110TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 1759

To establish guidelines and incentives for States to establish arsonist registries and to require the Attorney General to establish a national arsonist registry and notification program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 29, 2007

Mrs. Bono (for herself and Mr. Schiff) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish guidelines and incentives for States to establish arsonist registries and to require the Attorney General to establish a national arsonist registry and notification program, 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 "Managing Arson
- 5 Through Criminal History (MATCH) Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. ARSONIST REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION PRO-2 GRAM. 3 (a) REGISTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR Jurisdic-4 TIONS.— 5 (1) Jurisdiction to maintain a registry.— 6 Each jurisdiction shall establish and maintain a ju-7 risdiction-wide arsonist registry conforming to the 8 requirements of this section. 9 (2) Guidelines and regulations.—The At-10 torney General shall issue guidelines and regulations 11 to interpret and implement this section. 12 (b) REGISTRY REQUIREMENTS Criminal FOR 13 Arsonists.— 14 (1) In General.—A criminal arsonist shall 15 register, and shall keep the registration current, in 16 each jurisdiction where the arsonist resides, where 17 the arsonist is an employee, and where the arsonist 18 is a student. For initial registration purposes only, 19 a criminal arsonist shall also register in the jurisdic-20 tion in which convicted if such jurisdiction is dif-21 ferent from the jurisdiction of residence. 22 (2) Initial registration.—The criminal ar-23 sonist shall initially register— 24 (A) before completing a sentence of impris-25 onment with respect to the offense giving rise

to the registration requirement; or

- 1 (B) not later than three business days
 2 after being sentenced for that offense, if the
 3 criminal arsonist is not sentenced to a term of
 4 imprisonment.
 - (3) Keeping the registration current.—A criminal arsonist shall, not later than three business days after each change of name, residence, employment, or student status, appear in person in at least one jurisdiction involved pursuant to paragraph (1) and inform that jurisdiction of all changes in the information required for that arsonist in the arsonist registry involved. That jurisdiction shall immediately provide the revised information to all other jurisdictions in which the arsonist is required to register.
 - (4) Initial registration of criminal arsonists unable to comply with paragraph (2).—The Attorney General shall have the authority to specify the applicability of the requirements of this section to criminal arsonists convicted before the date of the enactment of this Act or its implementation in a particular jurisdiction, and to prescribe rules for the registration of any such criminal arsonists and other categories of criminal arsonists who are unable to comply with paragraph (2).

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- (5) STATE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO COM-PLY.—Each jurisdiction, other than a Federally recognized Indian tribe, shall provide a criminal penalty that includes a maximum term of imprisonment that is greater than one year for the failure of a criminal arsonist to comply with the requirements of this section.
 - (6) Limited authority to exempt certain CRIMINAL ARSONISTS FROM REGISTRY REQUIRE-MENTS.—A jurisdiction shall have the authority to exempt a criminal arsonist who has been convicted of the offense of arson in violation of the laws of the jurisdiction in which the offense was committed or the United States for the first time from the registration requirements under this section in exchange for such arsonist's substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of another person who has committed an offense. The jurisdiction shall revoke any such exemption and order the arsonist to comply with the registration requirements of this section immediately upon cessation of active cooperation with the jurisdiction relating to such investigation or prosecution. The Attorney General shall assure that any regulations promulgated under this section include guidelines that reflect the general ap-

1	propriateness of exempting such an arsonist from
2	the registration requirements under this section.
3	(c) Information Required in Registration.—
4	(1) Provided by the arsonist.—A criminal
5	arsonist shall provide the following information to
6	the appropriate official for inclusion in the arsonist
7	registry of a jurisdiction in which such arsonist is
8	required to register:
9	(A) The name of the arsonist (including
10	any alias used by the arsonist).
11	(B) The Social Security number of the ar-
12	sonist.
13	(C) The address of each residence at which
14	the arsonist resides or will reside.
15	(D) The name and address of any place
16	where the arsonist is an employee or will be an
17	employee.
18	(E) The name and address of any place
19	where the arsonist is a student or will be a stu-
20	dent.
21	(F) The license plate number and a de-
22	scription of any vehicle owned or operated by
23	the arsonist.
24	(G) Any other information required by the
25	Attorney General.

