

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1824

To authorize the Secretary of Labor to establish volunteer programs for the protection of employees of occupational hazards.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 1995

Mr. HAYES (for himself and Mr. BAKER of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Labor to establish volunteer programs for the protection of employees of occupational hazards.

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 “Voluntary Protection
5 Authorization Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.**

7 The Secretary of Labor shall establish cooperative
8 programs to encourage the establishment of comprehen-

1 sive safety and health management systems which in-
2 clude—

3 (1) requirements for systematic assessment of
4 hazards;

5 (2) comprehensive hazard prevention, mitiga-
6 tion, and control programs;

7 (3) active and meaningful management, leader-
8 ship, and employee participation in the voluntary
9 program described in section 3; and

10 (4) employee safety and health training.

11 **SEC. 3. VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

12 The Secretary of Labor shall establish a voluntary
13 protection program to encourage the achievement of excel-
14 lence in both the technical and managerial protection of
15 employees from occupational hazards as follows:

16 (1) Volunteers for the program shall be re-
17 quired to submit an application to the Secretary
18 demonstrating that the worksite with respect to
19 which the application is made meets such qualifica-
20 tions as the Secretary may prescribe for participa-
21 tion in the program.

22 (2) There shall be onsite evaluations by rep-
23 resentatives of the Secretary to ensure a high level
24 of protection of employees. Such onsite visits shall
25 not result in enforcement citations under the Occu-

1 pational Safety and Health Act of 1970 unless rep-
2 representatives of the Secretary observe hazards for
3 which no agreement can be made to abate such haz-
4 ards in a reasonable amount of time.

5 (3) Volunteers who are approved for participa-
6 tion by the Secretary shall assure the Secretary that
7 information about their safety and health program
8 shall be made readily available to the Secretary to
9 share with employers.

10 (4) Continued participation in the program will
11 require periodic reevaluations by the Secretary.

12 (5) A site with respect to which a program has
13 been approved shall during participation in the pro-
14 gram be exempt from inspections and certain paper-
15 work requirements to be determined by the Sec-
16 retary, except inspections or investigations arising
17 from employee complaints, fatalities, catastrophes,
18 or significant toxic releases.

○