

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1152

AN ACT

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, 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 **TITLE I—UNITED STATES FIRE**
2 **ADMINISTRATION REAU-**
3 **THORIZATION**

4 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “United States Fire
6 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2003”.

7 **SEC. 102. RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION OF UNITED**
8 **STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATOR.**

9 Section 1513 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
10 (6 U.S.C. 553) does not apply to the position or office
11 of Administrator of the United States Fire Administra-
12 tion, who shall continue to be appointed and compensated
13 as provided by section 5(b) of the Federal Fire Prevention
14 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2204(b)).

15 **SEC. 103. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
17 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)) is amended by
18 striking subparagraphs (A) through (K) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(A) \$63,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, of which
21 \$2,266,000 shall be used to carry out section 8(f);

22 “(B) \$64,850,000 for fiscal year 2006, of which
23 \$2,334,000 shall be used to carry out section 8(f);

1 “(C) \$66,796,000 for fiscal year 2007, of which
2 \$2,404,000 shall be used to carry out section 8(f);
3 and

4 “(D) \$68,800,000 for fiscal year 2008, of which
5 \$2,476,000 shall be used to carry out section 8(f).”.

6 **TITLE II—FIREFIGHTING**
7 **RESEARCH AND COORDINATION**

8 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

9 This title may be cited as the “Firefighting Research
10 and Coordination Act”.

11 **SEC. 202. NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY.**

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

14 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
15 section (g); and

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

18 “(e) ASSISTANCE TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

19 At the request of other Federal agencies, including the De-
20 partment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-
21 rior, the Administrator may provide assistance in fire pre-
22 vention and control technologies, including methods of
23 containing insect-infested forest fires and limiting dis-
24 persal of resultant fire particle smoke, and methods of

1 measuring and tracking the dispersal of fine particle
2 smoke resulting from fires of insect-infested fuel.

3 “(f) TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION AND STANDARDS
4 DEVELOPMENT.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part
6 of, the program conducted under subsection (a), the
7 Administrator, in consultation with the National In-
8 stitute of Standards and Technology, the Inter-
9 Agency Board for Equipment Standardization and
10 Inter-Operability, the National Institute for Occupa-
11 tional Safety and Health, the Directorate of Science
12 and Technology of the Department of Homeland Se-
13 curity, national voluntary consensus standards devel-
14 opment organizations, interested Federal, State, and
15 local agencies, and other interested parties, shall—

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

20 “(i) personal protection equipment;

21 “(ii) devices for advance warning of
22 extreme hazard;

23 “(iii) equipment for enhanced vision;

1 “(iv) devices to locate victims, fire-
2 fighters, and other rescue personnel in
3 above-ground and below-ground structures;

4 “(v) equipment and methods to pro-
5 vide information for incident command, in-
6 cluding the monitoring and reporting of in-
7 dividual personnel welfare;

8 “(vi) equipment and methods for
9 training, especially for virtual reality train-
10 ing; and

11 “(vii) robotics and other remote-con-
12 trolled devices;

13 “(B) evaluate the compatibility of new
14 equipment and technology with existing fire-
15 fighting technology; and

16 “(C) support the development of new vol-
17 untary consensus standards through national
18 voluntary consensus standards organizations for
19 new firefighting technologies based on tech-
20 niques and methodologies described in subpara-
21 graph (A).

22 “(2) STANDARDS FOR NEW EQUIPMENT.—

23 (A) The Administrator shall, by regulation,
24 require that new equipment or systems pur-
25 chased through the assistance program estab-

1 lished by the first section 33 meet or exceed ap-
2 plicable voluntary consensus standards for such
3 equipment or systems for which applicable vol-
4 untary consensus standards have been estab-
5 lished. The Administrator may waive the re-
6 quirement under this subparagraph with respect
7 to specific standards.

8 “(B) If an applicant for a grant under the
9 first section 33 proposes to purchase, with as-
10 sistance provided under the grant, new equip-
11 ment or systems that do not meet or exceed ap-
12 plicable voluntary consensus standards, the ap-
13 plicant shall include in the application an expla-
14 nation of why such equipment or systems will
15 serve the needs of the applicant better than
16 equipment or systems that do meet or exceed
17 such standards.

18 “(C) In making a determination whether
19 or not to waive the requirement under subpara-
20 graph (A) with respect to a specific standard,
21 the Administrator shall, to the greatest extent
22 practicable—

23 “(i) consult with grant applicants and
24 other members of the fire services regard-
25 ing the impact on fire departments of the

1 requirement to meet or exceed the specific
2 standard;

3 “(ii) take into consideration the expla-
4 nation provided by the applicant under
5 subparagraph (B); and

6 “(iii) seek to minimize the impact of
7 the requirement to meet or exceed the spe-
8 cific standard on the applicant, particularly
9 if meeting the standard would impose addi-
10 tional costs.

11 “(D) Applicants that apply for a grant
12 under the terms of subparagraph (B) may in-
13 clude a second grant request in the application
14 to be considered by the Administrator in the
15 event that the Administrator does not approve
16 the primary grant request on the grounds of
17 the equipment not meeting applicable voluntary
18 consensus standards.”.

