

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1550

AN ACT

To authorize appropriations for the United States
Fire Administration for fiscal years 2000 and
2001, and for other purposes.

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To authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, 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 1999”.

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

5 Section 17 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-
6 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 “AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

9 “SEC. 17. Except as otherwise specifically provided
10 with respect to the payment of claims under section 11
11 of this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated to
12 carry out the purposes of this Act—

13 “(1) \$30,554,000 for fiscal year 1999;

14 “(2) \$46,130,000 for fiscal year 2000, of which
15 \$2,200,000 shall be used for research activities, and
16 \$250,000 shall be used for contracts or grants to
17 non-Federal entities for data analysis, including gen-
18 eral fire profiles and special fire analyses and report
19 projects, and of which \$6,000,000 shall be for anti-
20 terrorism training, including associated curriculum
21 development, for fire and emergency services per-
22 sonnel; and

23 “(3) \$49,500,000 for fiscal year 2001, of which
24 \$3,000,000 shall be used for research activities, and
25 \$250,000 shall be used for contracts or grants to
26 non-Federal entities for data analysis, including gen-

1 eral fire profiles and special fire analyses and report
2 projects, and of which \$8,000,000 shall be for anti-
3 terrorism training, including associated curriculum
4 development, for fire and emergency services per-
5 sonnel.

6 None of the funds authorized by paragraph (3) may be
7 obligated unless the Administrator has certified to the
8 Committee on Science of the House of Representatives
9 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
10 tation of the Senate that the obligation of funds is con-
11 sistent with the strategic plan transmitted under section
12 3 of the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1999.”.

13 **SEC. 3. STRATEGIC PLAN.**

14 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than April 30, 2000,
15 the Administrator of the United States Fire Administra-
16 tion shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on
17 Science of the House of Representatives and the Com-
18 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
19 Senate a 5-year strategic plan of program activities for
20 the United States Fire Administration.

21 (b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required by sub-
22 section (a) shall include—

23 (1) a comprehensive mission statement covering
24 the major functions and operations of the United
25 States Fire Administration in the areas of training,

1 research, data collection and analysis, and public
2 education;

3 (2) general goals and objectives, including those
4 related to outcomes, for the major functions and op-
5 erations of the United States Fire Administration;

6 (3) a description of how the goals and objec-
7 tives identified under paragraph (2) are to be
8 achieved, including operational processes, skills and
9 technology, and the human, capital, information, and
10 other resources required to meet those goals and ob-
11 jectives;

12 (4) an identification of the fire-related activities
13 of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
14 nology, the Department of Defense, and other Fed-
15 eral agencies, and a discussion of how those activi-
16 ties can be coordinated with and contribute to the
17 achievement of the goals and objectives identified
18 under paragraph (2);

19 (5) a description of objective, quantifiable per-
20 formance goals needed to define the level of perform-
21 ance achieved by program activities in training, re-
22 search, data collection and analysis, and public edu-
23 cation, and how these performance goals relate to
24 the general goals and objectives in the strategic
25 plan;

1 (6) an identification of key factors external to
2 the United States Fire Administration and beyond
3 its control that could affect significantly the achieve-
4 ment of the general goals and objectives;

5 (7) a description of program evaluations used in
6 establishing or revising general goals and objectives,
7 with a schedule for future program evaluations;

8 (8) a plan for the timely distribution of infor-
9 mation and educational materials to State and local
10 firefighting services, including volunteer, career, and
11 combination services throughout the United States;

12 (9) a description of how the strategic plan pre-
13 pared under this section will be incorporated into the
14 strategic plan and the performance plans and re-
15 ports of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
16 cy; and

17 (10)(A) a description of the current and
18 planned use of the Internet for the delivery of train-
19 ing courses by the National Fire Academy, including
20 a listing of the types of courses and whether they
21 provide real time interaction between instructor and
22 students, and including the number of students en-
23 rolled, and the geographic distribution of students,
24 for the most recent fiscal year;

1 (B) an assessment of the availability and actual
2 use by the National Fire Academy of Federal facili-
3 ties suitable for distance education applications, in-
4 cluding facilities with teleconferencing capabilities;
5 and

6 (C) an assessment of the benefits and problems
7 associated with delivery of instructional courses
8 using the Internet, including limitations due to net-
9 work bandwidth at training sites, the availability of
10 suitable course materials, and the effectiveness of
11 such courses in terms of student performance.

12 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH AGENDA.**

13 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator
15 of the United States Fire Administration, in consultation
16 with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management
17 Agency, the Director of the National Institute of Stand-
18 ards and Technology, representatives of trade associa-
19 tions, State and local firefighting services, and other ap-
20 propriate entities, shall prepare and transmit to the Com-
21 mittee on Science of the House of Representatives and the
22 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
23 the Senate a report describing the United States Fire Ad-
24 ministration’s research agenda and including a plan for
25 implementing that agenda.