1	(2) Provided by the jurisdiction.—The ju-
2	risdiction in which a criminal arsonist registers shall
3	ensure that the following information is included in
4	the registry for such arsonist:
5	(A) A physical description of the arsonist.
6	(B) The text of the provision of law defin-
7	ing the criminal offense for which the arsonist
8	is registered.
9	(C) The criminal history of the arsonist,
10	including the date of all arrests and convictions;
11	the status of parole, probation, or supervised
12	release; registration status; and the existence of
13	any outstanding arrest warrants for the arson-
14	ist.
15	(D) A current photograph of the arsonist.
16	(E) A set of fingerprints and palm prints
17	of the arsonist.
18	(F) A photocopy of a valid driver's license
19	or identification card issued to the arsonist by
20	a jurisdiction.
21	(G) Any other information required by the
22	Attorney General.
23	(d) Duration of Registration Requirement.—
24	A criminal arsonist shall keep the registration information
25	provided under subsection (c) current for the full registra-

1	tion period (excluding any time the arsonist is in custody
2	or civilly committed). For purposes of this subsection, the
3	full registration period—
4	(1) shall commence on the later of the date on
5	which the arsonist is convicted of an offense of arson
6	in violation of the laws of the jurisdiction in which
7	the offense was committed or the United States, the
8	date on which the arsonist is released from prison
9	for such conviction, or the date on which such arson-
10	ist is placed on parole, supervised release, or proba-
11	tion for such conviction; and
12	(2) shall be—
13	(A) five years for an arsonist who has been
14	convicted of such an offense for the first time;
15	(B) ten years for an arsonist who has been
16	convicted of such an offense for the second
17	time; and
18	(C) for the life of the arsonist for an ar-
19	sonist who has been convicted of such an of-
20	fense more than twice.
21	(e) Annual Verification.—Not less than once in
22	each calendar year during the full registration period, a
23	criminal arsonist required to register under this section

24 shall—

1	(1) appear in person at not less than one juris-
2	diction in which such arsonist is required to register;
3	(2) allow such jurisdiction to take a current
4	photograph of the arsonist; and
5	(3) while present at such jurisdiction, verify the
6	information in each registry in which that arsonist
7	is required to be registered.
8	(f) DUTY TO NOTIFY CRIMINAL ARSONISTS OF REG-
9	ISTRATION REQUIREMENTS AND TO REGISTER.—
10	(1) In general.—An appropriate official shall,
11	shortly before release of a criminal arsonist from
12	custody, or, if the arsonist is not in custody, imme-
13	diately after the sentencing of the arsonist for the
14	offense giving rise to the duty to register—
15	(A) inform the arsonist of the duties of the
16	arsonist under this section and explain those
17	duties;
18	(B) require the arsonist to read and sign
19	a form stating that the duty to register has
20	been explained and that the arsonist under-
21	stands the registration requirement; and
22	(C) ensure that the arsonist is registered.
23	(2) Notification of criminal arsonists
24	WHO CANNOT COMPLY WITH PARAGRAPH (1).—The
25	Attorney General shall prescribe rules for the notifi-

1	cation of criminal arsonists who cannot be notified
2	and registered in accordance with paragraph (1).
3	(g) Access to Criminal Arsonist Information
4	THROUGH THE INTERNET.—
5	(1) In general.—Except as provided in this
6	subsection, each jurisdiction shall make available or
7	the Internet, in a manner that is readily accessible
8	to all jurisdictions, law enforcement officers, and fire
9	safety officers, all information about each criminal
10	arsonist in the registry. The jurisdiction shall also
11	include in the design of its Internet site all field
12	search capabilities needed for full participation in
13	the National criminal arsonist Internet site estab-
14	lished under subsection (i) and shall participate in
15	that Internet site as provided by the Attorney Gen-
16	eral.
17	(2) OPTIONAL EXEMPTIONS.—A jurisdiction
18	may exempt from disclosure, with respect to infor-
19	mation about a criminal arsonist—
20	(A) any information about the arsonist in-
21	volving conviction for an offense other than the
22	offense or offenses for which the arsonist is reg-
23	istered;
24	(B) the name of an employer of the arson-
25	ist;

1 (C) the name of an educational institution 2 where the arsonist is a student; 3 (D) any information about the arsonist if 4 the arsonist is participating in a witness protec-5 tion program and the release of such informa-6 tion could jeopardize the safety of the arsonist 7 or any other individual; and 8 (E) any other information identified as an 9 optional exemption from disclosure by the At-10 torney General. 11 (3) Links.—An Internet site established by a 12 jurisdiction pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include, 13 to the extent practicable, links to substance abuse 14 education resources. 15 (4) Correction of Errors.—An Internet site 16 established by a jurisdiction pursuant to paragraph 17 (1) shall include instructions on how to seek correc-18 tion of information that an individual contends is er-19 roneous. 20 (5) Warning.—An Internet site established by 21 a jurisdiction pursuant to paragraph (1) shall in-22 clude a warning that information on the site should 23 not be used to unlawfully injure, harass, or commit 24 a crime against any individual named in the registry

or residing or working at any reported address. The

warning shall note that any such action could result
in civil or criminal penalties.

