

Union Calendar No. 72

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session

**H. R. 1550**

[Report No. 106-133]

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**A BILL**

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

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MAY 10, 1999

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Com-  
mittee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,  
and ordered to be printed

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (for himself and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

MAY 10, 1999

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 26, 1999]

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## A BILL

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 Control*  
6 *Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216) is amended to read as follows:*

7 *“AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS*

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

12 *“(1) \$30,554,000 for fiscal year 1999;*

13 *“(2) \$46,130,000 for fiscal year 2000, of which*  
14 *\$2,200,000 shall be used for research activities, and*  
15 *\$250,000 shall be used for contracts or grants to non-*  
16 *Federal entities for data analysis, including general*  
17 *fire profiles and special fire analyses and report*  
18 *projects, and of which \$6,000,000 shall be for anti-ter-*  
19 *rorism training, including associated curriculum de-*  
20 *velopment, for fire and emergency services personnel;*  
21 *and*

22 *“(3) \$49,500,000 for fiscal year 2001, of which*  
23 *\$3,000,000 shall be used for research activities, and*  
24 *\$250,000 shall be used for contracts or grants to non-*  
25 *Federal entities for data analysis, including general*  
26 *fire profiles and special fire analyses and report*

1        *projects, and of which \$8,000,000 shall be for anti-ter-*  
2        *rorism training, including associated curriculum de-*  
3        *velopment, for fire and emergency services personnel.*  
4        *None of the funds authorized by paragraph (3) may be obli-*  
5        *gated unless the Administrator has certified to the Com-*  
6        *mittee on Science of the House of Representatives and the*  
7        *Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of*  
8        *the Senate that the obligation of funds is consistent with*  
9        *the strategic plan transmitted under section 3 of the Fire*  
10       *Administration Authorization Act of 1999.”.*

11       **SEC. 3. STRATEGIC PLAN.**

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

19        *(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required by sub-*  
20        *section (a) shall include—*

21                *(1) a comprehensive mission statement covering*  
22        *the major functions and operations of the United*  
23        *States Fire Administration in the areas of training,*  
24        *research, data collection and analysis, and public*  
25        *education;*

1           (2) *general goals and objectives, including those*  
2 *related to outcomes, for the major functions and oper-*  
3 *ations of the United States Fire Administration;*

4           (3) *a description of how the goals and objectives*  
5 *identified under paragraph (2) are to be achieved, in-*  
6 *cluding operational processes, skills and technology,*  
7 *and the human, capital, information, and other re-*  
8 *sources required to meet those goals and objectives;*

9           (4) *an identification of the fire-related activities*  
10 *of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-*  
11 *nology, the Department of Defense, and other Federal*  
12 *agencies, and a discussion of how those activities can*  
13 *be coordinated with and contribute to the achievement*  
14 *of the goals and objectives identified under paragraph*  
15 *(2);*

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

22           (6) *an identification of key factors external to*  
23 *the United States Fire Administration and beyond its*  
24 *control that could affect significantly the achievement*  
25 *of the general goals and objectives;*

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

4           (8) a plan for the timely distribution of informa-  
5           tion and educational materials to State and local  
6           firefighting services, including volunteer, career, and  
7           combination services throughout the United States;

8           (9) a description of how the strategic plan pre-  
9           pared under this section will be incorporated into the  
10          strategic plan and the performance plans and reports  
11          of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

12          (10)(A) a description of the current and planned  
13          use of the Internet for the delivery of training courses  
14          by the National Fire Academy, including a listing of  
15          the types of courses and whether they provide real  
16          time interaction between instructor and students, and  
17          including the number of students enrolled, and the ge-  
18          ographic distribution of students, for the most recent  
19          fiscal year;

20          (B) an assessment of the availability and actual  
21          use by the National Fire Academy of Federal facili-  
22          ties suitable for distance education applications, in-  
23          cluding facilities with teleconferencing capabilities;  
24          and

1           (C) *an assessment of the benefits and problems*  
2           *associated with delivery of instructional courses using*  
3           *the Internet, including limitations due to network*  
4           *bandwidth at training sites, the availability of suit-*  
5           *able course materials, and the effectiveness of such*  
6           *courses in terms of student performance.*

7 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH AGENDA.**

8           (a) *REQUIREMENT.*—*Not later than 120 days after the*  
9           *date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the*  
10           *United States Fire Administration, in consultation with*  
11           *the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,*  
12           *the Director of the National Institute of Standards and*  
13           *Technology, representatives of trade associations, State and*  
14           *local firefighting services, and other appropriate entities,*  
15           *shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Science*  
16           *of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-*  
17           *merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report*  
18           *describing the United States Fire Administration’s research*  
19           *agenda and including a plan for implementing that agen-*  
20           *da.*

21           (b) *CONTENTS OF REPORT.*—*The report required by*  
22           *subsection (a) shall—*

23                   (1) *identify research priorities;*

24                   (2) *describe how the proposed research agenda*  
25           *will be coordinated and integrated with the programs*

1        *and capabilities of the National Institute of Stand-*  
2        *ards and Technology, the Department of Defense, and*  
3        *other Federal agencies;*

