

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3396

[Report No. 118-]

To require the standardization of reciprocal fire suppression cost share agreements, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2023

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Armed Services, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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

DECEMBER --, 2023

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

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

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 17, 2023]

A BILL

To require the standardization of reciprocal fire suppression cost share agreements, 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 “Fire Department Repay-*
5 *ment Act of 2023”.*

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CERTAIN FIRE SUP-**
7 **PRESSION COST SHARE AGREEMENTS.**

8 *(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING PRO-*
9 *CEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the en-*
10 *actment of this section, the Secretaries shall—*

11 *(1) establish standard operating procedures re-*
12 *lating to payment timelines for fire suppression cost*
13 *share agreements established under the Act of May 27,*
14 *1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly known as the*
15 *“Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”); and*

16 *(2) with respect to each fire suppression cost*
17 *share agreement in operation on such date—*

18 *(A) review each such agreement; and*

19 *(B) modify each agreement as necessary to*
20 *comply with the standard operating procedures*
21 *required under paragraph (1).*

22 *(b) ALIGNMENT OF FIRE SUPPRESSION COST SHARE*
23 *AGREEMENTS WITH COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION*
24 *AGREEMENTS.—The standard operating procedures re-*
25 *quired under subsection (a)(1) shall include a requirement*

1 *that each fire suppression cost share agreement be aligned*
2 *with each of the cooperative fire protection agreements ap-*
3 *plicable to the entity subject to such fire suppression cost*
4 *share agreement.*

5 (c) *PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO COST SHARE AGREE-*
6 *MENTS.—With respect to payments made pursuant to fire*
7 *suppression cost share agreements, the standard operating*
8 *procedures required under subsection (a)(1) shall require*
9 *that the Federal paying entity reimburse a local fire depart-*
10 *ment if such fire department submits an invoice in accord-*
11 *ance with cost settlement procedures.*

12 (d) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress*
13 *that the Secretaries should carry out reciprocal fire suppres-*
14 *sion cost share agreement repayments to local fire suppres-*
15 *sion organizations as soon as practicable after fire suppres-*
16 *sion occurs but not later than 1 year after fire suppression*
17 *occurs.*

18 (e) *SECRETARIES DEFINED.—In this section, the term*
19 *“Secretaries” means—*

20 (1) *the Secretary of Agriculture;*

21 (2) *the Secretary of the Interior;*

22 (3) *the Secretary of Homeland Security; and*

23 (4) *the Secretary of Defense.*