1 (b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required by
2 subsection (a) shall—

3 (1) identify research priorities;

4 (2) describe how the proposed research agenda
5 will be coordinated and integrated with the programs
6 and capabilities of the National Institute of Stand-
7 ards and Technology, the Department of Defense,
8 and other Federal agencies;

9 (3) identify potential roles of academic and
10 other research institutions in achieving the research
11 agenda;

12 (4) provide cost estimates, anticipated per-
13 sonnel needs, and a schedule for completing the var-
14 ious elements of the research agenda;

15 (5) describe ways to leverage resources through
16 partnerships, cooperative agreements, and other
17 means; and

18 (6) discuss how the proposed research agenda
19 will enhance training, improve State and local fire-
20 fighting services, impact standards and codes, in-
21 crease firefighter and public safety, and advance
22 firefighting techniques.

23 (c) USE IN PREPARING STRATEGIC PLAN.—The re-
24 search agenda prepared under this section shall be used

1 in the preparation of the strategic plan required by section
2 3.

3 **SEC. 5. SURPLUS AND EXCESS FEDERAL EQUIPMENT.**

4 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
5 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 33. SURPLUS AND EXCESS FEDERAL EQUIPMENT.**

7 “The Administrator shall make publicly available, in-
8 cluding through the Internet, information on procedures
9 for acquiring surplus and excess Federal fire, emergency,
10 hazardous material, or other equipment or property that
11 may be useful to State and local fire and emergency serv-
12 ices.”.

13 **SEC. 6. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL FA-**
14 **CILITIES.**

15 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
16 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

17 **“SEC. 34. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL FA-**
18 **CILITIES.**

19 “The Administrator shall make publicly available, in-
20 cluding through the Internet, information on procedures
21 for establishing cooperative agreements between State and
22 local fire and emergency services and Federal facilities in
23 their region relating to the provision of fire and emergency
24 services.”.

1 **SEC. 7. MISCELLANEOUS REPEALS.**

2 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
3 is amended—

4 (1) by repealing section 10(b) and redesignating
5 subsection (c) of that section as subsection (b);

6 (2) by repealing section 23;

7 (3) in section 24—

8 (A) by striking “(a) The” and inserting
9 “The”; and

10 (B) by repealing subsection (b);

11 (4) by repealing section 26; and

12 (5) by repealing section 27.

13 **SEC. 8. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN**
14 **COUNTERTERRORISM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
16 States Fire Administration shall conduct an assessment
17 of the need for additional capabilities for Federal
18 counterterrorism training of emergency response per-
19 sonnel.

20 (b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment
21 conducted under this section shall include—

22 (1) a review of the counterterrorism training
23 programs offered by the United States Fire Admin-
24 istration and other Federal agencies;

25 (2) an estimate of the number and types of
26 emergency response personnel that have, during the

1 period between January 1, 1994, and June 1, 1999,
2 sought training described in paragraph (1), but have
3 been unable to receive that training as a result of
4 the oversubscription of the training capabilities; and

5 (3) a recommendation on the need to provide
6 additional Federal counterterrorism training centers,
7 including—

8 (A) an analysis of existing Federal facili-
9 ties that could be used as counterterrorism
10 training facilities; and

11 (B) a cost-benefit analysis of the establish-
12 ment of counterterrorism training facilities in
13 regions where many applicants for such training
14 reside.

15 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall pre-
17 pare and submit to the Congress a report on the results
18 of the assessment conducted under this section.

19 **SEC. 9. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY CURRICULUM REVIEW.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
21 States Fire Administration, in consultation with the
22 Board of Visitors and representatives of trade and profes-
23 sional associations, State and local firefighting services,
24 and other appropriate entities, shall conduct a review of
25 the courses of instruction available at the National Fire

1 Academy to ensure that they are up-to-date and com-
2 plement, not duplicate, courses of instruction offered else-
3 where. Not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Administrator shall prepare and sub-
5 mit a report to the Committee on Science of the House
6 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
7 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

8 (b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required by
9 subsection (a) shall—

10 (1) examine and assess the courses of instruc-
11 tion offered by the National Fire Academy;

12 (2) identify redundant and out-of-date courses
13 of instruction;

14 (3) examine the current and future impact of
15 information technology on National Fire Academy
16 curricula, methods of instruction, and delivery of
17 services; and

18 (4) make recommendations for updating the
19 curriculum, methods of instruction, and delivery of
20 services by the National Fire Academy considering
21 current and future needs, State-based curricula, ad-
22 vances in information technologies, and other rel-
23 evant factors.

1 **SEC. 10. INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.**

2 The Administrator of the United States Fire Admin-
3 istration shall make available through the Internet home
4 page of the United States Fire Administration the ab-
5 stracts relating to all research grants and awards made
6 with funds authorized by the amendments made by this
7 Act. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require
8 or permit the release of any information prohibited by law
9 or regulation from being released to the public.

10 **SEC. 11. REPEAL OF EXCEPTION TO FIRE SAFETY REQUIRE-**
11 **MENT.**

12 (a) REPEAL.—Section 4 of Public Law 103–195 (107
13 Stat. 2298) is hereby repealed.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take ef-
15 fect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section.

Passed the House of Representatives May 11, 1999.

Attest:

Clerk.