19 **SEC. 203. COORDINATION OF RESPONSE TO NATIONAL**
20 **EMERGENCY.**

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

24 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
25 section (c); and

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

3 “(b) MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
5 provide technical assistance and training to State
6 and local fire service officials to establish nationwide
7 and State mutual aid systems for dealing with na-
8 tional emergencies that—

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

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

14 “(C) are consistent with the Federal Re-
15 sponse Plan.

16 “(2) MODEL MUTUAL AID PLANS.—The Admin-
17 istrator shall develop and make available to State
18 and local fire service officials model mutual aid
19 plans for both intrastate and interstate assistance.”.

20 (b) REPORT ON STRATEGIC NEEDS.—Within 90 days
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
22 of the United States Fire Administration shall report to
23 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
24 portation and the House of Representatives Committee on
25 Science on the need for a strategy concerning deployment

1 of volunteers and emergency response personnel (as de-
2 fined in section 6 of the Firefighters' Safety Study Act
3 (15 U.S.C. 2223e)), including a national credentialing sys-
4 tem, in the event of a national emergency.

5 (c) REPORT ON FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN.—Within
6 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the De-
7 partment of Homeland Security shall transmit a report
8 to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
9 Transportation, the Senate Committee on Governmental
10 Affairs, and the House of Representatives Committee on
11 Science describing plans for revisions to the Federal Re-
12 sponse Plan and its integration into the National Re-
13 sponse Plan, including how the revised plan will address
14 response to terrorist attacks, particularly in urban areas,
15 including fire detection and suppression and related emer-
16 gency services.

17 **SEC. 204. TRAINING.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal
19 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
20 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “and” after the semicolon in
22 subparagraph (E);

23 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
24 paragraph (N); and

1 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(F) strategies for building collapse rescue;

4 “(G) the use of technology in response to
5 fires, including terrorist incidents and other na-
6 tional emergencies;

7 “(H) response, tactics, and strategies for
8 dealing with terrorist-caused national catas-
9 trophes;

10 “(I) use of and familiarity with the Fed-
11 eral Response Plan;

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

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

18 “(L) integrating the activities of terrorism
19 response agencies into national terrorism inci-
20 dent response systems;

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

24 (b) CONSULTATION ON FIRE ACADEMY CLASSES.—

25 The Superintendent of the National Fire Academy may

1 consult with other Federal, State, and local agency offi-
2 cials in developing curricula for classes offered by the
3 Academy.

4 (c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS TO
5 AVOID DUPLICATION.—The Administrator of the United
6 States Fire Administration shall coordinate training pro-
7 vided under section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention
8 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) with the
9 Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human
10 Services, and the heads of other Federal agencies—

11 (1) to ensure that such training does not dupli-
12 cate existing courses available to fire service per-
13 sonnel; and

14 (2) to establish a mechanism for eliminating
15 duplicative training programs.

16 (d) COURSES AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE.—Section
17 7(l) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of
18 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(l)) is amended by adding at the
19 end the following: “The Superintendent shall offer, at the
20 Academy and at other sites, courses and training assist-
21 ance as necessary to accommodate all geographic regions
22 and needs of career and volunteer firefighters.”.

1 **SEC. 205. FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM.**

2 (a) ADMINISTRATION.—The first section 33 of the
3 Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15
4 U.S.C. 2229) is amended—

5 (1) by striking subsection (b)(2) and inserting
6 the following:

7 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE.—The Di-
8 rector shall establish specific criteria for the selec-
9 tion of recipients of assistance under this section
10 and shall provide grant-writing assistance to appli-
11 cants.”; and

12 (2) by striking “operate the office established
13 under subsection (b)(2) and” in subsection (e)(2).

14 (b) MARITIME FIREFIGHTING.—Subsection (b)(3)(B)
15 of the first section 33 of the Federal Fire Prevention and
16 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(b)(3)(B)) is amend-
17 ed by inserting “maritime firefighting,” after “arson pre-
18 vention and detection,”.

19 (c) FIREFIGHTING IN REMOTE AREAS.—The first
20 section 33 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act
21 of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229) is amended—

22 (1) by inserting “equipment for fighting fires
23 with foam in remote areas without access to water,
24 and” after “including” in subsection (b)(3)(H); and

25 (2) by inserting “Of the amounts authorized in
26 this paragraph, \$3,000,000 shall be made available

1 each year through fiscal year 2008 for foam fire-
2 fighting equipment.” at the end of subsection (e)(1).

3 **SEC. 206. NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION.**

4 (a) MEMBERS.—Section 151303(b) of title 36,
5 United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by striking “9” in paragraph (2) and insert-
7 ing “12”;

8 (2) by striking “six” in subparagraph (D) of
9 paragraph (2) and inserting “nine”; and

10 (3) by striking “3 members” in paragraph (3)
11 and inserting “4 members”.

12 (b) COMPENSATION.—Section 151304(b)(3) of title
13 36, United States Code, is amended by inserting “15 per-
14 cent above” after “more than”.

15 (c) PERIOD OF AUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE.—Section
16 151307 of title 36, United States Code, is amended in
17 subsection (a)(1), by striking “During the 10-year period
18 beginning on the date of the enactment of the Fire Admin-
19 istration Authorization Act of 2000, the” and inserting
20 “The”.

Passed the Senate November 20, 2003.

Attest:

Secretary.

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