

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7077

To require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 2022

Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. MELJER, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, 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 “Empowering the U.S.
5 Fire Administration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FIRE INVESTIGATIONS.**

7 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
8 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

1 **“SEC. 38. INVESTIGATION AUTHORITIES.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any major fire,
3 the Administrator may send incident investigators, which
4 may include safety specialists, fire protection engineers,
5 codes and standards experts, researchers, and fire training
6 specialists, to the site of the fire to conduct an investiga-
7 tion as described in subsection (b).

8 “(b) INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—A fire investiga-
9 tion conducted under this section—

10 “(1) shall be conducted in coordination with ap-
11 propriate Federal, State, and local authorities, in-
12 cluding Federal agencies that are authorized to in-
13 vestigate a major fire or an incident of which the
14 major fire is a part; and

15 “(2) shall examine the determined cause and
16 origin of the fire and assess broader systematic mat-
17 ters to include use of codes and standards, demo-
18 graphics, structural characteristics, smoke and fire
19 dynamics (movement) during the event, and costs of
20 associated injuries and deaths.

21 “(c) REPORT.—Upon concluding any fire investiga-
22 tion under this section, the Administrator shall issue a
23 public report to local, State, and Federal authorities on
24 the findings of such investigation, or collaborate with an-
25 other investigating Federal agency on that agency’s re-
26 port, including recommendations on—

1 “(1) any other buildings with similar character-
2 istics that may bear similar fire risks;

3 “(2) improving tactical response to similar fires;

4 “(3) improving civilian safety practices;

5 “(4) assessing the costs and benefits to the
6 community of adding fire safety features; and

7 “(5) how to mitigate the causes of such fire.

8 “(d) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY.—In addition to
9 investigations conducted pursuant to subsection (a), the
10 Administrator may send fire investigators to conduct in-
11 vestigations at the site of any fire with unusual or remark-
12 able context that results in losses less severe than those
13 occurring as a result of a major fire, in coordination with
14 appropriate Federal, State, and local authorities, including
15 Federal agencies that are authorized to investigate a
16 major fire or an incident of which the major fire is a part.

17 “(e) MAJOR FIRE DEFINED.—For purposes of this
18 section, the term ‘major fire’ shall have the meaning given
19 such term under regulations to be issued by the Adminis-
20 trator.”.

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