

Union Calendar No. 96

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1727

[Report No. 103-172]

A BILL

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

JULY 13, 1993

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 1993

Mr. BOUCHER (for himself, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. HOYER, Mr. WELDON, Mr. STOKES, Mr. LEACH, Mr. BARLOW, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. LAZIO, Mr. MAZZOLI, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. MEEHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

JULY 13, 1993

Additional sponsors: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. FISH, Mr. JACOBS, Mr. WISE, and Mr. KLEIN

JULY 13, 1993

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 20, 1993]

A BILL

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 both*
9 *rural and urban areas, and is responsible for ap-*
10 *proximately 25 percent of all fires in the United*
11 *States;*

12 *(2) arson is a leading cause of fire deaths, ac-*
13 *counting for approximately 700 deaths annually in*
14 *the United States, and is the leading cause of prop-*
15 *erty damage due to fire in the United States;*

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

19 *(4) the incidence of arson in the United States*
20 *is seriously underreported, in part because of the lack*
21 *of adequate participation by local jurisdictions in the*
22 *National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)*
23 *and the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program;*

24 *(5) there is a need for expanded training pro-*
25 *grams for arson investigators;*

1 (6) *there is a need for improved programs de-*
2 *signed to enable volunteer firefighters to detect arson*
3 *crimes and to preserve evidence vital to the investiga-*
4 *tion and prosecution of arson cases;*

5 (7) *according to the National Fire Protection As-*
6 *sociation, of all the suspicious and incendiary fires*
7 *estimated to occur, only one-third are confirmed as*
8 *arson; and*

9 (8) *improved training of arson investigators will*
10 *increase the ability of fire departments to identify*
11 *suspicious and incendiary fires, and will result in*
12 *increased and more effective prosecution of arson*
13 *offenses.*

14 **SEC. 3. ARSON PREVENTION GRANTS.**

15 *The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974*
16 *is amended by adding after section 24 the following new*
17 *section:*

18 “ARSON PREVENTION GRANTS

19 “SEC. 25. (a) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,*
20 *through the Office, shall carry out a demonstration program*
21 *of grant awards, not to exceed 10 in number, to States, or*
22 *consortia thereof, for programs relating to arson research,*
23 *prevention, and control. In carrying out the requirements*
24 *of this section, the Administrator shall award 2-year grants*
25 *on a competitive, merit basis to States for projects which*
26 *have one or more of the following goals:*

1 “(1) To improve the training by States leading
2 to professional certification of arson investigators, in
3 accordance with nationally recognized certification
4 standards.

5 “(2) To provide resources for the formation of
6 arson task forces or interagency organizational ar-
7 rangements involving police and fire departments and
8 other relevant local agencies such as State arson bu-
9 reaus and the State fire marshal’s office.

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

14 “(4) To provide for management of arson squads,
15 including—

16 “(A) training courses for fire departments
17 in arson case management, including standard-
18 ization of investigative techniques and reporting
19 methodology;

20 “(B) preparation of arson unit management
21 guides; and

22 “(C) the development and dissemination of
23 new public education materials relating to the
24 arson problem.

1 “(5) To combat civil unrest as a cause of arson
2 and to advance research at the State and local levels
3 on the prevention and control of arson linked to
4 urban disorders.

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

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

12 “(8) To combat domestic violence as a cause of
13 arson and to advance research at the State and local
14 levels on the prevention of arson arising from domes-
15 tic violence.

16 “(9) To combat arson in rural areas and to im-
17 prove the capability of firefighters to identify and
18 prevent arson initiated fires in rural areas and pub-
19 lic forests.

20 “(10) To improve the capability of firefighters to
21 identify and combat arson through expanded training
22 programs, including—

23 “(A) training courses at the State fire acad-
24 emies; and

1 “(B) *innovative courses developed with the*
2 *National Fire Academy and made available to*
3 *volunteer firefighters through regional delivery*
4 *methods, including teleconferencing and satellite*
5 *delivered television programs.*

6 “(b) *GOALS TO BE REFLECTED IN GRANT AWARDS.—*
7 *The Administrator shall ensure that each goal described in*
8 *subsection (a) is embodied within one or more grant*
9 *awards.*

