

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5619

To ensure continuity of pay and allowances for Federal firefighters and protect Federal firefighters from reductions in force in the event of a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Ms. BYNUM (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. SCHRIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure continuity of pay and allowances for Federal firefighters and protect Federal firefighters from reductions in force in the event of a lapse in appropriations, 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 “Federal Firefighter
3 Paycheck Protection Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PAY AND AL-**
5 **LOWANCES FOR FIREFIGHTERS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby appropriated for
7 fiscal year 2026, out of any money in the Treasury not
8 otherwise appropriated, for any period during which in-
9 terim or full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2026 are
10 not in effect, such sums as are necessary to provide pay
11 and allowances to Federal firefighters.

12 (b) TERMINATION.—Appropriations and funds made
13 available and authority granted pursuant to this section
14 shall be available until the earlier of—

15 (1) the date of the enactment of an appropria-
16 tion (including a continuing appropriation) for any
17 purpose for which amounts are made available under
18 subsection (a);

19 (2) the date of the enactment of the applicable
20 regular or continuing appropriations resolution or
21 other Act without any appropriation for such pur-
22 pose; or

23 (3) January 1, 2027.

1 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON REDUCTIONS IN FORCE OF FIRE-**
2 **FIGHTERS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUT-**
3 **DOWNS.**

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during
5 any period in which there is a lapse in discretionary appro-
6 priations, no Federal firefighter may be removed from the
7 civil service due to a reduction in force.

8 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) CIVIL SERVICE, EXECUTIVE AGENCY; MILI-
11 TARY DEPARTMENT.—The terms “civil service”,
12 “Executive agency”, and “military department”
13 have the meanings given such term in sections 2101,
14 105, and 102, respectively, of title 5, United States
15 Code.

16 (2) FEDERAL FIREFIGHTER.—The term “Fed-
17 eral firefighter” means an employee of an Executive
18 agency or military department, the duties of whose
19 position are primarily to perform work directly con-
20 nected with the control and extinguishment of fires.

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