

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2606

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 6), 2008

Mr. DODD (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. MCCAIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States Fire
5 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The number of lives lost each year because
9 of fire has dropped significantly over the last 25
10 years in the United States. However, the United

1 States still has one of the highest fire death rates
2 in the industrialized world. In 2005, the National
3 Fire Protection Association reported 3,675 civilian
4 fire deaths, 17,925 civilian fire injuries, and
5 \$10,672,000,000 in direct losses due to fire.

6 (2) Every year, more than 100 firefighters die
7 in the line of duty. The United States Fire Adminis-
8 tration should continue its leadership to help local
9 fire agencies dramatically reduce these fatalities.

10 (3) Members of the fire service community
11 should continue to work together to further the pro-
12 motion of national voluntary consensus standards
13 that increase firefighter safety.

14 (4) The United States Fire Administration pro-
15 vides crucial support to the 30,300 fire departments
16 of the United States through training, emergency in-
17 cident data collection, fire awareness and education,
18 and support of research and development activities
19 for fire prevention, control, and suppression tech-
20 nologies.

21 (5) The collection of data on fire and other
22 emergency incidents is a vital tool both for policy
23 makers and emergency responders to identify and
24 develop responses to emerging hazards. Improving
25 the data collection capabilities of the United States

1 Fire Administration is essential for accurately track-
2 ing and responding to the magnitude and nature of
3 the fire problems of the United States.

4 (6) The research and development performed by
5 the National Institute of Standards and Technology,
6 the United States Fire Administration, other govern-
7 ment agencies, and non-governmental organizations
8 on fire technologies, techniques, and tools advance
9 the capabilities of the fire service of the United
10 States to suppress and prevent fires.

11 (7) The United States Fire Administration is
12 one of the strongest voices representing the fire serv-
13 ice of the United States within the Federal Govern-
14 ment, and, as such, it should have a prominent place
15 within the Department of Homeland Security.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED**
17 **STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.**

18 Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
19 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and”
21 after the semicolon;

22 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
23 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

24 (3) by adding after subparagraph (D) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(E) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of
2 which \$2,520,000 shall be used to carry out
3 section 8;

4 “(F) \$72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010, of
5 which \$2,595,600 shall be used to carry out
6 section 8;

7 “(G) \$74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011, of
8 which \$2,673,468 shall be used to carry out
9 section 8; and

10 “(H) \$76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012, of
11 which \$2,753,672 shall be used to carry out
12 section 8.”.

13 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM**
14 **MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS.**

15 (a) AMENDMENTS TO FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING.—
16 Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-
17 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “terrorist-
19 caused national catastrophes” and inserting “all
20 hazards, including acts of terrorism”;

21 (2) in subparagraph (K), by striking “forest”
22 and inserting “wildland”;

23 (3) in subparagraph (M), by striking “response
24 tactics and” and inserting “response, tactics, and”;

1 (4) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through
2 (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (R), respectively;
3 and

4 (5) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(I) response, tactics, and strategies for
7 fighting large-scale fires or multiple fires in a
8 general area that cross jurisdictional bound-
9 aries;

10 “(J) response, tactics, and strategies for
11 fighting fires occurring at the wildland-urban
12 interface;

13 “(K) response, tactics, and strategies for
14 fighting fires involving hazardous materials;

15 “(L) advanced emergency medical services
16 training;”.

17 (b) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 7 of such Act (15
18 U.S.C. 2206) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(m) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual re-
21 port filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline
22 for filing is after the expiration of the 18-month period
23 that begins on the date of the enactment of the United
24 States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008,
25 and in every third annual report thereafter, the Adminis-

1 trator shall include information about changes made to the
2 National Fire Academy curriculum, including—

3 “(1) the basis for such changes, including a re-
4 view of the incorporation of lessons learned by emer-
5 gency response personnel after significant emergency
6 events and emergency preparedness exercises per-
7 formed under the National Exercise Program; and

8 “(2) the desired training outcome of all such
9 changes.”.

10 (c) AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER
11 INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING
12 THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—Sec-
13 tion 7(f) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended to read
14 as follows:

15 “(f) ASSISTANCE.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may
17 provide assistance to State and local fire service
18 training programs through grants, contracts, or oth-
19 erwise.

20 “(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CON-
21 TRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH
22 CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
24 subparagraph (B), the Administrator may enter
25 into a contract with nationally recognized orga-

1 nizations that have established on-site training
2 programs that comply with national voluntary
3 consensus standards for fire service personnel
4 to facilitate the delivery of the education and
5 training programs outlined in subsection (d)(1)
6 directly to fire service personnel.

7 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Administrator
8 may not enter into a contract with an organiza-
9 tion described in subparagraph (A) unless such
10 organization—

11 “(i) operates a fire service training
12 program accredited by a nationally recog-
13 nized accreditation organization experi-
14 enced with accrediting such training; or

15 “(ii) at the time the Administrator en-
16 ters into the contract, provides training
17 under such a program under a cooperative
18 agreement with a Federal agency.

