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1ST SESSION

H. R. 1727

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27 (legislative day, JUNE 30), 1993

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

NOVEMBER 22, 1993

Committee discharged

AN ACT

To establish a program of grants to States for arson
research, prevention, and control, 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 “Arson Prevention Act
5 of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) arson is a serious and costly problem in
9 both rural and urban areas, and is responsible for
10 approximately 25 percent of all fires in the United
11 States;

1 (2) arson is a leading cause of fire deaths, ac-
2 counting for approximately 700 deaths annually in
3 the United States, and is the leading cause of prop-
4 erty damage due to fire in the United States;

5 (3) estimates of arson property losses are in the
6 range of \$2,000,000,000 annually, or approximately
7 1 of every 4 dollars lost to fire;

8 (4) the incidence of arson in the United States
9 is seriously underreported, in part because of the
10 lack of adequate participation by local jurisdictions
11 in the National Fire Incident Reporting System
12 (NFIRS) and the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)
13 program;

14 (5) there is a need for expanded training pro-
15 grams for arson investigators;

16 (6) there is a need for improved programs de-
17 signed to enable volunteer firefighters to detect
18 arson crimes and to preserve evidence vital to the in-
19 vestigation and prosecution of arson cases;

20 (7) according to the National Fire Protection
21 Association, of all the suspicious and incendiary fires
22 estimated to occur, only one-third are confirmed as
23 arson; and

24 (8) improved training of arson investigators will
25 increase the ability of fire departments to identify

1 suspicious and incendiary fires, and will result in
2 increased and more effective prosecution of arson
3 offenses.

4 **SEC. 3. ARSON PREVENTION GRANTS.**

5 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
6 is amended by adding after section 24 the following new
7 section:

8 “ARSON PREVENTION GRANTS

9 “SEC. 25. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,
10 through the Office, shall carry out a demonstration pro-
11 gram of grant awards, not to exceed 10 in number, to
12 States, or consortia thereof, for programs relating to arson
13 research, prevention, and control. In carrying out the re-
14 quirements of this section, the Administrator shall award
15 2-year grants on a competitive, merit basis to States for
16 projects which have one or more of the following goals:

17 “(1) To improve the training by States leading
18 to professional certification of arson investigators, in
19 accordance with nationally recognized certification
20 standards.

21 “(2) To provide resources for the formation of
22 arson task forces or interagency organizational ar-
23 rangements involving police and fire departments
24 and other relevant local agencies such as State arson
25 bureaus and the State fire marshal’s office.

1 “(3) To combat fraud as a cause of arson and
2 to advance research at the State and local levels on
3 the significance and prevention of fraud as a motive
4 for setting fires.

5 “(4) To provide for management of arson
6 squads, including—

7 “(A) training courses for fire departments
8 in arson case management, including standard-
9 ization of investigative techniques and reporting
10 methodology;

11 “(B) preparation of arson unit manage-
12 ment guides; and

13 “(C) the development and dissemination of
14 new public education materials relating to the
15 arson problem.

16 “(5) To combat civil unrest as a cause of arson
17 and to advance research at the State and local levels
18 on the prevention and control of arson linked to
19 urban disorders.

20 “(6) To combat juvenile arson, such as juvenile
21 fire-setter counseling programs and similar interven-
22 tion programs, and to advance research at the State
23 and local levels on the prevention of juvenile arson.

1 “(7) To combat drug-related arson and to ad-
2 vance research at the State and local levels on the
3 causes and prevention of drug-related arson.

4 “(8) To combat domestic violence as a cause of
5 arson and to advance research at the State and local
6 levels on the prevention of arson arising from do-
7 mestic violence.

8 “(9) To combat arson in rural areas and to im-
9 prove the capability of firefighters to identify and
10 prevent arson initiated fires in rural areas and pub-
11 lic forests.

12 “(10) To improve the capability of firefighters
13 to identify and combat arson through expanded
14 training programs, including—

15 “(A) training courses at the State fire
16 academies; and

17 “(B) innovative courses developed with the
18 National Fire Academy and made available to
19 volunteer firefighters through regional delivery
20 methods, including teleconferencing and sat-
21 ellite delivered television programs.