(h) National Criminal Arsonist Registry.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall maintain a national database at the Federal Bureau of Investigation for each criminal arsonist and any other person required to register in a jurisdiction's arsonist registry under subsection (a). The database shall be known as the National Arsonist Registry.
- (2) Electronic forwarding.—The Attorney General shall ensure (through the National Arsonist Registry or otherwise) that updated information about a criminal arsonist is immediately transmitted by electronic forwarding to all relevant jurisdictions.
- 15 (i) National Arsonist Internet Site.—The Attorney General shall establish and maintain a national ar-16 17 sonist Internet site. The Internet site shall include rel-18 evant information for each criminal arsonist and other 19 person listed on a jurisdiction's Internet site under sub-20 section (g). The Internet site shall allow law enforcement 21 officers and fire safety officers to obtain relevant informa-22 tion for each such arsonist by a single query for any given 23 zip code or geographical radius set by the user in a form and with such limitations as may be established by the

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- 1 Attorney General and shall have such other field search
- 2 capabilities as the Attorney General may provide.
- 3 (j) Notification Procedures.—Under an arsonist
- 4 registration program established by a jurisdiction pursu-
- 5 ant to subsection (a), immediately after a criminal arson-
- 6 ist registers or updates a registration, an appropriate offi-
- 7 cial in the jurisdiction shall provide the information in the
- 8 registry (other than information exempted from disclosure
- 9 by the Attorney General) about that offender to the fol-
- 10 lowing:
- 11 (1) The Attorney General, who shall include
- that information in the National Arsonist Registry
- or other appropriate databases.
- 14 (2) Appropriate law enforcement agencies (in-
- cluding probation agencies, if appropriate), and each
- school and public housing agency, in each area in
- 17 which the offender resides, is an employee, or is a
- 18 student.
- 19 (3) Each jurisdiction where the offender re-
- sides, is an employee, or is a student, and each juris-
- 21 diction from or to which a change of residence, em-
- 22 ployment, or student status occurs.
- 23 (4) Any organization, company, or individual
- 24 who requests such notification pursuant to proce-
- dures established by the jurisdiction.

1	(k) Actions To Be Taken When Criminal Ar-
2	SONIST FAILS TO COMPLY.—Under an arsonist registra-
3	tion program established by a jurisdiction pursuant to
4	subsection (a), an appropriate official of the jurisdiction
5	shall notify the Attorney General and appropriate law en-
6	forcement agencies of any failure by a criminal arsonist
7	to comply with the requirements of the arsonist registry
8	for such jurisdiction, and shall revise the registry to reflect
9	the nature of such failure. The appropriate official, the
10	Attorney General, and each such law enforcement agency
11	shall take any appropriate action to ensure compliance.
12	(l) Development and Availability of Registry
13	Management and Website Software.—
14	(1) Duty to develop and support.—The
15	Attorney General shall, in consultation with the ju-
16	risdictions, develop and support software to enable
17	jurisdictions to establish and operate uniform arson-
18	ist registries and Internet sites.
19	(2) Criteria.—The software described in para-
20	graph (1) should facilitate—
21	(A) immediate exchange of information
22	among jurisdictions;
23	(B) access over the Internet to appropriate
24	information, including the number of registered

1	criminal arsonists in each jurisdiction on a cur-
2	rent basis;
3	(C) full compliance with the requirements
4	of this section; and
5	(D) communication of information as re-
6	quired under subsection (j).
7	(3) Deadline.—The Attorney General shall
8	make the first complete edition of this software
9	available to jurisdictions not later than two years
10	after the date of the enactment of this Act.
11	(m) Period for Implementation by Jurisdic-
12	TIONS.—
13	(1) DEADLINE.—To be in compliance with this
14	section, a jurisdiction shall implement this section
15	before the later of—
16	(A) three years after the date of the enact-
17	ment of this Act; or
18	(B) one year after the date on which the
19	software described in subsection (l) is made
20	available to such jurisdiction.
21	(2) Extensions.—The Attorney General may
22	authorize not more than two one-year extensions of
23	the deadline under paragraph (1).
24	(n) Failure of Jurisdiction To Comply.—

(1) In General.—For any fiscal year after the deadline described in subsection (m), a jurisdiction that fails, as determined by the Attorney General, to substantially implement this section shall not receive 10 percent of the funds that would otherwise be allocated for that fiscal year to the jurisdiction under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.).

