

103D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R. 1727**

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**AN ACT**

To establish a program of grants to States for arson research, prevention, and control, and for other purposes.

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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;

1           (3) \$4,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1994  
2           and 1995 for carrying out section 25 of the Federal  
3           Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974; and

4           (4) \$250,000 for each of the fiscal years 1994  
5           and 1995 for salaries and expenses for carrying out  
6           such section 25.

7 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

8           Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no  
9           funds are authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year  
10          after fiscal year 1995 for carrying out the programs for  
11          which funds are authorized by this Act, or the amend-  
12          ments made by this Act.

          Passed the House of Representatives July 26, 1993.

          Attest:

*Clerk.*