

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1814

To provide grants for fire station construction through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2023

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BOST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide grants for fire station construction through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 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 “Facilitating Invest-  
5 ments Required for Emergency Services to All Towns in  
6 Our Nation Act” or the “FIRE STATION Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS FIRE STATION CON-**  
2 **STRUCTION GRANTS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
5 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal  
6 Emergency Management Agency.

7 (2) CAREER FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The term  
8 “career fire department” means a fire department  
9 that has an all-paid force of firefighting personnel  
10 other than paid-on-call firefighters.

11 (3) COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The  
12 term “combination fire department” means a fire  
13 department that has—

14 (A) paid firefighting personnel; and

15 (B) volunteer firefighting personnel.

16 (4) EMS.—The term “EMS” means emergency  
17 medical services.

18 (5) NONAFFILIATED EMS ORGANIZATION.—The  
19 term “nonaffiliated EMS organization” means a  
20 public or private nonprofit EMS organization that is  
21 not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a  
22 geographic area in which the Administrator finds  
23 that EMS are adequately provided by a fire depart-  
24 ment.

25 (6) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The  
26 term “volunteer fire department” means a fire de-

1       partment that has an all-volunteer force of fire-  
2       fighting personnel.

3       (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall es-  
4       tablish a grant program to provide financial assistance to  
5       entities described in subsection (c) to modify, upgrade,  
6       and construct fire and EMS department facilities.

7       (c) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—The Administrator may  
8       make a grant under this section to the following:

9           (1) Career, volunteer, and combination fire de-  
10       partments.

11          (2) Fire training facilities.

12          (3) Nonaffiliated EMS organizations, combina-  
13       tion and volunteer emergency medical stations (ex-  
14       cept that for-profit EMS organizations are not eligi-  
15       ble for a grant under this section).

16       (d) APPLICATIONS.—An entity described in sub-  
17       section (c) seeking a grant under this section shall submit  
18       to the Administrator an application in such form, at such  
19       time, and containing such information as the Adminis-  
20       trator determines appropriate.

21       (e) MEETING FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.—

22           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall con-  
23       vene a meeting of qualified members of national fire  
24       service organizations and, at the discretion of the  
25       Administrator, qualified members of EMS organiza-

1 tions to obtain recommendations regarding the cri-  
2 teria for the awarding of grants under this section.

3 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—For purposes of this  
4 subsection, a qualified member of an organization is  
5 a member who—

6 (A) is recognized for firefighting or EMS  
7 expertise;

8 (B) is not an employee of the Federal Gov-  
9 ernment; and

10 (C) in the case of a member of an EMS  
11 organization, is a member of an organization  
12 that represents—

13 (i) EMS providers that are affiliated  
14 with fire departments; or

15 (ii) nonaffiliated EMS providers.

16 (f) PEER REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATION.—The  
17 Administrator shall, in consultation with national fire  
18 service and EMS organizations, appoint fire service per-  
19 sonnel to conduct peer reviews of applications received  
20 under subsection (d).

21 (g) PRIORITY OF GRANTS.—In awarding grants  
22 under this section, the Administrator shall consider the  
23 findings and recommendations of the peer reviews carried  
24 out under subsection (f).

25 (h) USES OF FUNDS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant under  
2 this section may use funds received for the following:

3 (A) Building, rebuilding, or renovating fire  
4 and EMS department facilities.

5 (B) Upgrading existing facilities to install  
6 exhaust emission control systems, install backup  
7 power systems, upgrade or replace environ-  
8 mental control systems (such as HVAC sys-  
9 tems), remove or remediate mold, and construct  
10 or modify living quarters for use by male and  
11 female personnel.

12 (C) Upgrading fire and EMS stations or  
13 building new stations.

14 (2) CODE COMPLIANT.—In using funds under  
15 paragraph (1), a recipient of a grant under this sec-  
16 tion shall meet 1 of the 2 most recently published  
17 editions of relevant codes and standards, especially  
18 codes and standards that—

19 (A) require up-to-date hazard resistant and  
20 safety provisions; and

21 (B) are relevant for protecting firefighter  
22 health and safety.

23 (i) GRANT FUNDING.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall al-  
25 locate grant funds under this section as follows:

1 (A) 25 percent for career fire and EMS  
2 departments.

3 (B) 25 percent for combination fire and  
4 EMS departments.

5 (C) 25 percent for volunteer fire and EMS  
6 departments.

7 (D) 25 percent to remain available for  
8 competition between the various department  
9 types.

10 (2) INSUFFICIENT APPLICATIONS.—If the Ad-  
11 ministrator does not receive sufficient funding re-  
12 quests from a particular department type described  
13 in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1),  
14 the Administrator may make awards to other de-  
15 partments described in such subparagraphs.

16 (3) LIMITATION ON AWARDS AMOUNTS.—A re-  
17 cipient of a grant under this section may not receive  
18 more than \$7,500,000 under this section.

19 (j) PREVAILING RATE OF WAGE AND PUBLIC CON-  
20 TRACTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechanics  
22 employed by contractors or subcontractors in the  
23 performance of construction work financed with the  
24 assistance of any contribution of Federal funds  
25 made by the Administrator under this section shall

1 be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing  
2 on similar construction in the locality as determined  
3 by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with sub-  
4 chapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States  
5 Code (commonly known as the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

6 (2) OVERTIME.—Each employee described in  
7 paragraph (1) shall receive compensation at a rate  
8 not less than one and ½ times the basic rate of pay  
9 of the employee for all hours worked in any work-  
10 week in excess of 8 hours in any workday or 40  
11 hours in the workweek, as the case may be.

12 (3) ASSURANCES.—The Administrator shall  
13 make no contribution of Federal funds without first  
14 obtaining adequate assurance that the labor stand-  
15 ards described in paragraphs (1) and (2) will be  
16 maintained upon the construction work.

17 (4) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF LABOR.—  
18 The Secretary of Labor shall have, with respect to  
19 the labor standards described in paragraphs (1) and  
20 (2), the authority and functions set forth in Reorga-  
21 nization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (5 U.S.C. App.)  
22 and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

23 (5) PUBLIC CONTRACTS.—Contractors and sub-  
24 contractors performing construction work pursuant  
25 to this section shall procure only manufactured arti-

1       cles, materials, and supplies that have been manu-  
2       factured in the United States substantially all from  
3       articles, materials, or supplies mined, produced, or  
4       manufactured in the United States in accordance  
5       with the requirements (and exceptions thereto) ap-  
6       plicable to Federal agencies under chapter 83 of title  
7       41, United States Code.

8       (k) APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United  
9       States Code, shall not apply to activities carried out pursu-  
10      ant to this section.

11      (l) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

12           (1) ANNUAL REPORT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF  
13      FEMA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
14      actment of this Act, and annually thereafter during  
15      the term of a grant awarded under this section, the  
16      recipient of the grant shall submit to the Adminis-  
17      trator a report describing how the recipient used the  
18      amounts from the grant.

19           (2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
20      than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,  
21      and annually thereafter until the date on which the  
22      rebuilding or renovation of fire facilities and stations  
23      are completed using grant funds under this section,  
24      the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on  
25      Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the



1 Senate and the Committees on Transportation and  
2 Infrastructure and Science, Space, and Technology  
3 of the House of Representatives a report that pro-  
4 vides an evaluation of the effectiveness of the grants  
5 awarded under this section.

6 (m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
7 authorized to be appropriated \$750,000,000 for fiscal year  
8 2024 to carry out this section. Funds appropriated under  
9 this Act shall remain available until expended.

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