(2) State constitutionality.—

- (A) IN GENERAL.—When evaluating whether a jurisdiction has substantially implemented this section, the Attorney General shall consider whether the jurisdiction is unable to substantially implement this section because of a demonstrated inability to implement certain provisions that would place the jurisdiction in violation of its constitution, as determined by a ruling of the jurisdiction's highest court.
- (B) EFFORTS.—If the circumstances arise under subparagraph (A), then the Attorney General and the jurisdiction involved shall make good faith efforts to accomplish substantial implementation of this section and to reconcile any conflicts between this section and the juris-

diction's constitution. In considering whether compliance with the requirements of this section would likely violate the jurisdiction's constitution or an interpretation thereof by the jurisdiction's highest court, the Attorney General shall consult with the chief executive and chief legal officer of the jurisdiction concerning the jurisdiction's interpretation of the jurisdiction's constitution and rulings thereon by the jurisdiction's highest court.

- (C) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.—If a jurisdiction is unable to substantially implement this section because of a limitation imposed by the jurisdiction's constitution, the Attorney General may determine that the jurisdiction is in compliance with this section if the jurisdiction has made, or is in the process of implementing, reasonable alternative procedures or accommodations, which are consistent with the purposes of this section.
- (D) Funding reduction.—If a jurisdiction determined to be in compliance under subparagraph (C) does not comply with the alternative procedures or accommodations described in such subparagraph, then the jurisdiction

- shall be subject to a funding reduction as specified in paragraph (1).
 - (3) Reallocation.—Amounts not allocated under a program referred to in this subsection to a jurisdiction for failure to substantially implement this section shall be reallocated under that program to jurisdictions that have not failed to substantially implement this section or may be reallocated to a jurisdiction from which they were withheld to be used solely for the purpose of implementing this section.
 - (4) Rule of construction.—The provisions of this section that are cast as directions to jurisdictions or their officials constitute, in relation to States, only conditions required to avoid the reduction of Federal funding under this subsection.

(o) ELECTION BY INDIAN TRIBES.—

(1) Election.—

- (A) In General.—A federally recognized Indian tribe may, by resolution or other enactment of the tribal council or comparable governmental body, elect to carry out this subtitle as a jurisdiction subject to its provisions.
- (B) IMPLEMENTATION.—If a tribe does not, within one year of enactment of this Act, make an election to take on these duties, it

1	shall, by resolution or other enactment of the
2	tribal council or comparable governmental body,
3	enter into a cooperative agreement to arrange
4	for a jurisdiction to carry out any function of
5	the tribe under this Act until such time as the
6	tribe elects to carry out this Act.
7	(2) Cooperation between tribal authori-
8	TIES AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS.—
9	(A) NONDUPLICATION.—A tribe subject to
10	this subtitle is not required to duplicate func-
11	tions under this subtitle which are fully carried
12	out by another jurisdiction or jurisdictions with-
13	in which the territory of the tribe is located.
14	(B) Cooperative agreements.—A tribe
15	may, through cooperative agreements with such
16	a jurisdiction or jurisdictions—
17	(i) arrange for the tribe to carry out
18	any function of such a jurisdiction under
19	this subtitle with respect to arsonists sub-
20	ject to the tribe's jurisdiction; and
21	(ii) arrange for such a jurisdiction to
22	carry out any function of the tribe under
23	this subtitle with respect to arsonists sub-
24	ject to the tribe's jurisdiction.

