

Union Calendar No. 588

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2574

[Report No. 118–694]

To require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2023

Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Additional sponsors: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. FITZPATRICK

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 10, 2023]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States.

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 “EMS Counts Act”.*

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 *Congress finds the following:*

7 (1) *Emergency medical services (in this Act re-*
8 *ferred to as “EMS”) personnel provide a critical role*
9 *in emergency response. EMS consists of a diverse*
10 *group of health care practitioners, such as para-*
11 *medics, emergency medical technicians (in this Act*
12 *referred to as “EMTs”), dual-role firefighter/EMTs,*
13 *firefighter/paramedics, and volunteer personnel serv-*
14 *ing in each of such roles.*

15 (2) *EMS is an integral component of the re-*
16 *sponse capacity of the United States to disasters and*
17 *public health crises, such as outbreaks of infectious*
18 *diseases, bombings, mass shootings, earthquakes, tor-*
19 *nadoes, and hurricanes. EMS personnel respond to*
20 *more than 22,000,000 emergency calls each year in-*
21 *cluding strokes, heart attacks, cardiac arrest, and*
22 *trauma.*

23 (3) *The Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles in-*
24 *formation on the number of individuals working in*
25 *roles across the entire United States workforce. The*

1 Bureau of Labor Statistics completes this work by
2 maintaining the Standard Occupational Classifica-
3 tion system which classifies workers and jobs into oc-
4 cupational categories for the purpose of collecting, cal-
5 culating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

(4) The BLS fails to accurately count EMS practitioners because of its failure to include dual-role firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics in their count of EMS personnel.

10 (5) *Accurately counting the EMS workforce is*
11 *critical for government agencies in determining the*
12 *needs of EMS agencies and practitioners. These data*
13 *are also crucial for informing many aspects of policy*
14 *including preparedness for natural disasters, public*
15 *health emergencies, and acts of terrorism.*

16 SEC. 3. REVISION OF STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.

17

18 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of the Office of Man-
19 agement and Budget (in this Act referred to as the “Direc-
20 tor”) shall, as part of the first revision process of the Stand-
21 ard Occupational Classification system occurring after the
22 date of enactment of this Act, consider establishing a sepa-
23 rate code, as a subset of firefighter occupations, for each
24 of the following:

25 (1) Firefighters.

- 1 (2) *Firefighter/EMTs.*
- 2 (3) *Firefighter/Paramedics.*
- 3 (4) *Firefighters, All Other.*

4 (b) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If the Director decides*
5 *not to establish the separate codes described in subsection*
6 *(a), the Director shall, not later than 60 days after the Di-*
7 *rector announces in the Federal Register the final decision*
8 *of the revision process described in such subsection, submit*
9 *to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental*
10 *Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Education and*
11 *the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report ex-*
12 *plaining why such separate codes were not established.*

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