19 “(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The
20 amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out
21 this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 8
22 per centum of the amount authorized to be appro-
23 priated in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17 of
24 this Act.”.

1 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UP-**
2 **GRADES.**

3 (a) INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM DATABASE.—Sec-
4 tion 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of
5 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 “(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM
8 UPDATE.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to
9 subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of section 17(g)(1), the
10 Administrator shall use not more than an aggregate
11 amount of \$5,000,000 during the 3-year period consisting
12 of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to carry out activities
13 necessary to update the National Fire Incident Reporting
14 system to an Internet-based, real-time incident reporting
15 database, including capital investment, contractor engage-
16 ment, and user education.”.

17 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 9(b)(2) of
18 such Act (15 U.S.C. 2208(b)(2)) is amended by striking
19 “assist State,” and inserting “assist Federal, State,”.

20 **SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH**
21 **DISSEMINATION.**

22 (a) ASSISTANCE TO FIRE SERVICES FOR FIRE PRE-
23 VENTION AND CONTROL IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTER-
24 FACE.—Section 8(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
25 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207(d)) is amended to
26 read as follows:

1 “(d) RURAL AND WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AS-
2 SISTANCE.—The Administrator may, in coordination with
3 the Secretary of Agriculture, assist the fire services of the
4 United States, directly or through contracts, grants, or
5 other forms of assistance, to sponsor and encourage re-
6 search into approaches, techniques, systems, equipment,
7 and land-use policies to improve fire prevention and con-
8 trol in—

9 “(1) the rural and remote areas of the United
10 States; and

11 “(2) the wildland-urban interface.”.

12 (b) TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Sec-
13 tion 8 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207) is amended by adding
14 at the end the following:

15 “(h) RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Beginning 1 year
16 after the date of the enactment of the United States Fire
17 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008, the Adminis-
18 trator, in collaboration with the relevant departments and
19 agencies of the Federal Government, shall make available
20 to the public information about all ongoing and planned
21 fire-related research funded by the Administration during
22 fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, as well
23 as the results generated from such research, through a
24 regularly updated Internet-based database.”.

1 **SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**
2 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

3 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
4 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**
7 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

8 “The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire
9 services of national voluntary consensus standards for fire-
10 fighter health and safety, including such standards for
11 firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by—

12 “(1) educating fire services about such stand-
13 ards;

14 “(2) encouraging the adoption at all levels of
15 government of such standards; and

16 “(3) making recommendations on other ways in
17 which the Federal government can promote the
18 adoption of such standards by fire services.”.

19 **SEC. 8. STATE AND LOCAL FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTA-**
20 **TION AT NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER.**

21 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
22 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
23 section 22 the following:

1 **“SEC. 23. STATE AND LOCAL FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTA-**
 2 **TION AT NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.—The Secretary
 4 of Homeland Security shall, in consultation with the Ad-
 5 ministrator, establish a fire service position at the Na-
 6 tional Operations Center established under section 515 of
 7 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321d) (also
 8 known as the ‘Homeland Security Operations Center’) to
 9 represent the interests of State and local fire services.

10 “(b) DESIGNATION OF POSITION.—The Secretary of
 11 Homeland Security shall designate, on a rotating basis,
 12 a State or local fire service official for the position de-
 13 scribed in subsection (a).

14 “(c) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland
 15 Security shall manage the position established pursuant
 16 to subsection (a) in accordance with such rules and regula-
 17 tions as govern other similar rotating positions at the Na-
 18 tional Operations Center.”.

19 **SEC. 9. COORDINATION REGARDING FIRE SERVICE-BASED**
 20 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

21 Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
 22 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(e)) is amended to
 23 read as follows:

24 “(e) COORDINATION.—

25 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable,
 26 the Administrator shall use existing programs, data,

1 information, and facilities already available in other
2 Federal Government departments and agencies and,
3 where appropriate, existing research organizations,
4 centers, and universities.

5 “(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND
6 CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall pro-
7 vide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to
8 assure coordination of the activities of the Adminis-
9 trator with State and local government agencies, de-
10 partments, bureaus, or offices concerned with any
11 matter related to programs of fire prevention and
12 control with private and other Federal organizations
13 and offices so concerned.

14 “(3) COORDINATION OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED
15 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The
16 Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate
17 organizational level to assure coordination of the ac-
18 tivities of the Administrator with State and local
19 government agencies, departments, bureaus, or of-
20 fices concerned with programs related to emergency
21 medical services provided by fire service-based sys-
22 tems with private and other Federal organizations
23 and offices so concerned.”.

1 **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control
3 Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “Administra-
5 tion” and inserting “Administration, who is the As-
6 sistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency
7 Management Agency”;

8 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the “and”
9 after the semicolon;

10 (3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
11 the end and inserting “; and”;

12 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and
13 (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively;

14 (5) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(6) ‘hazardous material’ has the meaning
17 given such term in section 5102 of title 49, United
18 States Code;”;

19 (6) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(10) ‘wildland-urban interface’ has the mean-
21 ing given such term in section 101 of the Healthy
22 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
23 6511).”.

○