

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1941

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 1999

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. DEWINE) 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 Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

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 “Firefighter Investment
5 and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) increased demands on firefighting personnel
4 have made it difficult for local governments to ade-
5 quately fund necessary fire safety precautions;

6 (2) the Federal Government has an obligation
7 to protect the health and safety of the firefighting
8 personnel of the United States and to ensure that
9 the personnel have the financial resources to protect
10 the public; and

11 (3) the high rates in the United States of
12 death, injury, and property damage caused by fires
13 demonstrates a critical need for Federal investment
14 in support of firefighting personnel.

15 **SEC. 3. FIREFIGHTER INVESTMENT AND RESPONSE EN-**
16 **HANCEMENT.**

17 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
18 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following:

20 **“SEC. 33. FIREFIGHTER INVESTMENT AND RESPONSE EN-**
21 **HANCEMENT.**

22 “(a) DEFINITION OF FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL.—
23 In this section, the term ‘firefighting personnel’ means in-
24 dividuals, including volunteers, who are firefighters, offi-
25 cers of fire departments, or emergency medical service per-
26 sonnel of fire departments.

1 “(b) ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

2 “(1) AUTHORITY.—In accordance with this sec-
3 tion, the Director may—

4 “(A) make grants on a competitive basis to
5 fire departments for the purpose of protecting
6 the health and safety of the public and fire-
7 fighting personnel against fire and fire-related
8 hazards; and

9 “(B) provide assistance for fire prevention
10 programs in accordance with paragraph (4).

11 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE FOR ADMIN-
12 ISTRATION OF ASSISTANCE.—Before providing as-
13 sistance under paragraph (1), the Director shall es-
14 tablish an office in the Federal Emergency Manage-
15 ment Agency that shall have the duties of estab-
16 lishing specific criteria for the selection of recipients
17 of the assistance, and administering the assistance,
18 under this section.

19 “(3) USE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT
20 FUNDS.—The Director may make a grant under
21 paragraph (1)(A) only if the applicant for the grant
22 agrees to use the grant funds—

23 “(A) to hire additional firefighting per-
24 sonnel;

1 “(B) to train firefighting personnel in fire-
2 fighting, emergency response, arson prevention
3 and detection, or the handling of hazardous ma-
4 terials, or to train firefighting personnel to pro-
5 vide any of the training described in this sub-
6 paragraph;

7 “(C) to fund the creation of rapid interven-
8 tion teams to protect firefighting personnel at
9 the scenes of fires and other emergencies;

10 “(D) to certify fire inspectors;

11 “(E) to establish wellness and fitness pro-
12 grams for firefighting personnel to ensure that
13 the firefighting personnel can carry out their
14 duties;

15 “(F) to fund emergency medical services
16 provided by fire departments;

17 “(G) to acquire additional firefighting vehi-
18 cles, including fire trucks;

19 “(H) to acquire additional firefighting
20 equipment, including equipment for communica-
21 tions and monitoring;

22 “(I) to acquire personal protective equip-
23 ment required for firefighting personnel by the
24 Occupational Safety and Health Administra-

tion, and other personal protective equipment
for firefighting personnel;

“(J) to modify fire stations, fire training
facilities, and other facilities to protect the
health and safety of firefighting personnel;

“(K) to enforce fire codes;

“(L) to fund fire prevention programs; or

“(M) to educate the public about arson
prevention and detection.

“(4) FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year,
the Director shall use not less than 10 percent
of the funds made available under subsection
(c)—

“(i) to make grants to fire depart-
ments for the purpose described in para-
graph (3)(L); and

“(ii) to make grants to, or enter into
contracts or cooperative agreements with,
national, State, local, or community orga-
nizations that are recognized for their ex-
perience and expertise with respect to fire
prevention or fire safety programs and ac-
tivities, for the purpose of carrying out fire
prevention programs.

1 “(B) PRIORITY.—In selecting organiza-
2 tions described in subparagraph (A)(ii) to re-
3 ceive assistance under this paragraph, the Di-
4 rector shall give priority to organizations that
5 focus on prevention of injuries to children from
6 fire.

7 “(5) APPLICATION.—The Director may provide
8 assistance to a fire department or organization
9 under this subsection only if the fire department or
10 organization seeking the assistance submits to the
11 Director an application in such form and containing
12 such information as the Director may require.

13 “(6) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Director
14 may provide assistance under this subsection only if
15 the applicant for the assistance agrees to match with
16 an equal amount of non-Federal funds 10 percent of
17 the assistance received under this subsection for any
18 fiscal year.

19 “(7) MAINTENANCE OF EXPENDITURES—The
20 Director may provide assistance under this sub-
21 section only if the applicant for the assistance agrees
22 to maintain in the fiscal year for which the assist-
23 ance will be received the applicant’s aggregate ex-
24 penditures for the uses described in paragraph (3)
25 or (4) at or above the average level of such expendi-

tures in the 2 fiscal years preceding the fiscal year for which the assistance will be received.

“(8) REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—The Director may provide assistance under this subsection only if the applicant for the assistance agrees to submit to the Director a report, including a description of how the assistance was used, with respect to each fiscal year for which the assistance was received.

“(9) VARIETY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The Director shall ensure that grants under paragraph (1)(A) for a fiscal year are made to a variety of fire departments, including, to the extent that there are eligible applicants—

“(A) paid, volunteer, and combination fire departments;

“(B) fire departments located in communities of varying sizes; and

“(C) fire departments located in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

“(10) LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES FOR FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES.—The Director shall ensure that not more than 25 percent of the assistance made available under this subsection for a fiscal year is used for the use described in paragraph (3)(G).

1 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
3 appropriated to the Director \$1,000,000,000 for
4 each of fiscal years 2000 through 2005.

5 “(2) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

6 Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1)
7 for a fiscal year, the Director may use not more
8 than 10 percent for the administrative costs of car-
9 rying out this section.”.

○