

Public Law 105-108  
105th Congress

An Act

Nov. 20, 1997  
[S. 1231]

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

United States  
Fire  
Administration  
Authorization  
Act for Fiscal  
Years 1998 and  
1999.  
15 USC 2201  
note.

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "United States Fire Administration Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999".

**SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

- (1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (E);
- (2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (F) and inserting a semicolon; and
- (3) by adding at the end the following:
  - "(G) \$29,664,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998; and
  - "(H) \$30,554,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999."

**SEC. 3. SUCCESSOR FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS.**

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended—

- (1) in section 29(a)(1), by inserting "or any successor standard to that standard" after "Association Standard 74";
- (2) in section 29(a)(2), by inserting ", or any successor standard to that standard" before "whichever is appropriate";
- (3) in section 29(b)(2), by inserting ", or any successor standard to that standard" after "Association Standard 13 or 13-R";
- (4) in section 31(c)(2)(B)(i), by inserting "or any successor standard to that standard" after "Life Safety Code"; and
- (5) in section 31(c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting "or any successor standard to that standard" after "Association Standard 101".

**SEC. 4. TERMINATION OR PRIVATIZATION OF FUNCTIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days before the termination or transfer to a private sector person or entity of any significant function of the United States Fire Administration, as described in subsection (b), the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall transmit to Congress a report providing notice of that termination or transfer.

(b) **COVERED TERMINATIONS AND TRANSFERS.**—For purposes of subsection (a), a termination or transfer to a person or entity

15 USC 2204  
note.

15 USC 2225.

15 USC 2227.

described in that subsection shall be considered to be a termination or transfer of a significant function of the United States Fire Administration if the termination or transfer—

(1) relates to a function of the Administration that requires the expenditure of more than 5 percent of the total amount of funds made available by appropriations to the Administration; or

(2) involves the termination of more than 5 percent of the employees of the Administration.

**SEC. 5. NOTICE.**

15 USC 2204  
note.

(a) **MAJOR REORGANIZATION DEFINED.**—With respect to the United States Fire Administration, the term “major reorganization” means any reorganization of the Administration that involves the reassignment of more than 25 percent of the employees of the Administration.

(b) **NOTICE OF REPROGRAMMING.**—If any funds appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, notice of that action shall concurrently be provided to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives.

(c) **NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION.**—Not later than 15 days before any major reorganization of any program, project, or activity of the United States Fire Administration, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall provide notice to the Committees on Science and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of the Senate.

**SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM.**

With the year 2000 rapidly approaching, it is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration should—

(1) give high priority to correcting all 2-digit date-related problems in the computer systems of the United States Fire Administration to ensure that those systems continue to operate effectively in the year 2000 and in subsequent years;

(2) as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, assess the extent of the risk to the operations of the United States Fire Administration posed by the problems referred to in paragraph (1), and plan and budget for achieving compliance for all of the mission-critical systems of the system by the year 2000; and

(3) develop contingency plans for those systems that the United States Fire Administration is unable to correct by the year 2000.

**SEC. 7. ENHANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS PROGRAMS.**

15 USC 2218  
note.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration.

(2) **EDUCATIONALLY USEFUL FEDERAL EQUIPMENT.**—The term “educationally useful Federal equipment” means computers and related peripheral tools and research equipment that is appropriate for use in schools.

(3) SCHOOL.—The term “school” means a public or private educational institution that serves any of the grades of kindergarten through grade 12.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should, to the greatest extent practicable and in a manner consistent with applicable Federal law (including Executive Order No. 12999), donate educationally useful Federal equipment to schools in order to enhance the science and mathematics programs of those schools.

(2) REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare and submit to the President a report that meets the requirements of this paragraph. The President shall submit that report to Congress at the same time as the President submits a budget request to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

(B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report prepared by the Administrator under this paragraph shall describe any donations of educationally useful Federal equipment to schools made during the period covered by the report.

**SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives a report that meets the requirements of this section.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report under this section shall—

(1) examine the risks to firefighters in suppressing fires caused by burning tires;

(2) address any risks that are uniquely attributable to fires described in paragraph (1), including any risks relating to—

(A) exposure to toxic substances (as that term is defined by the Administrator);

(B) personal protection;

(C) the duration of those fires; and

(D) site hazards associated with those fires;

(3) identify any special training that may be necessary for firefighters to suppress those fires; and

(4) assess how the training referred to in paragraph (3) may be provided by the United States Fire Administration.

Approved November 20, 1997.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1231 (H.R. 1272):**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 105-62 accompanying H.R. 1272 (Comm. on Science).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105-124 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 143 (1997):

Nov. 4, considered and passed Senate.

Nov. 9, considered and passed House.