

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.

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## 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

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## 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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