

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3881

To reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HOYER, Mr. REICHERT, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant 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 “AFG and SAFER Pro-
5 gram Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO FIRE-**
2 **FIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM AND THE FIRE**
3 **PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANTS PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) REPEAL OF SUNSET.—Section 33 of the Federal
6 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
7 2229) is amended by striking subsection (r).

8 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-
9 section (q)(1)(B) of such section is amended by striking
10 “2017” and inserting “2023”.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN TRAINING UNDER
12 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM.—
13 Subsection (c)(3) of such section is amended by adding
14 at the end the following:

15 “(N) To provide specialized training to
16 firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical
17 service workers, and other first responders to
18 recognize individuals who have mental illness
19 and how to properly intervene with individuals
20 with mental illness, including strategies for
21 verbal de-escalation of crisis.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE**
2 **FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT**
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 (a) REPEAL OF SUNSET.—Section 34 of the Federal
5 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
6 2229a) is amended by striking subsection (k).

7 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-
8 section (j)(1)(I) of such section is amended, in the matter
9 before clause (i), by striking “2017” and inserting
10 “2023”.

11 (c) MODIFICATION OF APPLICATION REQUIRE-
12 MENTS.—Subsection (b)(3)(B) of such section is amended
13 by striking “of subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii) and (F)” and in-
14 serting “of subsection (a)(1)(F)”.

15 (d) MODIFICATION OF LIMITATION.—Subsection
16 (c)(2) of such section is amended by striking “prior to No-
17 vember 24, 2003” and inserting “prior to the date of the
18 application for the grant”.

19 (e) MODIFICATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Sub-
20 section (d)(1)(B) of such section is amended by striking
21 “subsection (a)(1)(E) or subsection (c)(2)” and inserting
22 “subsection (a)(1)(E), (c)(2), or (c)(4)”.

23 (f) REPEAL OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN USE OF
24 GRANT AMOUNTS TRANSFERRED TO ASSISTANCE TO
25 FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1)(B)

1 of such section is amended by striking “and to provide”
 2 and all that follows through “of crises”.

3 (g) EXPANSION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE
 4 AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.—Sub-
 5 section (a)(1)(B) of such section, as amended by sub-
 6 section (f), is further amended by inserting “or to change
 7 the status of part-time or paid-on-call (as defined in sec-
 8 tion 33(a)) firefighters to full-time firefighters” after
 9 “firefighters”.

10 **SEC. 4. TRAINING ON ADMINISTRATION OF FIRE GRANT**
 11 **PROGRAMS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
 13 Emergency Management Agency, acting through the Ad-
 14 ministrator of the United States Fire Administration, may
 15 develop and make widely available an electronic, online
 16 training course for members of the fire and emergency re-
 17 sponse community on matters relating to the administra-
 18 tion of grants under sections 33 and 34 of the Federal
 19 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229
 20 and 2229a).

21 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator of the Fed-
 22 eral Emergency Management Agency shall ensure that
 23 any training developed and made available under sub-
 24 section (a) is—

1 (1) tailored to the financial and time con-
2 straints of members of the fire and emergency re-
3 sponse community; and

4 (2) accessible to all individuals in the career,
5 combination, paid-on-call, and volunteer fire and
6 emergency response community.

7 **SEC. 5. FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING**
8 **OF THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS**
9 **GRANTS PROGRAM, THE FIRE PREVENTION**
10 **AND SAFETY GRANTS PROGRAM, AND THE**
11 **STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMER-**
12 **GENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 (a) FRAMEWORK.—Not later than 90 days after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
15 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, acting
16 through the Administrator of the United States Fire Ad-
17 ministration, shall develop and implement a grant moni-
18 toring and oversight framework to mitigate and minimize
19 risks of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement relating
20 to the grants programs under sections 33 and 34 of the
21 Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15
22 U.S.C. 2229 and 2229a).

23 (b) ELEMENTS.—The framework required by sub-
24 section (a) shall include the following:

1 (1) Developing standardized guidance and
2 training for all participants in the grant programs
3 described in subsection (a).

4 (2) Conduct of regular risk assessments.

5 (3) Conducting desk reviews and site visits.

6 (4) Enforcement actions to recoup potential
7 questionable costs of grant recipients.

8 (5) Such other oversight and monitoring tools
9 as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
10 Management Agency considers necessary to mitigate
11 and minimize fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanage-
12 ment relating to the grant programs described in
13 subsection (a).

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