

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5777

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse certain expenses during a period in which there is a lapse in appropriations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 17, 2025

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY (for herself, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. LOFGREN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse certain expenses during a period in which there is a lapse in appropriations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency 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 “National Fire Academy
5 Reimbursement for Emergency Service Course Unavail-

1 ability and Expenses Act” or the “National Fire Academy
2 RESCUE Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN EXPENSES DURING**
4 **A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NA-**
5 **TIONAL ACADEMY FOR FIRE PREVENTION**
6 **AND CONTROL.**

7 (a) REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN EXPENSES.—Sec-
8 tion 7 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of
9 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsection (n) as sub-
11 section (o); and

12 (2) by inserting after subsection (m) the fol-
13 lowing new subsection:

14 “(n) REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN EXPENSES.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a covered
16 course or activity that is cancelled during a period
17 in which there is a lapse in appropriations, or as a
18 result of such a lapse, for the Federal Emergency
19 Management Agency, the Administrator of FEMA,
20 subject to paragraph (2), shall reimburse a fire de-
21 partment for any covered expense related to such
22 covered course or activity not later than 90 days
23 after the later of—

24 “(A) the date such period ends, if applica-
25 ble; or

1 “(B) the date the Administrator of FEMA
2 receives an itemization under paragraph (3)
3 from such fire department relating to such cov-
4 ered course or activity.

5 “(2) GOOD CAUSE.—A reimbursement under
6 paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a cov-
7 ered course or activity that is cancelled if such cov-
8 ered course or activity is cancelled for good cause.

9 “(3) ITEMIZATION OF EXPENSES.—Not later
10 than 30 days after the date on which a lapse in ap-
11 propriations for the Federal Emergency Manage-
12 ment Agency ends, the fire chief or other appro-
13 priate head of a fire department affected by a cov-
14 ered course or activity that is cancelled during any
15 such period, or as a result of any such lapse, may
16 submit to the Administrator of FEMA an applica-
17 tion for reimbursement that includes an itemization
18 of each covered expense incurred by such fire de-
19 partment.

20 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

21 “(A) BACKFILL EXPENSE.—The term
22 ‘backfill expense’ means an expense incurred for
23 the following:

24 “(i) Staffing adjustments.

25 “(ii) Overtime compensation.

1 “(B) COVERED COURSE OR ACTIVITY.—

2 The term ‘covered course or activity’ means—

3 “(i) a course or program that is of-
4 fered by the Academy—

5 “(I) in-person and on-campus;

6 “(II) in-person and off-campus;

7 or

8 “(III) through synchronous or
9 asynchronous virtual instruction; or

10 “(ii) a conference or symposium that
11 is offered by the Academy in-person and
12 on-campus.

13 “(C) COVERED EXPENSE.—The term ‘cov-
14 ered expense’ means any expense that a fire de-
15 partment incurred for the planned participation
16 of the personnel of such fire department in a
17 covered course or activity, including the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(i) Any travel expense.

20 “(ii) Any backfill expense.

21 “(D) GOOD CAUSE.—The term ‘good
22 cause’ includes the following:

23 “(i) The closure of a facility of the
24 Academy for any reason other than a lapse
25 in appropriations.

1 “(ii) The illness or unavailability of an
2 instructor of the Academy.

3 “(iii) A national emergency that im-
4 pedes access to a facility of the Academy
5 by a student or faculty member of the
6 Academy.”.

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