4            *(3) identify potential roles of academic and other*  
5        *research institutions in achieving the research agenda;*

6            *(4) provide cost estimates, anticipated personnel*  
7        *needs, and a schedule for completing the various ele-*  
8        *ments of the research agenda;*

9            *(5) describe ways to leverage resources through*  
10       *partnerships, cooperative agreements, and other*  
11       *means; and*

12           *(6) discuss how the proposed research agenda*  
13       *will enhance training, improve State and local fire-*  
14       *fighting services, impact standards and codes, in-*  
15       *crease firefighter and public safety, and advance fire-*  
16       *fighting techniques.*

17        *(c) USE IN PREPARING STRATEGIC PLAN.—The re-*  
18       *search agenda prepared under this section shall be used in*  
19       *the preparation of the strategic plan required by section 3.*

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

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

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

24        *“The Administrator shall make publicly available, in-*  
25       *cluding through the Internet, information on procedures for*



1 *acquiring surplus and excess Federal fire, emergency, haz-*  
2 *ardous material, or other equipment or property that may*  
3 *be useful to State and local fire and emergency services.”.*

4 **SEC. 6. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL FACILI-**  
5 **TIES.**

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

8 **“SEC. 34. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL FA-**  
9 **CILITIES.**

10 *“The Administrator shall make publicly available, in-*  
11 *cluding through the Internet, information on procedures for*  
12 *establishing cooperative agreements between State and local*  
13 *fire and emergency services and Federal facilities in their*  
14 *region relating to the provision of fire and emergency serv-*  
15 *ices.”.*

16 **SEC. 7. MISCELLANEOUS REPEALS.**

17 *The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974*  
18 *is amended—*

19 *(1) by repealing section 10(b) and redesignating*  
20 *subsection (c) of that section as subsection (b);*

21 *(2) by repealing section 23;*

22 *(3) in section 24—*

23 *(A) by striking “(a) The” and inserting*  
24 *“The”; and*

25 *(B) by repealing subsection (b);*

1           (4) by repealing section 26; and

2           (5) by repealing section 27.

3 **SEC. 8. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN**  
4 **COUNTERTERRORISM.**

5           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator of the United*  
6 *States Fire Administration shall conduct an assessment of*  
7 *the need for additional capabilities for Federal*  
8 *counterterrorism training of emergency response personnel.*

9           (b) *CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.*—*The assessment con-*  
10 *ducted under this section shall include—*

11           (1) *a review of the counterterrorism training*  
12 *programs offered by the United States Fire Adminis-*  
13 *tration and other Federal agencies;*

14           (2) *an estimate of the number and types of emer-*  
15 *gency response personnel that have, during the period*  
16 *between January 1, 1994, and June 1, 1999, sought*  
17 *training described in paragraph (1), but have been*  
18 *unable to receive that training as a result of the over-*  
19 *subscription of the training capabilities; and*

20           (3) *a recommendation on the need to provide ad-*  
21 *ditional Federal counterterrorism training centers,*  
22 *including—*

23           (A) *an analysis of existing Federal facilities*  
24 *that could be used as counterterrorism training*  
25 *facilities; and*

1           (B) a cost-benefit analysis of the establish-  
2           ment of counterterrorism training facilities in  
3           regions where many applicants for such training  
4           reside.

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

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

10          (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator of the United  
11 States Fire Administration, in consultation with the Board  
12 of Visitors and representatives of trade and professional as-  
13 sociations, State and local firefighting services, and other  
14 appropriate entities, shall conduct a review of the courses  
15 of instruction available at the National Fire Academy to  
16 ensure that they are up-to-date and complement, not dupli-  
17 cate, courses of instruction offered elsewhere. Not later than  
18 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Admin-  
19 istrator shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee  
20 on Science of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
21 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
22 Senate.

23          (b) *CONTENTS OF REPORT.*—The report required by  
24 subsection (a) shall—

1           (1) *examine and assess the courses of instruction*  
2           *offered by the National Fire Academy;*

3           (2) *identify redundant and out-of-date courses of*  
4           *instruction;*

5           (3) *examine the current and future impact of in-*  
6           *formation technology on National Fire Academy cur-*  
7           *ricula, methods of instruction, and delivery of serv-*  
8           *ices; and*

9           (4) *make recommendations for updating the cur-*  
10          *riculum, methods of instruction, and delivery of serv-*  
11          *ices by the National Fire Academy considering cur-*  
12          *rent and future needs, State-based curricula, advances*  
13          *in information technologies, and other relevant fac-*  
14          *tors.*

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

16          *The Administrator of the United States Fire Adminis-*  
17          *tration shall make available through the Internet home page*  
18          *of the United States Fire Administration the abstracts re-*  
19          *lating to all research grants and awards made with funds*  
20          *authorized by the amendments made by this Act. Nothing*  
21          *in this section shall be construed to require or permit the*  
22          *release of any information prohibited by law or regulation*  
23          *from being released to the public.*

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

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

5 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—Subsection (a) shall take effect  
6 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section.