22 “(b) GOALS TO BE REFLECTED IN GRANT
23 AWARDS.—The Administrator shall ensure that each goal
24 described in subsection (a) is embodied within one or more
25 grant awards.

1 “(c) STATE QUALIFICATION CRITERIA.—In order to
2 qualify for a grant under this section, a State or consor-
3 tium thereof shall provide assurances adequate to the Ad-
4 ministrator that it—

5 “(1) will obtain at least 25 percent of the cost
6 of programs funded by the grant, in cash or in kind,
7 from non-Federal sources;

8 “(2) will not as a result of receiving the grant
9 decrease its prior level of spending of funds from
10 non-Federal sources for arson research, prevention,
11 and control programs;

12 “(3) will use no more than 10 percent of funds
13 provided under the grant for administrative costs of
14 the programs; and

15 “(4) is making efforts to ensure that all local
16 jurisdictions will provide arson data to the National
17 Fire Incident Reporting System or the Uniform
18 Crime Reporting program.

19 “(d) EXTENSION.—Grants awarded under this sec-
20 tion may be extended for additional periods, at the discre-
21 tion of the Administrator, subject to the availability of ap-
22 propriations.

23 “(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Office shall pro-
24 vide technical assistance to States in carrying out pro-
25 grams funded by grants under this section.

1 “(f) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In carry-
2 ing out the requirements of this section, the Administrator
3 shall consult and cooperate with other Federal agencies
4 to enhance program effectiveness and avoid duplication of
5 effort, including the conduct of regular meetings initiated
6 by the Administrator with other Federal agencies con-
7 cerned with arson and concerned with efforts to develop
8 a more comprehensive profile of the magnitude of the na-
9 tional arson problem.

10 “(g) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall, not
11 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
12 section, submit a report to the Congress identifying grants
13 made, specifying the identity of grantees, stating the goals
14 of each grant, and containing a preliminary assessment
15 of the effectiveness of the grants program under this
16 section.

17 “(h) REGULATIONS.—Within 180 days after the date
18 of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue
19 regulations to implement this section, which shall establish
20 procedures for grant applications.

21 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

22 “(1) the term ‘arson’ includes all incendiary
23 and suspicious fires; and

1 “(2) the term ‘Office’ means the Office of Fire
2 Prevention and Arson Control of the United States
3 Fire Administration.

4 “(j) ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator shall di-
5 rectly administer the grants program required by this sec-
6 tion, and shall not enter into any contract under which
7 the grants program or any portion thereof will be adminis-
8 tered by another party.

9 “(k) PURCHASE OF AMERICAN MADE EQUIPMENT
10 AND PRODUCTS.—

11 “(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
12 Congress that any recipient of a grant under this
13 section should purchase, when available and cost-ef-
14 fective, American made equipment and products
15 when expending grant monies.

16 “(2) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.—
17 In allocating grants under this section, the Adminis-
18 trator shall provide to each recipient a notice de-
19 scribing the statement made in paragraph (1) by the
20 Congress.”.

21 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER TRAINING.**

22 Section 24(a)(2) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
23 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2220(a)(2)) is amended
24 by inserting “, with particular emphasis on the needs of
25 volunteer firefighters for improved and more widely avail-

1 able arson training courses” after “detection, and con-
2 trol”.

3 **SEC. 5. CPR TRAINING.**

4 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
5 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 32. CPR TRAINING.**

7 “No funds shall be made available to a State or local
8 government under section 25 unless such government has
9 a policy to actively promote the training of its firefighters
10 in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.”.

11 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
13 ministrator of the United States Fire Administration—

14 (1) \$500,000 for fiscal year 1994 for basic re-
15 search on the development of an advanced course on
16 arson prevention;

17 (2) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1995 for the ex-
18 pansion of arson investigator training programs at
19 the National Fire Academy under section 24 of the
20 Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, at
21 the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and
22 at the Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy, or
23 through regional delivery sites;

