

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1550

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 1999

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation

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## AN ACT

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;

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;

1 (B) an assessment of the availability and actual  
2 use by the National Fire Academy of Federal facil-  
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 facil-  
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: JEFF TRANDAHL,  
*Clerk.*