

Calendar No. 765

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2862

[Report No. 107-344]

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

NOVEMBER 18, 2002

Reported by Mr. HOLLINGS, with an amendment

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

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Firefighting Research
3 and Coordination Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY.**

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

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
8 section (f); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(e) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—

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

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

24 “(i) thermal imaging equipment;

25 “(ii) early warning fire detection de-
26 vices;

1 “(iii) personal protection equipment
2 for firefighting;

3 “(iv) victim detection equipment; and

4 “(v) devices to locate firefighters and
5 other rescue personnel in buildings;

6 “(B) evaluate the compatibility of new
7 equipment and technology with existing fire-
8 fighting technology; and

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

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

20 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF RESPONSE TO NATIONAL EMER-**
21 **GENCY.**

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

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
2 section (e); and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(b) COORDINATION OF RESPONSE FOR NATIONAL
6 EMERGENCIES.—

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

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

21 “(A) include threat assessment and equip-
22 ment deployment strategies;

23 “(B) include means of collecting asset and
24 resource information to provide accurate and
25 timely data for regional deployment; and

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

4 (b) **REPORT ON STRATEGIC NEEDS.**—Within 90 days
 5 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
 6 of the United States Fire Administration shall report to
 7 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
 8 portation and the House of Representatives Committee on
 9 Science on the need for a strategy concerning deployment
 10 of volunteers and emergency response personnel (as de-
 11 fined in section 6 of the Firefighters’ Safety Study Act
 12 (15 U.S.C. 2223e), including a national credentialing sys-
 13 tem, in the event of a national emergency.

14 **SEC. 4. TRAINING.**

15 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 8(d)(1) of the Federal
 16 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
 17 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “and” after the semicolon in
 19 subparagraph (E);

20 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
 21 paragraph (N); and

22 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
 23 lowing:

24 “(F) strategies for building collapse rescue;

1 “(G) the use of technology in response to
2 fires, including terrorist incidents and other na-
3 tional emergencies;

4 “(H) response, tactics, and strategies for
5 dealing with terrorist-caused national eatas-
6 trophes;

7 “(I) use of and familiarity with the na-
8 tional plan developed by the Administrator
9 under section 10(b)(1);

10 “(J) leadership and strategic skills, includ-
11 ing integrated management systems operations
12 and integrated response;

13 “(K) applying new technology and devel-
14 oping strategies and tactics for fighting forest
15 fires;

16 “(L) integrating terrorism response agen-
17 cies into the national terrorism incident re-
18 sponse system;

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

22 (b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS TO
23 AVOID DUPLICATION.—The Administrator of the United
24 States Fire Administration shall coordinate training pro-
25 vided under section 8(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention

1 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) with the
 2 Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human
 3 Services, and the heads of other Federal agencies to en-
 4 sure that there is no duplication of that training with ex-
 5 isting courses available to fire service personnel.

6 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

7 *This Act may be cited as the “Firefighting Research*
 8 *and Coordination Act”.*

9 **SEC. 2. NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY.**

10 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8 of the Federal Fire Pre-*
 11 *vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207) is*
 12 *amended—*

13 *(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection*
 14 *(f); and*

15 *(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-*
 16 *lowing:*

17 *“(e) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—*

18 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part of,*
 19 *the program conducted under subsection (a), the Ad-*
 20 *ministrator, in consultation with the National Insti-*
 21 *tute of Standards and Technology, the Inter-Agency*
 22 *Board for Equipment Standardization and Inter-*
 23 *Operability, national voluntary consensus standards*
 24 *development organizations, and other interested par-*
 25 *ties, shall—*

1 “(A) develop new, and utilize existing,
 2 measurement techniques and testing methodolo-
 3 gies for evaluating new firefighting technologies,
 4 including—

5 “(i) personal protection equipment;

6 “(ii) devices for advance warning of
 7 extreme hazard;

8 “(iii) equipment for enhanced vision;

9 “(iv) devices to locate victims, fire-
 10 fighters, and other rescue personnel in
 11 above-ground and below-ground structures;

12 “(v) equipment and methods to provide
 13 information for incident command, includ-
 14 ing the monitoring and reporting of indi-
 15 vidual personnel welfare;

16 “(vi) equipment and methods for train-
 17 ing, especially for virtual reality training;
 18 and

19 “(vii) robotics and other remote-con-
 20 trolled devices;

21 “(B) evaluate the compatibility of new
 22 equipment and technology with existing fire-
 23 fighting technology; and

24 “(C) support the development of new vol-
 25 untary consensus standards through national

1 *voluntary consensus standards organizations for*
 2 *new firefighting technologies based on techniques*
 3 *and methodologies described in subparagraph*
 4 *(A).*