- 1 (3) Law enforcement authority in Indian
- 2 COUNTRY.—Enforcement of this Act in Indian coun-
- 3 try, as defined in section 1151 of title 18, United
- 4 States Code, shall be carried out by Federal, Tribal,
- 5 and State governments under existing jurisdictional
- 6 authorities.
- 7 (p) Immunity for Good Faith Conduct.—The
- 8 Federal Government, jurisdictions, political subdivisions of
- 9 jurisdictions, and their agencies, officers, employees, and
- 10 agents shall be immune from liability for good faith con-
- 11 duct under this section.
- 12 (q) Authorization of Appropriations.—In addi-
- 13 tion to any amounts otherwise authorized to be appro-
- 14 priated, there are authorized to be appropriated to the At-
- 15 torney General, to carry out subsections (h) and (i) of this
- 16 section, such sums as may be necessary for each of the
- 17 fiscal years 2008 through 2013.
- 18 SEC. 3. CRIMINAL ARSONIST MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE
- 19 **PROGRAM.**
- 20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall estab-
- 21 lish and implement a Criminal Arsonist Management As-
- 22 sistance program (in this section referred to as the "As-
- 23 sistance Program"), under which the Attorney General
- 24 may award a grant to a jurisdiction to offset the costs
- 25 of implementing section 2.

- 1 (b) APPLICATION.—The chief executive of a jurisdic-
- 2 tion desiring a grant under this section shall, on an annual
- 3 basis, submit to the Attorney General an application in
- 4 such form and containing such information as the Attor-
- 5 ney General may require.
- 6 (c) Bonus Payments for Prompt Compliance.—
- 7 A jurisdiction that, as determined by the Attorney Gen-
- 8 eral, has substantially implemented section 2 not later
- 9 than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act
- 10 is eligible for a bonus payment. The Attorney General may
- 11 make such a payment under the Assistance Program for
- 12 the first fiscal year beginning after that determination.
- 13 The amount of the bonus payment shall be as follows:
- 14 (1) In the case of a determination that the ju-
- risdiction has substantially implemented such section
- by a date that is not later than the date that is one
- 17 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, 10
- percent of the total received by the jurisdiction
- under the Assistance Program for the preceding fis-
- cal year.
- 21 (2) In the case of a determination that the ju-
- risdiction has substantilly implemented such section
- by a date that is later than one year after the date
- of the enactment of this Act, but not later than the

- date that is two years after such date of enactment,
- 2 5 percent of such total.
- 3 (d) Authorization of Appropriations.—In addi-
- 4 tion to any amounts otherwise authorized to be appro-
- 5 priated, there are authorized to be appropriated to the At-
- 6 torney General, to be available only for the Assistance Pro-
- 7 gram, such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal
- 8 years 2008 through 2013.

9 SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

- 10 For purposes of this Act:
- 11 (1) Criminal Arsonist.—The term "criminal
- arsonist" means an individual who is convicted of
- any criminal offense for committing arson in viola-
- tion of the laws of the jurisdiction in which such of-
- 15 fense was committed or the United States.
- 16 (2) Arsonist registry.—The term "arsonist
- 17 registry" means a registry of criminal arsonists, and
- a notification program, maintained by a jurisdiction.
- 19 (3) Criminal offense.—The term "criminal
- offense" means a State, local, tribal, foreign, or mili-
- 21 tary offense (to the extent specified by the Secretary
- of Defense under section 115(a)(8)(C)(i) of Public
- 23 Law 105–119 (10 U.S.C. 951 note)) or other crimi-
- 24 nal offense.

1	(4) Employee.—The term "employee" includes
2	an individual who is self-employed or works for any
3	other entity, whether compensated or not.
4	(5) Fire safety officer.—The term "fire
5	safety officer" means—
6	(A) a firefighter, as such term is defined in
7	section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and
8	Safe Street Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b)); or
9	(B) an individual serving in an official ca-
10	pacity as a firefighter, fire investigator, or other
11	arson investigator, as defined by the jurisdiction
12	for the purposes of this Act.
13	(6) Jurisdiction.—The term "jurisdiction"
14	means any of the following:
15	(A) A State.
16	(B) The District of Columbia.
17	(C) The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
18	(D) Guam.
19	(E) American Samoa.
20	(F) The Northern Mariana Islands.
21	(G) The United States Virgin Islands.
22	(H) To the extent provided and subject to
23	the requirements of section 2(o), a Federally
24	recognized Indian tribe.

- 1 (7) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term
 2 "law enforcement officer" has the meaning given
 3 such term in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime
 4 Control and Safe Street Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C.
 5 3796b)).
 - (8) Resides.—The term "resides" means, with respect to an individual, the location of the individual's home or other place where the individual habitually lives.
 - (9) STUDENT.—The term "student" means an individual who enrolls in or attends an educational institution (whether public or private), including a secondary school, trade or professional school, and institution of higher education.

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