

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1272

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 1997

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

AN ACT

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999
for the United States Fire Administration, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Fire Administration
3 Authorization Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
6 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
8 graph (E);

9 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
10 paragraph (F) and inserting in lieu thereof a semi-
11 colon; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 paragraphs:

14 “(G) \$29,600,000 for the fiscal year ending
15 September 30, 1998; and

16 “(H) \$30,500,000 for the fiscal year ending
17 September 30, 1999.”.

18 **SEC. 3. SUCCESSOR FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS.**

19 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
20 is amended—

21 (1) in section 29(a)(1), by inserting “, or any
22 successor standard thereto,” after “Association
23 Standard 74”;

24 (2) in section 29(a)(2), by inserting “or any
25 successor standards thereto,” after “whichever is ap-
26 propriate,”;

1 (3) in section 29(b)(2), by inserting “, or any
2 successor standards thereto” after “Association
3 Standard 13 or 13-R”;

4 (4) in section 31(c)(2)(B)(i), by inserting “or
5 any successor standard thereto,” after “Life Safety
6 Code),”; and

7 (5) in section 31(c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting “or
8 any successor standard thereto,” after “Association
9 Standard 101,”.

10 **SEC. 4. TERMINATION OR PRIVATIZATION OF FUNCTIONS.**

11 The Administrator of the United States Fire Admin-
12 istration shall transmit to Congress a report providing no-
13 tice at least 60 days in advance of the termination or
14 transfer to a private sector entity of any significant func-
15 tion of the United States Fire Administration.

16 **SEC. 5. LIMITATIONS.**

17 (a) PROHIBITION OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.—None
18 of the funds authorized by the amendments made by this
19 Act shall be available for any activity whose purpose is
20 to influence legislation pending before the Congress, ex-
21 cept that this subsection shall not prevent officers or em-
22 ployees of the United States or of its departments or agen-
23 cies from communicating to Members of Congress on the
24 request of any Member or to Congress, through the proper
25 channels, requests for legislation or appropriations which

1 they deem necessary for the efficient conduct of the public
2 business.

3 (b) LIMITATION ON APPROPRIATIONS.—No sums are
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the
5 United States Fire Administration for fiscal years 1998
6 and 1999 for the activities for which sums are authorized
7 by the amendments made by this Act, unless such sums
8 are specifically authorized to be appropriated by the
9 amendments made by this Act.

10 (c) ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
12 United States Fire Administration shall exclude
13 from consideration for grant agreements made by
14 the Administration after fiscal year 1997 any person
15 who received funds, other than those described in
16 paragraph (2), appropriated for a fiscal year after
17 fiscal year 1997, under a grant agreement from any
18 Federal funding source for a project that was not
19 subjected to a competitive, merit-based award pro-
20 cess. Any exclusion from consideration pursuant to
21 this subsection shall be effective for a period of 5
22 years after the person receives such Federal funds.

23 (2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
24 apply to the receipt of Federal funds by a person
25 due to the membership of that person in a class

1 specified by law for which assistance is awarded to
2 members of the class according to a formula pro-
3 vided by law.

4 (3) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-
5 section, the term “grant agreement” means a legal
6 instrument whose principal purpose is to transfer a
7 thing of value to the recipient to carry out a public
8 purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a
9 law of the United States, and does not include the
10 acquisition (by purchase, lease, or barter) of prop-
11 erty or services for the direct benefit or use of the
12 United States Government. Such term does not in-
13 clude a cooperative agreement (as such term is used
14 in section 6305 of title 31, United States Code) or
15 a cooperative research and development agreement
16 (as such term is defined in section 12(d)(1) of the
17 Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of
18 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(d)(1))).

19 **SEC. 6. NOTICE.**

20 (a) NOTICE OF REPROGRAMMING.—If any funds au-
21 thorized by the amendments made by this Act are subject
22 to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be pro-
23 vided to the Appropriations Committees of the House of
24 Representatives and the Senate, notice of such action shall
25 concurrently be provided to the Committee on Science of

1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
2 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

3 (b) NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION.—The Adminis-
4 trator of the United States Fire Administration shall pro-
5 vide notice to the Committees on Science and Appropria-
6 tions of the House of Representatives, and the Committees
7 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appro-
8 priations of the Senate, not later than 15 days before any
9 major reorganization of any program, project, or activity
10 of the United States Fire Administration.

11 **SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM.**

12 With the year 2000 fast approaching, it is the sense
13 of Congress that the United States Fire Administration
14 should—

15 (1) give high priority to correcting all 2-digit
16 date-related problems in its computer systems to en-
17 sure that those systems continue to operate effec-
18 tively in the year 2000 and beyond;

19 (2) assess immediately the extent of the risk to
20 the operations of the United States Fire Administra-
21 tion posed by the problems referred to in paragraph
22 (1), and plan and budget for achieving Year 2000
23 compliance for all of its mission-critical systems; and

1 (3) develop contingency plans for those systems
2 that the United States Fire Administration is unable
3 to correct in time.

4 **SEC. 8. BUY AMERICAN.**

5 (a) COMPLIANCE WITH BUY AMERICAN ACT.—No
6 funds appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by
7 this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity
8 agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will
9 comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3,
10 1933 (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c, popularly known as the “Buy
11 American Act”).

12 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—In the case of any equip-
13 ment or products that may be authorized to be purchased
14 with financial assistance provided under the amendments
15 made by this Act, it is the sense of Congress that entities
16 receiving such assistance should, in expending the assist-
17 ance, purchase only American-made equipment and prod-
18 ucts.

19 (c) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.—In
20 providing financial assistance under the amendments
21 made by this Act, the Administrator of the United States
22 Fire Administration shall provide to each recipient of the