5 “(2) *NEW EQUIPMENT MUST MEET STAND-*
 6 *ARDS.—For equipment for which applicable vol-*
 7 *untary consensus standards have been established, the*
 8 *Administrator shall, by regulation, require that*
 9 *equipment or systems purchased through the assist-*
 10 *ance program established by section 33 meet or exceed*
 11 *applicable voluntary consensus standards.”.*

12 ***(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—****Section 17*
 13 *of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15*
 14 *U.S.C. 2216) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

15 ***“(i) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—****There are*
 16 *authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry*
 17 *out section 8(e) \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2003.”.*

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

20 ***(a) IN GENERAL.—****Section 10 of the Federal Fire Pre-*
 21 *vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2209) is*
 22 *amended—*

23 ***(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection***
 24 ***(c); and***

1 (2) *by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-*
 2 *lowing:*

3 “(b) *MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS.—*

4 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, after*
 5 *consultation with the Director of the Federal Emer-*
 6 *gency Management Agency, shall provide technical as-*
 7 *sistance and training to State and local fire service*
 8 *officials to establish nationwide and State mutual aid*
 9 *systems for dealing with national emergencies that—*

10 “(A) *include threat assessment and equip-*
 11 *ment deployment strategies;*

12 “(B) *include means of collecting asset and*
 13 *resource information to provide accurate and*
 14 *timely data for regional deployment; and*

15 “(C) *are consistent with the Federal Emer-*
 16 *gency Management Agency’s Federal Response*
 17 *Plan.*

18 “(2) *MODEL MUTUAL AID PLANS.—The Adminis-*
 19 *trator, in consultation with the Director of the Fed-*
 20 *eral Emergency Management Agency, shall develop*
 21 *and make available to State and local fire service offi-*
 22 *cial model mutual aid plans for both intrastate and*
 23 *interstate assistance.”.*

24 “(b) *REPORT ON STRATEGIC NEEDS.—Within 90 days*
 25 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator*

1 *of the United States Fire Administration shall report to*
 2 *the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-*
 3 *portation and the House of Representatives Committee on*
 4 *Science on the need for a strategy concerning deployment*
 5 *of volunteers and emergency response personnel (as defined*
 6 *in section 6 of the Firefighters' Safety Study Act (15 U.S.C.*
 7 *2223e), including a national credentialing system, in the*
 8 *event of a national emergency.*

9 (c) *UPDATE OF FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN.*—Within
 10 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Direc-
 11 tor of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

12 (1) *revise that Agency's Federal Response Plan*
 13 *to incorporate plans for responding to terrorist at-*
 14 *tacks, particularly in urban areas, including fire de-*
 15 *tection and suppression and related emergency serv-*
 16 *ices; and*

17 (2) *transmit a report to the Senate Committee*
 18 *on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the*
 19 *House of Representatives Committee on Science de-*
 20 *scribing the action taken to comply with paragraph*
 21 *(1).*

22 **SEC. 4. TRAINING.**

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 8(d)(1) of the Federal Fire
 24 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1))
 25 *is amended—*

1 (1) by striking “and” after the semicolon in sub-
2 paragraph (E);

3 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
4 paragraph (N); and

5 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(F) strategies for building collapse rescue;

8 “(G) the use of technology in response to
9 fires, including terrorist incidents and other na-
10 tional emergencies;

11 “(H) response, tactics, and strategies for
12 dealing with terrorist-caused national catas-
13 trophes;

14 “(I) use of and familiarity with the Federal
15 Emergency Management Agency’s Federal Re-
16 sponse Plan;

17 “(J) leadership and strategic skills, includ-
18 ing integrated management systems operations
19 and integrated response;

20 “(K) applying new technology and devel-
21 oping strategies and tactics for fighting forest
22 fires;

23 “(L) integrating terrorism response agencies
24 into the national terrorism incident response
25 system;

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

4 (b) *CONSULTATION ON FIRE ACADEMY CLASSES.*—The
5 Superintendent of the National Fire Academy may consult
6 with other Federal, State, and local agency officials in de-
7 veloping curricula for classes at the Academy.

8 (c) *COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS TO AVOID*
9 *DUPLICATION.*—The Administrator of the United States
10 Fire Administration shall coordinate training provided
11 under section 8(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
12 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) with the Attor-
13 ney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
14 and the heads of other Federal agencies—

15 (1) to ensure that such training does not dupli-
16 cate existing courses available to fire service per-
17 sonnel; and

18 (2) to establish a mechanism for eliminating du-
19 plicative training programs.

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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.

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