGHTING TASK FORCES.**

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

5 **“SEC. 37. ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTING TASK FORCES.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term
8 ‘critical infrastructure’ has the meaning given that
9 term in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastruc-
10 tures Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

11 “(2) FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL.—The term
12 ‘firefighting personnel’ has the meaning given that
13 term in section 33(a).

14 “(3) INCIDENT RESPONSE.—The term ‘incident
15 response’ means a response by a task force or task
16 force unit to—

17 “(A) a terrorist attack, including such an
18 attack that utilizes a weapon of mass destruc-
19 tion;

20 “(B) a release of a hazardous material;

21 “(C) a natural disaster; or

22 “(D) any other emergency for which a re-
23 sponse by a fire service is appropriate.

24 “(4) MEMBER.—The term ‘member’, with re-
25 spect to a task force, means a fire service that is a

1 party to the cooperative agreement establishing the
2 task force.

3 “(5) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘task force’
4 means not less than 2 fire services operating pursu-
5 ant to a cooperative agreement for the purpose of
6 coordinating incident response among such fire serv-
7 ices within a geographic area.

8 “(b) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator is author-
9 ized—

10 “(1) to award grants to a task force for the
11 purposes set out in subsection (c);

12 “(2) if multiple task forces are formed in a
13 metropolitan area that has a population of more
14 than 1,000,000, to award more than one such grant
15 for such metropolitan area; and

16 “(3) to award such grants to not more than
17 100 task forces in the United States.

18 “(c) PURPOSES.—A grant awarded to a task force
19 under this section shall be used—

20 “(1) to provide salary and benefits to hire fire-
21 fighting personnel or rehire firefighting personnel
22 who have been laid off to provide services to the task
23 force, including salary and benefits during a fiscal
24 year for not more than—

1 “(A) 2 individuals to serve as chief offi-
2 cers;

3 “(B) 2 individuals to serve as captains;

4 “(C) 2 individuals to serve as lieutenants;
5 and

6 “(D) 120 other firefighting personnel;

7 “(2) to pay expenses related to the participation
8 of firefighting personnel in appropriate training
9 courses offered by the Department of Homeland Se-
10 curity, the National Fire Academy, or a State or
11 local fire academy;

12 “(3) to provide training related to incident re-
13 sponse to firefighting personnel;

14 “(4) to obtain appropriate equipment, including
15 firefighting vehicles, or support systems for members
16 of the task force; or

17 “(5) to improve the ability of a member of a
18 task force to communicate with a local police depart-
19 ment or hospital.

20 “(d) APPLICATION.—Each task force desiring assist-
21 ance under this section shall submit an application to the
22 Administrator at such time, in such manner, and accom-
23 panied by such information as the Administrator may rea-
24 sonably require.

25 “(e) SELECTION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall se-
2 lect each task force to receive assistance under this
3 section.

4 “(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting a task force to re-
5 ceive assistance under this section, the Adminis-
6 trator shall give priority to task forces that serve a
7 geographic area that is located not more than 50
8 miles from—

9 “(A) a facility that produces nuclear
10 power;

11 “(B) a large facility that produces, treats,
12 or refines chemicals or petroleum products;

13 “(C) a business district of national signifi-
14 cance; or

15 “(D) a location with one or more critical
16 infrastructures.

17 “(f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator
18 may provide assistance to a task force under this section
19 during a fiscal year only if the task force agrees to provide,
20 for each such fiscal year, an amount of non-Federal funds
21 that is not less than 55 percent of the amount of such
22 assistance provided by the Administrator to the task force
23 for such fiscal year.

1 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
3 carry out this section the following amounts:

4 “(1) \$1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

5 “(2) \$1,000,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
6 2008 through 2016.”.

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