10 “(c) *STATE QUALIFICATION CRITERIA.—In order to*
11 *qualify for a grant under this section, a State or consortium*
12 *thereof shall provide assurances adequate to the Adminis-*
13 *trator that it—*

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

17 “(2) *will not as a result of receiving the grant*
18 *decrease its prior level of spending of funds from non-*
19 *Federal sources for arson research, prevention, and*
20 *control programs;*

21 “(3) *will use no more than 10 percent of funds*
22 *provided under the grant for administrative costs of*
23 *the programs; and*

24 “(4) *is making efforts to ensure that all local ju-*
25 *risdictions will provide arson data to the National*

1 *Fire Incident Reporting System or the Uniform*
2 *Crime Reporting program.*

3 “(d) *EXTENSION.*—*Grants awarded under this section*
4 *may be extended for additional periods, at the discretion*
5 *of the Administrator, subject to the availability of appro-*
6 *priations.*

7 “(e) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—*The Office shall pro-*
8 *vide technical assistance to States in carrying out programs*
9 *funded by grants under this section.*

10 “(f) *CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.*—*In carrying*
11 *out the requirements of this section, the Administrator shall*
12 *consult and cooperate with other Federal agencies to en-*
13 *hance program effectiveness and avoid duplication of effort,*
14 *including the conduct of regular meetings initiated by the*
15 *Administrator with other Federal agencies concerned with*
16 *arson and concerned with efforts to develop a more com-*
17 *prehensive profile of the magnitude of the national arson*
18 *problem.*

19 “(g) *ASSESSMENT.*—*The Administrator shall, not later*
20 *than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section,*
21 *submit a report to the Congress identifying grants made,*
22 *specifying the identity of grantees, stating the goals of each*
23 *grant, and containing a preliminary assessment of the effec-*
24 *tiveness of the grants program under this section.*

1 “(h) *REGULATIONS.*—Within 180 days after the date
2 of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue
3 regulations to implement this section, which shall establish
4 procedures for grant applications.

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

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

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

11 “(j) *ADMINISTRATION.*—The Administrator shall di-
12 rectly administer the grants program required by this sec-
13 tion, and shall not enter into any contract under which the
14 grants program or any portion thereof will be administered
15 by another party.

16 “(k) *PURCHASE OF AMERICAN MADE EQUIPMENT AND*
17 *PRODUCTS.*—

18 “(1) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of
19 Congress that any recipient of a grant under this sec-
20 tion should purchase, when available and cost-effec-
21 tive, American made equipment and products when
22 expending grant monies.

23 “(2) *NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.*—
24 In allocating grants under this section, the Adminis-
25 trator shall provide to each recipient a notice describ-

1 *ing the statement made in paragraph (1) by the Con-*
2 *gress.”.*

3 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER TRAINING.**

4 *Section 24(a)(2) of the Federal Fire Prevention and*
5 *Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2220(a)(2)) is amended by*
6 *inserting “, with particular emphasis on the needs of volun-*
7 *teer firefighters for improved and more widely available*
8 *arson training courses” after “detection, and control”.*

9 **SEC. 5. CPR TRAINING.**

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

12 **“SEC. 32. CPR TRAINING.**

13 *“No funds shall be made available to a State or local*
14 *government under section 25 unless such government has*
15 *a policy to actively promote the training of its firefighters*
16 *in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.”.*

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 *There are authorized to be appropriated to the Admin-*
19 *istrator of the United States Fire Administration—*

20 *(1) \$500,000 for fiscal year 1994 for basic re-*
21 *search on the development of an advanced course on*
22 *arson prevention;*

23 *(2) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1995 for the expan-*
24 *sion of arson investigator training programs at the*
25 *National Fire Academy under section 24 of the Fed-*

1 *eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, at the*
2 *Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and at*
3 *the Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy, or*
4 *through regional delivery sites;*

5 *(3) \$4,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1994*
6 *and 1995 for carrying out section 25 of the Federal*
7 *Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974; and*

8 *(4) \$250,000 for each of the fiscal years 1994*
9 *and 1995 for salaries and expenses for carrying out*
10 *such section 25.*

11 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

12 *Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no*
13 *funds are authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year*
14 *after fiscal year 1995 for carrying out the programs for*
15 *which funds are authorized by this Act, or the amendments*
16 *made by this Act.*