

Public Law 115–98
115th Congress

An Act

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, and for other purposes.

Jan. 3, 2018

[H.R. 4661]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States Fire Administration, AFG, and SAFER Program Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

United States
Fire
Administration,
AFG, and SAFER
Program
Reauthorization
Act of 2017.
15 USC 2201
note.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

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

(1) by striking “fiscal year 2017” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023”; and

(2) by inserting “for each such fiscal year” after “\$2,753,672”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM AND THE FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANTS PROGRAM.

(a) **SUNSET.**—Section 33(r) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(r)) is amended by striking “the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2012” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 33(q)(1)(B) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(q)(1)(B)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2017” and inserting “2023”.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN TRAINING UNDER ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM.**—Section 33(c)(3) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(c)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(N) To provide specialized training to firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical service workers, and other first responders to recognize individuals who have mental illness and how to properly intervene with individuals with mental illness, including strategies for verbal de-escalation of crisis.”.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) **SUNSET.**—Section 34(k) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(k)) is amended by striking “the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2012” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 34(j)(1)(I) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(j)(1)(I)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2017” and inserting “2023”.

(c) **MODIFICATION OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 34(b)(3)(B) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(b)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “of subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii) and (F)” and inserting “of subsection (a)(1)(F)”.

(d) **MODIFICATION OF LIMITATION.**—Section 34(c)(2) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(c)(2)) is amended by striking “prior to the date of enactment of this section” and inserting “prior to the date of the application for the grant”.

(e) **MODIFICATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—Section 34(d)(1)(B) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(d)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “subsection (a)(1)(E) or subsection (c)(2)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)(E), (c)(2), or (c)(4)”.

(f) **EXPANSION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM; REPEAL OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS TRANSFERRED TO ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM.**—Section 34(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “or to change the status of part-time or paid-on-call (as defined in section 33(a)) firefighters to full-time firefighters” after “firefighters”; and

(2) by striking “and to provide” and all that follows through “of crises”.

15 USC 2229
note.

SEC. 5. TRAINING ON ADMINISTRATION OF FIRE GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, acting through the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, may develop and make widely available an electronic, online training course for members of the fire and emergency response community on matters relating to the administration of grants under sections 33 and 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229 and 2229a).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall ensure that any training developed and made available under subsection (a) is—

(1) tailored to the financial and time constraints of members of the fire and emergency response community; and

(2) accessible to all individuals in the career, combination, paid-on-call, and volunteer fire and emergency response community.

SEC. 6. FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING OF THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM, THE FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANTS PROGRAM, AND THE STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.

Fraud.
22 USC 2229
note.

(a) **FRAMEWORK.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, acting through the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, shall develop and implement a grant monitoring and oversight framework to mitigate and minimize risks of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement relating to the grants programs under sections 33 and 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229 and 2229a).

Deadline.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The framework required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

- (1) Developing standardized guidance and training for all participants in the grant programs described in subsection (a).
- (2) Conducting regular risk assessments.
- (3) Conducting desk reviews and site visits.
- (4) Enforcement actions to recoup potential questionable costs of grant recipients.
- (5) Such other oversight and monitoring tools as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency considers necessary to mitigate and minimize fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement relating to the grant programs described in subsection (a).

Guidance.

Assessments.
Reviews.

Approved January 3, 2018.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4661:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 163 (2017):

Dec. 18, considered and passed House.

Dec. 21, considered and passed Senate.