

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2862

To provide for the establishment of a scientific basis for new firefighting technology standards, improve coordination among Federal, State, and local fire officials in training for and responding to terrorist attacks and other national emergencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2002

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. BIDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a scientific basis for new firefighting technology standards, improve coordination among Federal, State, and local fire officials in training for and responding to terrorist attacks and other national emergencies, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Firefighting Research
5 and Coordination Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY.**

2 Section 8 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control
3 Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
5 section (f); and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(e) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part
10 of, the program conducted under subsection (a), the
11 Administrator, in consultation with the National In-
12 stitute of Standards and Technology, the Inter-
13 Agency Board for Equipment Standardization and
14 Inter-Operability, national voluntary consensus
15 standards development organizations, and other in-
16 terested parties, shall—

17 “(A) develop new, and utilize existing,
18 measurement techniques and testing methodolo-
19 gies for evaluating new firefighting tech-
20 nologies, including—

21 “(i) thermal imaging equipment;

22 “(ii) early warning fire detection de-
23 vices;

24 “(iii) personal protection equipment
25 for firefighting;

26 “(iv) victim detection equipment; and

1 “(v) devices to locate firefighters and
2 other rescue personnel in buildings;

3 “(B) evaluate the compatibility of new
4 equipment and technology with existing fire-
5 fighting technology; and

6 “(C) support the development of new vol-
7 untary consensus standards through national
8 voluntary consensus standards organizations for
9 new firefighting technologies based on tech-
10 niques and methodologies described in subpara-
11 graph (A).

12 “(2) NEW EQUIPMENT MUST MEET STAND-
13 ARDS.—The Administrator shall, by regulation, re-
14 quire that equipment purchased through the assist-
15 ance program established by section 33 meet or ex-
16 ceed applicable voluntary consensus standards.”.

17 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF RESPONSE TO NATIONAL EMER-**
18 **GENCY.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10 of the Federal Fire
20 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2209) is
21 amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
23 section (c); and

24 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(b) COORDINATION OF RESPONSE FOR NATIONAL
2 EMERGENCIES.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
4 tablish a national plan for training and responding
5 to national emergencies under which the Adminis-
6 trator shall be the primary contact point for State
7 and local firefighting units in the event of a national
8 emergency. The Administrator shall ensure that the
9 national plan is consistent with the master plans de-
10 veloped by the several States and political subdivi-
11 sions thereof.

12 “(2) MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS.—The Adminis-
13 trator shall work with State and local fire service of-
14 ficials to establish, as part of the national plan, na-
15 tionwide and State mutual aid systems for dealing
16 with national emergencies that—

17 “(A) include threat assessment and equip-
18 ment deployment strategies;

19 “(B) include means of collecting asset and
20 resource information to provide accurate and
21 timely data for regional deployment; and

22 “(C) are consistent with the national plan
23 established under paragraph (1) for Federal re-
24 sponse to national emergencies.”.

1 (b) REPORT ON STRATEGIC NEEDS.—Within 90 days
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
3 of the United States Fire Administration shall report to
4 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
5 portation and the House of Representatives Committee on
6 Science on the need for a strategy concerning deployment
7 of volunteers and emergency response personnel (as de-
8 fined in section 6 of the Firefighters’ Safety Study Act
9 (15 U.S.C. 2223e), including a national credentialing sys-
10 tem, in the event of a national emergency.

11 **SEC. 4. TRAINING.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(d)(1) of the Federal
13 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
14 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “and” after the semicolon in
16 subparagraph (E);

17 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
18 paragraph (N); and

19 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(F) strategies for building collapse rescue;

22 “(G) the use of technology in response to
23 fires, including terrorist incidents and other na-
24 tional emergencies;

1 “(H) response, tactics, and strategies for
2 dealing with terrorist-caused national catas-
3 trophes;

4 “(I) use of and familiarity with the na-
5 tional plan developed by the Administrator
6 under section 10(b)(1);

7 “(J) leadership and strategic skills, includ-
8 ing integrated management systems operations
9 and integrated response;

10 “(K) applying new technology and devel-
11 oping strategies and tactics for fighting forest
12 fires;

13 “(L) integrating terrorism response agen-
14 cies into the national terrorism incident re-
15 sponse system;

16 “(M) response tactics and strategies for
17 fighting fires at United States ports, including
18 fires on the water and aboard vessels; and”.

19 (b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS TO
20 AVOID DUPLICATION.—The Administrator of the United
21 States Fire Administration shall coordinate training pro-
22 vided under section 8(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention
23 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) with the
24 Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human
25 Services, and the heads of other Federal agencies to en-

- 1 sure that there is no duplication of that training with ex-
- 2 isting courses available to fire service personnel.

