

Calendar No. 168

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 829

[Report No. 115–128]

To reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2017

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

JULY 11, 2017

Reported by Mr. JOHNSON, with an amendment

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

A BILL

To reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, 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 “AFG and SAFER Pro-
3 gram Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO FIRE-**
5 **FIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM AND THE FIRE**
6 **PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANTS PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) **REPEAL OF SUNSET.**—Section 33 of the Federal
9 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–
10 498; 15 U.S.C. 2229) is amended by striking subsection
11 (r).

12 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Sub-
13 section (q)(1)(B) of such section is amended by striking
14 “2017” and inserting “2023”.

15 (c) **AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN TRAINING UNDER**
16 **ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM.**—
17 Subsection (c)(3) of such section is amended by adding
18 at the end the following:

19 “(N) To provide specialized training to
20 firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical
21 service workers, and other first responders to
22 recognize individuals who have mental illness
23 and how to properly intervene with individuals
24 with mental illness, including strategies for
25 verbal de-escalation of crisis.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE**
 2 **FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT**
 3 **PROGRAM.**

4 (a) **REPEAL OF SUNSET.**—Section 34 of the Federal
 5 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–
 6 498; 15 U.S.C. 2229a) is amended by striking subsection
 7 (k).

8 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Sub-
 9 section (j)(1)(I) of such section is amended, in the matter
 10 before clause (i), by striking “2017” and inserting
 11 “2023”.

12 (c) **MODIFICATION OF APPLICATION REQUIRE-**
 13 **MENTS.**—Subsection (b)(3)(B) of such section is amended
 14 by striking “of subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii) and (F)” and in-
 15 serting “of subsection (a)(1)(F)”.

16 (d) **MODIFICATION OF LIMITATION.**—Subsection
 17 (e)(2) of such section is amended by striking “prior to No-
 18 vember 24, 2003” and inserting “prior to the date of the
 19 application for the grant”.

20 (e) **MODIFICATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—Sub-
 21 section (d)(1)(B) of such section is amended by striking
 22 “subsection (a)(1)(E) or subsection (e)(2)” and inserting
 23 “subsection (a)(1)(E), (e)(2), or (e)(4)”.

24 (f) **REPEAL OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN USE OF**
 25 **GRANT AMOUNTS TRANSFERRED TO ASSISTANCE TO**
 26 **FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM.**—Subsection (a)(1)(B)

1 of such section is amended by striking “and to provide”
 2 and all that follows through “of crises”.

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “AFG and SAFER Pro-*
 5 *gram Reauthorization Act of 2017”.*

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO FIRE-**
 7 **FIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM AND THE FIRE**
 8 **PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANTS PRO-**
 9 **GRAM.**

10 (a) *REPEAL OF SUNSET.*—Section 33 of the Federal
 11 *Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229)*
 12 *is amended by striking subsection (r).*

13 (b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—Sub-
 14 *section (q)(1)(B) of such section is amended by striking*
 15 *“2017” and inserting “2023”.*

16 (c) *AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN TRAINING UNDER*
 17 *ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM.*—Sub-
 18 *section (c)(3) of such section is amended by adding at the*
 19 *end the following:*

20 “(N) *To provide specialized training to fire-*
 21 *fighters, paramedics, emergency medical service*
 22 *workers, and other first responders to recognize*
 23 *individuals who have mental illness and how to*
 24 *properly intervene with individuals with mental*

1 *illness, including strategies for verbal de-esca-*
 2 *lation of crisis.”.*

3 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE**
 4 **FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT**
 5 **PROGRAM.**

6 (a) *REPEAL OF SUNSET.*—Section 34 of the Federal
 7 *Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a)*
 8 *is amended by striking subsection (k).*

9 (b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—Sub-
 10 *section (j)(1)(I) of such section is amended, in the matter*
 11 *before clause (i), by striking “2017” and inserting “2023”.*

12 (c) *MODIFICATION OF APPLICATION REQUIRE-*
 13 *MENTS.*—Subsection (b)(3)(B) of such section is amended
 14 *by striking “of subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii) and (F)” and insert-*
 15 *ing “of subsection (a)(1)(F)”.*

16 (d) *MODIFICATION OF LIMITATION.*—Subsection (c)(2)
 17 *of such section is amended by striking “prior to November*
 18 *24, 2003” and inserting “prior to the date of the applica-*
 19 *tion for the grant”.*

20 (e) *MODIFICATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.*—Sub-
 21 *section (d)(1)(B) of such section is amended by striking*
 22 *“subsection (a)(1)(E) or subsection (c)(2)” and inserting*
 23 *“subsection (a)(1)(E), (c)(2), or (c)(4)”.*

24 (f) *REPEAL OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN USE OF*
 25 *GRANT AMOUNTS TRANSFERRED TO ASSISTANCE TO FIRE-*

1 *FIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1)(B) of*
 2 *such section is amended by striking “and to provide” and*
 3 *all that follows through “of crises”.*

4 *(g) EXPANSION OF STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE*
 5 *AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.—Sub-*
 6 *section (a)(1)(B) of such section, as amended by subsection*
 7 *(f), is further amended by inserting “or to change the status*
 8 *of part-time or paid-on-call (as defined in section 33(a))*
 9 *firefighters to full-time firefighters” after “firefighters”.*

10 **SEC. 4. TRAINING ON ADMINISTRATION OF FIRE GRANT**
 11 **PROGRAMS.**

12 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal*
 13 *Emergency Management Agency, acting through the Ad-*
 14 *ministrator of the United States Fire Administration, may*
 15 *develop and make widely available an electronic, online*
 16 *training course for members of the fire and emergency re-*
 17 *sponse community on matters relating to the administra-*
 18 *tion of grants under sections 33 and 34 of the Federal Fire*
 19 *Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229 and*
 20 *2229a).*

21 *(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator of the Fed-*
 22 *eral Emergency Management Agency shall ensure that any*
 23 *training developed and made available under subsection (a)*
 24 *is—*

1 (1) *tailored to the financial and time constraints*
 2 *of members of the fire and emergency response com-*
 3 *munity; and*

4 (2) *accessible to all individuals in the career,*
 5 *combination, paid-on-call, and volunteer fire and*
 6 *emergency response community.*

7 **SEC. 5. FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING OF**
 8 **THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS**
 9 **PROGRAM, THE FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFE-**
 10 **TY GRANTS PROGRAM, AND THE STAFFING**
 11 **FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RE-**
 12 **SPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 (a) *FRAMEWORK.*—Not later than 90 days after the
 14 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the*
 15 *Federal Emergency Management Agency, acting through*
 16 *the Administrator of the United States Fire Administra-*
 17 *tion, shall develop and implement a grant monitoring and*
 18 *oversight framework to mitigate and minimize risks of*
 19 *fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement relating to the*
 20 *grants programs under sections 33 and 34 of the Federal*
 21 *Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229*
 22 *and 2229a).*

23 (b) *ELEMENTS.*—The framework required by sub-
 24 section (a) shall include the following:

1 (1) *Developing standardized guidance and train-*
2 *ing for all participants in the grant programs de-*
3 *scribed in subsection (a).*

4 (2) *Conduct of regular risk assessments.*

5 (3) *Conducting desk reviews and site visits.*

6 (4) *Enforcement actions to recoup potential ques-*
7 *tionable costs of grant recipients.*

8 (5) *Such other oversight and monitoring tools as*
9 *the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-*
10 *ment Agency considers necessary to mitigate and*
11 *minimize fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement*
12 *relating to the grant programs described in subsection*
13 *(a).*

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